



OPINION

on the competition for the academic position of "associate professor"

in the professional field 5.2 "Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation", scientific specialty "Elements and Devices of Automation and Computing", announced in the State Gazette issue 39 of 13.05.2025 for the needs of the Institute of Robotics "St. Apost. and Ev. Matei" - BAS, Sofia, with the sole candidate senior assistant Dr. Neda Venelinova Chehlarova

According to order No. 76 of 16.07.2025 of the Director of the Institute of Robotics - BAS, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, 5.2 "Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation", scientific specialty "Elements and Devices of Automation and Computing" (Application of Additive Technologies in Education), announced in the State Gazette, issue 39 of 13.05.2025. I have received all the documents of the only candidate in the competition - Senior Asst. Dr. Neda Venelinova Chehlarova.

Brief biographical data about the candidate

Senior Asst. Dr. Neda Venelinova Chehlarova was born on 30.05.1994. In 2018, she obtained a master's degree in "Business Management" at the University of Forestry - Sofia. In 2023 defended her PhD thesis on the application of computing technology in economics at the same university and received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". Since June 2023, she has been working at the Institute of Robotics-BAS as a senior assistant.

Findings on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

The candidate senior assistant Dr. Neda Chehlarova participates in the competition with the following materials.

- Under indicator A "PhD thesis for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"" – PhD thesis on the topic "Research of the e-business system in the context of increasing the digital and professional competencies of users".
- Under indicator B4 "Habilitation work - monograph" - 1 on the topic "Additive technologies in education".
- Under indicator G7 "Scientific publications in sources that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information" - 5 publications.
- Under indicator G8 "Scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes" – 8 publications
- Under indicator D12 "Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes" a extract from Scopus and Web of Science of 7 independent citations of the candidate's articles was provided.
- Under indicator "Participation in national and international projects" – a total of 2 - 1 project under the National Science Fund and 1 under the National Research and Development Program "Security and Defense".

The total number of points of the candidate and the required minimum number of points by groups of scientometric indicators, according to the minimum national requirements (MNR) under the Law on the Protection of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Bulgaria, are presented in tabular form.

Reference for the fulfillment of the minimum requirements

<i>Indicator groups</i>	<i>Minimal score PF 5.2</i>	<i>Applicant score</i>
<i>A</i>	50	50
<i>B</i>	100	100
<i>G</i>	200	216.7
<i>D</i>	50	70
<i>E-projects</i>	---	2 projects
<i>Total:</i>	400	436.7

It can be seen that Senior Asst. Dr. Chehlarova satisfies the requirements of the PPZRASRB, for professional field 5.2. Electrical engineering, electronics and automation.

I accept the claims for contributions of Senior Asst. Dr. Chehlarova, which are formulated in her documents and in the "Reference for scientific and scientific-applied contributions", in which the candidate describes in detail the contributions with which she applies to the competition. In my opinion, they are entirely scientifically-applied and applied, reflect the essence of the publications and projects with which she participated in the competition, and therefore I will not comment on them in detail.

Critical notes, recommendations and personal impressions of the candidate

I have the following critical notes and comments to the candidate on the materials submitted by her for participation in the competition. I note that I do not personally know Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Neda Chehlarova.

1. In the documents submitted for the competition, I did not see the candidate expressing views on her future research work, and this is important in a habilitation competition.
2. It is not clear from the documents submitted whether there is an overlap between the publications in the competition and those with which she obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (since the abstract of the dissertation was not attached).
3. The contributions could be formulated better.
4. I recommend that the candidate increase her publication activity.

Conclusion

The above gives me reason to declare a positive assessment of the candidate's research activity and to recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the award of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Neda Venelinova Chehlarova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 5.2 "Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation".

27. 09. 2025

Sofia

Jury member:

(Corr. Member Prof. Dr. Stefan Hadjitodorov,
Dept. "Bioinformatics and Mathematical
Modeling", IBFBMI - BAS)