

OPINION

on a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" under professional direction "5.1. Mechanical Engineering" "Faculty of Mechanical and Technological Engineering, Department of Materials Science and Materials Technology, at the Technical University - Varna, under the discipline "Materials Science and Materials Technology", announced in State Gazette No. 2, 05.01.2024, with candidate Ch. Assistant Daniela Todorova Spasova, Ph.D

Member of the scientific jury: Associate Professor Dr. Yavor Dimitrov Boychev

Basis for drawing up the opinion: Order No. 178/20.03.2024 of the Rector of TU-Varna.

1. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific research and applied scientific activity

Ch. Assistant Daniela Todorova Spasova entered TU-Varna in 2009, successively holding the academic positions of assistant and chief assistant. She defended her doctoral dissertation in 2017 on the scientific specialty Materials Science and Engineering Materials Technology.

Scientific works submitted for participation in the competition can be divided into the following groups:

First group, includes ten publications equated as a monograph on the topic: "Research of materials and technologies applicable to facilities in the marine and mining industry" - B.4.1, B.4.2, B.4.3, B.4.4, B.4.5, B.4.6, C.4.7, C.4.8, C.4.9, C.4.10;

Second group - covers twenty publications in the following areas:

- Technologies for making molds and castings from metal alloys - D.8.1, D.8.2, D.8.3, D.8.16, D.8.18;
- Preparation of metal matrix composite materials and study of their properties - D.8.5, D.8.6, D.8.7, D.8.8, D.8.14
- Modeling of thermal processes - D.7.1, D.8.10;
- Technological processes improving the qualities of construction materials - D.8.4, D.8.9, D.8.11, D.8.15, D.8.17, D.8.19;

- restoration activity on the operational condition of production sites (2 publications) - D.8.12, D.8.13.

The subject of scientific research coincides with the theme of the competition.

2. Evaluation of the pedagogical preparation and activity of the candidate.

The documents include a complete reference for the lectures and exercises conducted in various forms of education - full-time and part-time studies at the Bachelor's degree, as well as part-time studies at the Master's degree.

The total points for the candidate under indicator "Ж.29" are 195 and exceed the required minimum.

3. Quantitative characteristics of the candidate's scientific output

30 scientific works of ch. Assistant Professor Daniela Todorova Spasova, Ph.D. Eng., distributed as follows:

- Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 11. According to the place of the co-authors in 7 of them it is in the first place, in 1 in the third place and in 3 in the fourth place;
- Scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes - 19. According to the place of the co-authors in 12 of them it is in the first place, in 2 it is in the second place, in 4 it is in the third place and in 1 it is in the fourth place

The Scopus reference includes eleven papers and ten citations, indicating the applicant's visibility among the elite of the global scientific community.

The reference under Art. 26, para. 1, from the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria proves that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements, as well as the requirements of the Rules of TU-Varna for the position of "Associate Professor".

4. Main scientific-applied and applied contributions

I fully accept the applicant's claims in scientific publications to scientific and scientific-applied contributions that fall under the categories: proving by

new means important new sides in already existing scientific fields; creation of new methods and technologies; obtaining corroborating facts.

5. To what extent are the works presented and the contributions therein personal to the candidate?

No separation protocols have been presented regarding the participation of the co-authors in the scientific works. Therefore, I believe that the candidate has an equal and active participation in the works presented for the competition.

Publications in refereed journals are subject to a plagiarism check. Since the rest of the works are related to the same scientific problems, I would not doubt the candidate's personal contribution to the works presented for the competition.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no significant comments on the presented materials that would affect my final opinion.

I have one recommendation:

To participate in FNI competitions or in international projects.

7. Personal impressions

I don't know the candidate personally. Acquaintance with the materials presented for the competition and the results achieved confirm my confidence that he is a promising scientist with excellent training and experience in conducting scientific research in multidisciplinary fields.

CONCLUSION

As a result of familiarization with the presented scientific works, their significance, the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to propose ch. Assistant Daniela Todorova Spasova to take the academic position " Associate Professor " in scientific field 5 Technical Sciences; professional direction 5.1. Mechanical Engineering; at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of "Materials Science and Materials Technology", at the Technical University - Varna.

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