

OPINION

From: Prof. Sotir Sotirov

Regarding: Competition for the position of "Associate Professor"

Field of Study: "5.3. Communication and Computer Engineering"

Scientific Specialty: "Systems with Intelligent Behavior"

Announced in: State Gazette No. 70, August 20, 2024

For: Department of "Computer and Information Technologies," University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas

Applicant: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Todor Petkov Petkov

Brief Biographical Information: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Todor Petkov was born on March 15, 1988. In 2012, he earned a Master's degree in "Computer Systems and Technologies." In 2016, he obtained a Doctoral degree from the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov," Burgas, with the dissertation topic *"Generalized Network Modeling of Neural Networks."* He is currently serving as Chief Assistant Professor at the same university.

According to the submitted documentation, Dr. Petkov is participating in the competition with 32 scientific works: 11 articles presented as habilitation work and 21 additional articles submitted for the competition. Among these, 4 articles have an impact factor (IF), and 13 are indexed in SCI/SCOPUS (SJR). These contributions fulfill the minimum requirements of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" and the Bulgarian Law on Academic Staff Development. The documentation also includes the work titled *"Manual on Digital Circuit Technology."*

The author's report on the candidate's contributions is well-prepared and accepted without any remarks. The scientific results presented by Dr. Petkov demonstrate academic, applied, and practical value. From the list of articles, I am a co-author in 23 of them, which focus primarily on the modeling and application of neural networks. This allows me to highly evaluate the knowledge and competence of the candidate.

All publications are original and published in journals relevant to the competition's topic. Among them, there are several with a focus on chemistry, published in reputable journals with an impact factor, guaranteeing their scientific value.

According to Scopus data, the candidate has 32 documents, 130 citations (excluding self-citations), and an H-index of 6.

Teaching Activities

From the submitted report on teaching activities, it is evident that Dr. Petkov has taught 12 different courses, all closely related to the announced specialty in the competition. He has supervised 11 graduate students, reflecting a significant teaching workload.

The candidate has participated in 5 international, 2 national (funded by the National Science Fund), and 6 university-level scientific projects, serving as a project leader in one internal university project.

Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have only one recommendation for Dr. Todor Petkov: to publish a monographic work based on the 10 materials from Group B.

Conclusion

The above considerations convince me that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Todor Petkov is an outstanding candidate for the position of "Associate Professor" in the field of "5.3. Communication and Computer Engineering" and the scientific specialty "Systems with Intelligent Behavior." Therefore, I recommend his election as "Associate Professor" in the Department of "Computer systems and Technologies" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas.

Signature:

Prof. Sotir Sotirov