

# STANDPOINT



For participation in a contest for an academic position “associated professor”

Professional field 5.2. Electrotechnics, electronics and automation

study course „Control of Electromechanical Systems“

posted in SG issue 53 / 20.06.2023

with a single applicant: Chief Assistant Professor Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD

Member of the Scientific Jury: Associated Professor Eng. Mariela Ivanova Alexandrova, PhD

According to Rector’s Order № 681 / 20.09.2023

## 1. General characteristics of the candidate’s research and scientific- applied activity

Chief Assistant Professor Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD completed his higher education at the Technical University of Varna, majoring in “Automation, information and control technique”, Bachelor Degree in 2002 and majoring in “Automation, information and control technique”, Master Degree in 2004. He defended his PhD Thesis “Development of systems for sensorless vector control of induction motors” in 2017. In 2009 was appointed to the position of assistant professor at the College at the structure of Technical University of Varna and in 2018 was appointed to the position of chief assistant at the Department of Automation at Technical University of Varna.

The following papers are submitted for participation in the contest for academic position “associated professor”:

- 1.1 According to indicator B.4. - 10 publications, indexed in database Scopus;
- 1.2 According to indicators Г.7. and Г.8. – 15 publications, 2 (two) of them are indexed in database Scopus;
- 1.3 According to indicator Д.12. - 6 citations of the candidate’s work are presented.

For the evaluation of the candidate’s work I accept 25 papers in which the candidate’s participation is as follows:

- First author – in 12 papers;
- Second author – in 8 papers;
- Third author – in 5 papers.

Table 1

Indicators	Papers	Self-authored papers	Co-authored papers		
			1 <sup>st</sup> co-author	2 <sup>nd</sup> co-author	3 <sup>rd</sup> co-author
B.4	10	3	3	2	2
Г.7	2	2	-	-	-
Г.8	13	3	1	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

All publications are on the contest's topic, 11 papers are in Bulgarian and 14 papers are in English.

For the period 2017 – 2023, Chief Assist. Prof. Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD participated in 4 scientific projects from the internal competitions of TU-Varna and he was a project manager of one of them (the total amount of the projects – 9400 BGN). He has participated in two national projects in the frames of Operative programs.

He is a member of the John Atanasoff Society of Automatics and Informatics (SAI) and Scientific and Technical Unions – Varna.

He is a member of the Organizing Committee of the International Conference Automatics and Informatics – ICAI in the period 2020-2023.

**Conclusion:** Chief Assist. Prof. Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD fulfils the minimal national requirements for all groups of indicators for the academic position “associated professor”, some of the indicators are even exceeded – groups Д and Ж.

## **2. Evaluation of the candidate's pedagogical training and activity**

For the period 2018-2023 Chief Assist. Prof. Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD has conducted lectures and laboratory exercises in 6 courses with students in 8 majors in Bachelor degree and in 4 courses with students in 3 majors in Master degree, full-time and part-time education.

The candidate has authored 4 new lecture courses and updated 7 others. He has independently developed 7 course programs.

During the period, under his leadership 19 students defended their diploma theses and graduated in the Bachelor's degree and 14 students defended their theses and graduated in the Master's degree. Since 2018, he has been the secretary of the State Examination Commission for diploma defenses for the Bachelor's degree and the Master's degree in the majors at the Department of Automation.

Chief Assist. Prof. Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD is the co-author of two textbooks (manuals) on courses from the Master's degree.

He has developed more than 7 laboratory stands to ensure the education process and enrich the material and technical base of the Department of Automation.

Chief Assist. Prof. Eng. Zivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD has completed one Erasmus+ mobility for training in the Czech Republic.

**Conclusion:** I appreciate the pedagogical qualifications of the candidate at a very high level for the required academic position "associate professor".

### **3. Main scientific and applied contributions**

The contributions contained in the candidate's scientific works can be assigned to the following groups:

- Scientific contributions - 2;
- Scientific – applied contributions – 7;
- Applied contributions – 4;
- Citations -6.

As it could be seen, there are significant scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, most of which are the candidate's personal work. Citations of these works is a sure sign of the recognition of the candidate by the scientific communities in the field of the contest, in Bulgaria and abroad.

### **4. Significance of the contributions to science and practice**

The large number of scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions enrich the theory, teaching material and practice in the field of the announced contest. Considering that the candidate presents 25 papers with his participation, 12 of which have been published in international scientific conferences and journals, indexed in Scopus database, shows that he is at a high scientific and technical level.

The presented citations of his works guarantee for the recognition of the candidate from scientific communities in Bulgaria and abroad.

The quantitative indicators of the criteria for the occupation of the academic position "associated professor" have been fully fulfilled.

In my opinion Chief Assistant Professor Eng. Zivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD is a highly qualified specialist with recognized research and teaching qualities in the field of automation.

### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I do not have any objections to the scientific works of the candidate. I confidently confirm his high scientific and pedagogical training.

## **CONCLUSION**

I know the candidate personally and based on the presented documents, materials and scientific works, their importance and the scientific, scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I believe that Chief Assist. Prof. Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD fully meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria, the

Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Technical University - Varna, for the acquisition of the scientific position "associate professor".

For all the reasons mentioned above, I give my positive assessment and **suggest Chief Assistant Professor Eng. Zhivko Stefkov Zhekov, PhD for the academic position "associated professor"**, professional field 5.2. Electrotechnics, electronics and automation, study discipline "Control of Electromechanical Systems", Department of Automation, Faculty of Computer Engineering and Automation, Technical University - Varna.

Member of the Scientific  
/assoc. prof. Mariela Alex:

Заличена информация  
по Регламент (ЕС)  
2016/679

20.10.2023  
Varna