**DIF Department of Physics**

The Department of Physics “Michelangelo Merlin” “Michelangelo Merlin” in 1948 (formerly referred to as “Istituto di Fisica”) and since 1995 it is shared between the University and Politecnico di Bari. The inter-university nature makes the DIF the only example existing in Italy among Physics departments. The Department hosts the local branches of the following national research institutions: the National Institute of Nuclear Physics (I.N.F.N.); the Institute of Photonics and Nanotechnologies (IFN), the Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research (IIA) and the Institute for Plasma Physics and Technologies (Nanotech) of the CNR (National Research Council). It also hosts the data center “RECAS” and the joint-research LAB PolySense in collaboration with THORLABS GmbH. The Department has about 50 faculty members and 26 staff units, including both administrative and technical staffs. In the department there are 30 active laboratories and 1 library. The main research topics, carried out by the 19 research groups of the Department consist in Nuclear and Sub-nuclear and astroparticle Physics, Physics of Matter, Optical Sensing, distributed Computing technology. The Inter-university Department of Physics represents an ideal laboratory where fundamental research and technological know-how strictly interact with each other.