

Opinion

by competition for the academic position of "associate professor"

Field of higher education: 5 " *Technical Sciences* ";
professional field: 5.2 " *Electrical engineering, electronics and automation* ";
specialty: " *Application of the principles and methods of cybernetics in various fields of science* ."

Announced in the State Gazette No. 66/ of 12.08.2025 for the needs of the section/laboratory " *Interactive Robotics and Control Systems* ", IR, BAS,
with candidate: *Senior Assistant Professor PhD Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova*
member of the scientific jury: *Prof. Dr. Eng. Georgi Ilinchev Popov*

I. General characteristics of the candidate's scientific research and applied scientific activities

The candidate in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" is for the needs of the section/laboratory "Interactive Robotics and Control Systems" at the Institute of Robotics of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. PhD Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova is a chief assistant in the same section.

Paulina Tsvetkova PhD participated in the competition with a total of 41 scientific papers. 10 scientific publications with co-authors, equivalent to a habilitation thesis, were submitted to group B of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". The points submitted by the candidate on this indicator are 102.8, with a required 100.

Under indicator Г7 "Scientific publication in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information" 12 scientific publications are presented, indexed in world-renowned databases (Scopus and WoS). Of these, there are 2 articles in quartile Q1 and 4 in quartile Q2. All articles have co-authors.

Under indicator Г8. "Scientific publication in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes", 21 scientific publications have been submitted, with one independent publication.

For group Д, the candidate has provided the necessary evidence, and the points for this indicator are 120.

The candidate has submitted a report on scientific research and applied activity under indicators group E, but such are not required.

II. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical training and activities

For the academic position for which the candidacy is being applied, the ability to work with students is extremely important. Based on the materials provided, it is evident that Senior Assistant Professor Paulina Tsvetkova worked at UniBIT, NPG in Computer Technologies

and Systems , American College – Sofia. This shows her experience with students in various disciplines.

The requirements of Group Ж are met.

III. Main contributions

The work of Senior Assistant Professor Paulina Tsvetkova meets the minimum national requirements for scientific activity for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". The significance of the contributions in the candidate's scientific works is determined by the fact that they have received publicity and have been cited, including by foreign authors.

In my opinion, the majority of contributions can be categorized as scientific and applied. However, I accept the contributions of the candidate in the submitted scientific papers and define them as scientific and scientific and applied in the field of the announced competition.

IV. Significance of contributions to science and practice

Evidence of the significance of the contributions is the publication of research results in scientific forums indexed in prestigious databases (IEEE, SCOPUS), as well as publications in quartiles Q1 and Q2.

The presented materials show that the quantitative indicators of the criteria for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" have been met.

V. Critical notes and recommendations

Overall, I have no critical remarks on the materials submitted in the competition. The candidate's papers are written in good scientific language and with high competence.

My recommendations to the candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Paulina Tsvetkova, are:

- to continue work on existing topics;
- to start writing more independent articles .

Conclusion

Considering the above, my assessment of the scientific and pedagogical activities of Senior Assistant Professor Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova PhD is positive. The national requirements of the ZRASRB, set out in the PPZRASRB and the requirements of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences have been met.

Based on my familiarization with the presented scientific works, their significance, scientific, scientifically-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to propose that **Senior Assistant Professor PhD Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova take the academic position "Associate Professor"** in the professional field: 5.2 " *Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation* ", specialty: " *Application of the principles and methods of cybernetics in various fields of science* ".

Sofia, 25.10.2025

Jury member:

/Prof. Georgi Popov/