

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

regarding a contest for an academic position „Associated Professor“ in professional field 5.2 “Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation”, specialty “Digital signal processing” in the Department of Electronics and Microelectronics, Faculty of Computer Sciences and Automation. Published in State Gazette #31/19.04.2022.

With candidate: Firgan Nihatov Feradov, PhD

Member of the Scientific Jury: Associate Professor Angel Stanimirov Marinov, PhD

1. General characteristics of the applicant's scientific research and implementation activities.

1.1 Scientific publications and scientific metrics

The only candidate in the contest – Dr. Eng. Firgan Nihatov Feradov is participating with scientific works and metrics that can be summarized as follows:

- (1) PhD thesis developed and presented in the scientific field of the contest. The presented PhD thesis is related to Indicator A of the minimal national requirements where the candidate scores 50 pts. Of the required minimum of 50 pts.
- (2) 19 scientific publications grouped as follows:
 - Habilitation work of 11 scientific publications in journals referenced and indexed in internationally recognized databases. This work is related to Indicator B of the minimal national requirements where with the presented publication the candidate scores a total of 165 pts. with a required minimum of 100 pts.
 - 8 scientific publications outside of the habilitation work, 7 of which are published in journals referenced and indexed in internationally recognized databases and 1 of which is published in unreferenced journal with scientific reviewing or with edited collective publication. These publications are related to Indicator Г of the minimal national requirements where with the presented publication the candidate scores a total of 244 pts. with a required minimum of 200 pts.
- (3) 4 publications referenced a total of 10 times. The presented citations are related to Indicator Д of the minimal national requirements where the candidate scores a total of 100 pts. with a required minimum of 50 pts.

On the basis of this general characteristic I conclude that the scientific works and metrics presented by the candidate are sufficient in both quantity and balance between the number of co-authors and inclusion on referenced and unreferenced databases. I consider that the candidate's presented scientific works completely the minimal national requirements in regards to indicators A, B, Г and Д.

1.2 Participation in projects with scientific, applicable or education characteristics

The candidate presents a rich portfolio of scientific projects with scientific, application or educational orientation on which he has worked as a participant. These projects include: (1) A total of 6 projects financed by the national budget; (2) 3 projects financed by Fund for Scientific Research (FSR); (3) 1 project financed by OP DHR; (4) 1 project financed by the national innovation fund; (5) 1 project financed by H2020; (6) one project financed by EIT.

1.3 Development of the scientific and research infrastructure.

A contribution is presented related to the scientific and research infrastructure of Technical University of Varna, which includes activities related to the improvement of the equipment in several laboratories in the field of electronics – a reference list is included.

1.4 Scientific and research mobility and international cooperation.

In regards to his participation in the contest the candidate has presented his participation in 5 international mobilities (Great Britain, Belgium, Montenegro, Norway). The total length of the presented mobility is 172 days.

2. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical preparation and activities.

In relation to his participation in the contest the participant presents:

- (1) A reference for over 4 years of experience as an assistant and senior assistant in the Department of Electronics and Microelectronics in Technical University of Varna, where he has held lectures and laboratory exercises in 7 disciplines part of several different courses for “Bachelor” and “Masters” degree. Details about the holding of 254 hours of lectures are provided. The conducted lectures are related to Indicator Ж of the minimal national requirements – where the candidate exceeds the required minimal number of points.
- (2) A reference for outside classroom activities with students and PhD students with a wide and complete set of activities including the supervision of diploma thesis development, administrative support of students in the “Master” degree and foreign students.
- (3) A reference for the participating in the development of 3 curriculums for “Bachelor” and “Master” degree courses.

On the basis of the presented summary I can give the candidate a very high score for his educational activity, as I deem that he has the pedagogical preparation required for the occupation of the academic position of associate professor.

3. Basic scientific and applied contributions.

The candidate makes claims for six main contributions. Each of them is presented in detail with several subsections thus giving a clear characterization of its direction and specification. The topics of the contributions cover fields related to the medical technology and diagnostics and well as power electronics. The contrast of the fields is justified when the wide application of the methodologies and techniques related to digital signal processing is considered. The candidate hasn't presented a separation of the contribution into scientific, scientifically-applied and applied. I conclude that to a high degree the contributions can be classified as scientifically-applied, where the aspects of some of them can be considered as scientific.

4. Significance of contributions to science and practice.

I consider that the stated contributions widen the knowledge in the field digital signal processing and I can give a high mark to their relevance to science and practice.

5. Critical notes and recommendations.

I do not have significant critical notes towards the candidate. I would make the following recommendations: (1) Improvement of the participation in international scientific projects. I believe that the candidate has the necessary experience to develop scientific proposal and I think that by taking the position of associated professor he should do so; (2) Under suitable condition – the widening of the participations related to international cooperation – mobilities, exchanges and others.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I give the candidate a very high score for the presented materials in their whole, and I consider that they cover the minimal national requirements, as well as the specifics of the ADAS (Act for the Development of the Academic Staff) and regulations interpreting it. I find it reasonable to propose Dr. Firgan Feradov to take the academic position of associated professor in in professional field 5.2 “Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation”, specialty “Digital signal processing

Date:

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY:

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