



## **AWARDS**

### **VIRGO AND LIGO IEEE MILESTONES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

On 3 February 2021, the Virgo and LIGO gravitational wave interferometers were given the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Milestone award “for the first gravitational waves detection and the launching of the era of Multi Messenger Astronomy with the coordinated detection of gravitational waves from a binary neutron star merger”. The ceremony was held as a global event, at the EGO European Gravitational Observatory, which in Italy hosts the Virgo interferometer, and in the US, at the twin LIGO interferometers in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington. The events hosted at the three different locations were connected in a joint live event. The IEEE Milestone programme was launched in 1983 by the IEEE to celebrate significant milestones in the history of science and technology in IEEE’s areas of interest. For example, in Italy to date, the IEEE has given awards to: Alessandro Volta’s invention of the electric battery, Guglielmo Marconi’s experiments with the wireless telegraph, and Enrico Fermi’s decisive contributions to the quantum statistics of semiconductor materials. ■