



## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **GIOVANNI LOSURDO ELECTED SPOKESPERSON OF THE VIRGO COLLABORATION**

From 1 May, the physicist Giovanni Losurdo will lead the international scientific collaboration of the Virgo experiment, the gravitational wave detector installed at EGO, the European Gravitational Observatory in Cascina, near Pisa. Losurdo, INFN's research director with the Pisa Division, has been working on the Virgo experiment since the 1990s. Between 2009 and 2017, he was the Project Leader of Advanced Virgo, the Virgo detector enhancement programme that, in August 2017, made it possible to observe gravitational waves. The scientist has won the Galileo Galilei Medal and the Luigi Tartufari Prize for Physics and Chemistry of the Accademia dei Lincei. In addition, President Mattarella has invested him with the honour of Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, and, since 2019, he has been a Corresponding Member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. Losurdo succeeds Jo Van den Brand, a Dutch physicist from the Nikhef Institute (Amsterdam) and professor at the University of Maastricht, in the role of spokesperson. Van den Brand held this role from May 2017 to April 2020. ■