

Heavy showers forecast for Perseid meteors

The annual Perseid meteor shower is expected to provide one of the most spectacular displays in recent years, coinciding with a new Moon. As the Earth passes through debris in the tail of the comet Swift-Tuttle, fragments the size of a grain of sand burn up in the atmosphere as “shooting stars”, while larger objects – meteorites – crash to earth

Meteor, travelling at up to 70km/s, can hit satellite with power of .22 calibre bullet, exploding into small cloud of charged plasma capable of knocking out electronics

