



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

EARLY ITALIAN SPACE SCIENCE IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT

19-20 OCTOBER 2026

Organizing Committee: Francesco BERRILLI (Chair, Linceo, University of Rome Tor Vergata), Paolo DE BERNARDIS (Linceo, University of Rome La Sapienza), Carlo DOGLIONI (Vicepresident of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei), Imma DONNARUMMA (ASI), Monica LAURENZA (INAF-IAPS), Francesca MATTEUCCI (Linceo, University of Trieste), Francesco PEGORARO (Linceo, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), Raffaele REDA (University of Rome Tor Vergata), Roberta SPARVOLI (University of Rome Tor Vergata e INFN), Umberto VILLANTE (SWICo), Myrka ZAGO (University of Rome Tor Vergata).

PROGRAMME

In the mid-1950s, scientific interest shifted toward outer space, focusing on the innovative use of rockets and satellites for direct exploration. In Italy, driven by Edoardo Amaldi, space research split into two main branches: a technological branch led by Broglio, and a fundamental physics branch—focused primarily on cosmic rays and heliophysics—developed at the Institute of Physics of the University of Rome by pioneers such as Francesca Bachelet, Franco Mariani, Anna Maria Conforto, Alberto Egidì, Sergio Cantarano, and Guido Pizzella. Upon returning from the United States, several of these researchers established research units within the CNR (National Research Council) and later at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Other key centers emerged in Bologna and Milan. Around the same time, the National Institute of Geophysics contributed through studies on the ionosphere and Earth's magnetic field. Nearly 70 years later, this history has positioned Italy as a major participant in international space projects, supported by a vast community of researchers.

The first part of the Conference, geared toward a broader audience, will highlight early Italian space research. The second part, dedicated to "Future Horizons in Space Research," will address 21st-century challenges and opportunities across academic, educational, and industrial sectors. "University Programs and Opportunities" will be explored, such as the UNIVERSEH project, which is focused on the space field. Lastly, "Space Research and Our World" will examine the impact of space exploration on society, technology, and daily life.

The conference will also commemorate the Lincean academicians F. Mariani and N. F. Ness, alongside a small exhibition featuring original technical drawings of components from the first Italian satellites.

Monday, October 19 - Palazzina dell'Auditorio, Via della Lungara, 230

8.30 Registration

9.00 *Welcome address* (Presidency of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei)

9.30 Umberto VILLANTE (SWICo): *The birth of inter-planetary plasma research based on space missions*

10.00 Francesco BERRILLI (Linceo, University of Rome Tor Vergata): *Beyond the Atmosphere: The Amaldi School's Journey into Space Physics*

- 10.30 Monica LAURENZA (INAF-IAPS): *The Evolution of Neutron Monitor Networks in Italy: From Pioneering Stations to Modern Data*
- 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.30 Paolo DE BERNARDIS (Linceo, University of Rome La Sapienza): *From Cosmic Rays to the echo of the Big Bang*
- 12.00 Giuseppe CONSOLINI (INAF-IAPS): *The Evolution of Discovery: How Istituto Plasma-Spazio paved the way to Space Investigation*
- 12.30 Claudio CESARONI (INGV): *The INGV and the Birth of Space Science*
- 13.00 *Break*
- 14.45 Francesco BERRILLI (Linceo, University of Rome Tor Vergata): *Franco Mariani and Norman Ness: Pioneers of Space Physics and Members of the Accademia dei Lincei*
- 15.00 Fabio CURTI (University of Rome La Sapienza, University of Arizona, Tucson): *100-year of AeroSpace Engineering School*
- 15.30 Roberta SPARVOLI (University of Rome Tor Vergata e INFN): *Cosmic rays and space exploration*
- 16.00 Federica MARCUCCI (INAF-IAPS): *Plasma Observatory Missions: From Space Plasma Physics to Space Weather*
- 16.30 Luciano IESS (University of Rome La Sapienza): *The Space-It-Up Project: Strengthening Italy's Role in Space Science and Technology (TBC)*
- 17.00 Exhibition **"From Ink to Orbit: The San Marco Project Design Legacy di Paolo Baldetti"**

Tuesday, October 20 – Palazzo Corsini, Via della Lungara, 10

- 9.00 Victoria BARABASH (Luleå University of Technology): *Growing the Space Talent Ecosystem: Connecting Education, Industry, and Society via the European University UNIVERSEH*
- 9.30 Mario COSMO (Italian Space Agency): *The Italian roadmap in space*
- 10.00 Massimo C. COMPARINI (Leonardo, managing director space division): *Eyes in the Sky: Space-Based Strategies for a Sustainable Earth*
- 10.30 Myrka ZAGO (University of Rome Tor Vergata): *UNIVERSEH, a European alliance with a focus on space*
- 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.30 Anne-Sophie LIBERT (Université de Namur): *The Master in Space Sustainability: Training Europe's Next Generation of Space Experts (remote mode)*
- 12.00 Christoph LHOTKA (University of Rome Tor Vergata): *Training for Space: The Space Science and Technology Master's Experience at Tor Vergata*
- 12.30 Bianca SULPASSO (University of Rome Tor Vergata): *Building an International Space Ecosystem: Tor Vergata and the UNIVERSEH European University*
- 13.00 Carlo ALBANESE (Telespazio): *Exploring the Moon*
- 13.30 *Conclusion*

The conference is organised with the contribution of UNIVERSEH and PLS Fisica Tor Vergata

ROMA – PALAZZO CORSINI- VIA DELLA LUNGARA, 10

Conference Secretariat: convegni@lincei.it – <http://www.lincei.it>

All information for participating in the conference is available at:

<https://www.lincei.it/it/manifestazioni/convegno-early-italian-space-science-european-context>

Online registration is required to attend the conference.

The conference will also be accessible to the public via live streaming.

Access is also possible until 10:00 a.m. from Lungotevere della Farnesina, 10.

A certificate of attendance will be issued only to participants attending in person and must be requested from the staff in the antechamber on the same day of the conference.