

On April 29, 2020, the Physics Department of the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” and the Agenzia Spaziale Italiana-ASI concluded the Agreement n. 2020-9-HH.0 for the “*Italian Participation to the Phase A of the LiteBIRD mission*”. This is part of the ASI-University of Rome Tor Vergata Framework Agreement n. 2016-28-H.0.

The Project, nationally coordinated by Prof. Nicola Vittorio, will last for 36 months. It will allow the Italian participation to the Phase A study of LiteBIRD, a space mission selected by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency- JAXA in June 2019. LiteBIRD aims to detect the Cosmic Microwave Background B-mode polarization. The Italian cosmology community has started to participate to the realization of two instruments for the mission, the Medium and the High Frequency Telescope (MHFT), already in the context of the ASI/COSMOS Agreement with the Physics Dept. of Tor Vergata. The financial support to the LiteBIRD Phase A study allows Italian scientists to be full members of the LiteBIRD collaboration. This will also allow the scientific and industrial Italian communities to keep their high-standards, and to improve the competences and skills developed with the ESA/Planck mission.

According to the Agreement, it is the Physics Dept. of the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” that will coordinate the scientific/programmatic activities of the other institutions involved in the project:

- INAF (OAS-Bologna and OATS Trieste)
- INFN (Pisa)
- SISSA, Trieste
- University of Milan
- University Milano-Bicocca
- University of Padua
- University of Ferrara
- University of Pisa
- Sapienza University of Rome

The total cost of the project is of € 5,208,145.00. ASI provides a contribution of € 2,000,000.00 to cover the Italian activities foreseen for the Italian participation to the LiteBIRD Phase A. The remaining costs are provided “in kind” by all the involved institutions.

<http://litebird.jp/eng/>