

# History and Present of the Department of Physics at VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava

Jiří Luňáček

*Department of Physics, VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava, 17. listopadu 15, 708 33  
Ostrava-Poruba, Czech Republic*

Department of Physics was founded as a school-wide department of VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava at the beginning of the year 2016. This Department was originally a historical part of the Mining-Geology Faculty, but has been connected to a more than one-hundred and twenty year tradition of physics education, previously in terms of the Mining Academy and today as VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava.

The Department of Physics guarantees its own study branch of Applied Physics in all three levels of study, it ensures the instruction of basic physics subjects for six technical faculties and further for the study programs Nanotechnology, Mechatronics, Applied Sciences and Technology and Computer Science. At the present time there are 21 staff members working at the Department, of which 17 are academic workers, 3 non-academic staff and 1 worker.

The scientific-research activity of the Department of Physics is oriented on the development of basic and applied research. It is presently focused on six specializations: applied nuclear physics, the progressive technology of material disturbance, optical diagnostics, optical spectroscopy, special materials and technology and the magnetic properties of materials, which corresponds to the personal and experimental equipment the Department of Physics has. Members of the Department are also active participants and proposers of scientific-research and educational projects and are also connected to projects, which are led at other working centres, for example,

• IT4Innovations excellence in science, MŠMT, LQ 1602

• Optical spectroscopy of Heusler compounds (HEUSPECTRO), 7. FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF THE EU (M. Curie), PIEF-GA-2009-254511

• Regional material technological research centre (RMTVC), OP VVI, Z.1.05/2.1.00/01.0040

In terms of scientific-research activities the Department has also developed close cooperation with local and foreign working centres. From the Czech Republic there are for example the Institute of Material Physics AVČR, v. v. i, Physics Institute CAS, v. v. i, and Palacky University in Olomouc, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, Charles University, etc. Cooperating foreign institutes are for example: the Silesian University in Katowice (Polsko), the Slovak Academy of Science in Bratislava (Slovakia), Paris-Saclay University (France), Grenoble University (France) and Marie Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin (Poland).

An important activity of the Department is also popularization activities, including a whole range of activities, oriented especially on co-operation with secondary schools or the promotion of physics studies at VŠB-TUO in our region, such as for example providing lectures, seminars and excursions or organizing Student Competitions. Some members of the Department are active members of the Ostrava branch of the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists.