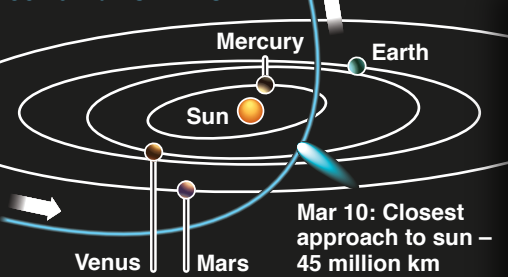


Comet Pan-STARRS to light up March sky

Comet C/2011 L4 Pan-STARRS, the first of two bright comets expected in 2013, should be visible to the naked eye in the northern hemisphere as it makes its first visit to the inner solar system

Comet Pan-STARRS



| | |
|----------------|--|
| Discovery date | June 6, 2011 |
| Discovered by | Pan-STARRS* array |
| Orbital period | Approx. 110,000 years |
| Origin | <i>Oort cloud</i> region at edge of solar system |

Comet tails get longer as comet nears sun

Dust tail (most visible) curves towards orbital path

Gas (ion) tail points away from sun

Path of comet across night sky

