

Soviet 'Sputnik' Means A Traveler's Traveler

To a Russian, the earth satellite launched by the Soviet Union is "something that is traveling with a traveler." That is the literal translation of "sputnik," the Russian word for the satellite.

"Put," the root word, means a road. When combined with "-nik" it means something or someone who uses a road, or a traveler.

The prefix letter S—in the Cyrillic alphabet it is C—means with. In this case the traveler is the earth, traveling through space, and the companion "traveling with" it is the satellite.

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