O P I N I O N

by competition for the academic position "Professor"
in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences,
professional area 5.2. "Electrical engineering, electronics and automation",
study discipline "Management of technological processes",
announced in SG no. 14 of 16.02.2024

with candidate: **Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolaev Nikolov, PhD**

Member of the scientific jury: **Corr. Member Lyubka Atanasova Doukovska, DSc**

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

Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov is the sole candidate in the current competition for the academic position "Professor". The candidate's research and scientific-applied activity is expressed in the publication and research activities with which he participates in the announced competition, according to the groups of indicators of the national minimum requirements for occupying the position of "Professor" regulated in ZRASRB.

The candidate fulfills the requirement of Art. 29 (1) item 1 of the ZRASRB, because by decision of the Presidium of the Higher Attestation Commission at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the basis of the PhD thesis titled "Research of algorithms for the synthesis of modal adaptive state regulators", he was issued diploma No. 33732 /11.01.2010, for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree - PhD.

In the list of publications by the competition in section B.4. are presented 10 scientific publications, equivalent on habilitation labor, in the direction "Control and management on technological processes and devices". Introduced there are also 20 scientific ones publications in sections Г.7. and Г.8., which are structured in the following thematic ones directions – "Algorithms for adaptive monitoring", "Systems for automatically management", "Communication networks in systems for management" and "Engineering practices at management on the marine ones resources".

From the analysis on presented works by the competition, follows that the reviewed publications "no repeat presented for acquisition on educational and scientific degree PhD and for borrowing on the academic position "Associate Professor", with which they are satisfied the requirements on Art . 29 (1) item 3 and item 4 of ZRASRB.

no	Indicators by groups	National requirements	Applicant data
1	Group indicators A	50	**50**
2	Group indicators B	100	**183**
3	Group indicators Г	200	**244.7**
4	Group indicators Д	100	**180**
5	Group indicators E	150	**270**

The candidate is the leader of three research projects and a member of the collective of three research projects, in one of which he is the leader of Section L11S3 "Marine Robotics". All projects have a strong engineering problem and create conditions for obtaining innovative solutions to the set goals.

The above-mentioned data determine the indisputable high assessment of the candidate's research and scientific-applied activity, thus he fulfills the requirements of Art. 29 (1) item 5 of the ZRASRB.

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

Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov has been part of the staff of the Process Control Department, FITA at TU-Varna since 1990, which meets the requirement of Art. 29 (1) item 2 of the ZRASRB .

According to indicator Ж.29. "Horarium of lectures given at TU-Varna for the last three years", with a required number of 120 points, is the presented reference for 600 points, i.e. the applicant exceeds the required minimum five times.

According to the study load report submitted by the candidate, in the last three academic years 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, he has conducted classroom learning activity, which consists of 1046.8 hours of lectures and 148.7 hours of out-of-classroom learning activity. The total educational activity for the period is 1195.5 hours.

Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov supervised four PhD students, one of whom successfully defended his dissertation, two were dismissed with the right to defend and one is in the training period.

The data give me reason to assume that Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov is a scientist with extensive teaching experience and a significant contribution to the training of engineering personnel in the country.

3. Basic scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

From the applicant's submitted reference for scientific contributions, the following scientific contributions should be noted as particularly significant:

1. An algorithm has been developed for modal management (SMC) of one dimensional (SISO) linear stationary discreet systems which calculates the elements on the vector on the opposite connection for SISO system with modal discreet regulator on the condition so that the poles on the closed one system Yes satisfy at the same time the requirements for degree on resistance, degree on hesitancy on the transitory ones processes in the discrete system and yes no are multiples.
2. A reduced algorithm was developed computational complexity for elementary evaluation on the parameters of SISO linear stationary discrete.

Twelve scientific-applied contributions and seven applied contributions were also formulated.

I accept the contributions formulated by Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov in the works with which he participates in the competition, and the results have a scientific, scientific-applied and applied character and can be defined as the enrichment of an existing scientific field with new knowledge, with which they are satisfied the requirements of art. 29 (3) of ZRASRB.

4. Significance of contributions to science and practice.

The quantitative indicators of the criteria for occupying the academic position "Professor" have been met, and in some groups of indicators the candidate significantly exceeds the minimum requirements.

Teach you publications with which the candidate participated in the competition are 21 in editions which are referenced and indexed in World famous bases data with scientific information and 9 publications are in unreferenced journals with scientific reviewing or in edited collective volumes .

A list of 18 citations in publications indexed and referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science is presented, assuming that this number is up to the time of submitting the documents for participation in the competition and does not include newly appeared citations. The data thus presented give me reason to conclude that the research has been provided with the necessary publicity.

Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov meets the requirement of Art. 29 (1) item 6 of the RASRB, as I accept the Declaration submitted by the candidate that there is no proven plagiarism in the scientific works submitted for participation in the current competition.

5. Critical notes and recommendations.

I have no significant critical remarks towards Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov regarding the scientific production presented in the competition.

Taking into account the candidate's teaching and research experience, I would like to recommend Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolov to direct his efforts in working with PhD students in order to pass on his scientific experience to the next generation of Bulgarian researchers in the field of engineering sciences.

CONCLUSION

I accept that the candidate for the competition has fulfilled the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for occupying academic positions at the Technical University - Varna.

Based on the acquaintance with the presented scientific works, their importance, the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable **to propose** Assoc. Prof. Nikola Nikolaev Nikolov to occupy the academic position of "Professor" in scientific field 5. Technical sciences, professional area 5.2. Electrical engineering, electronics and automation, study discipline "Management of technological processes".

Date: 16/06/2024 JURY MEMBER

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по Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679

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