

## OPINION

for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in scientific field 5 Technical Sciences, in the professional field 5.1 Mechanical Engineering, scientific specialty "Robotic devices with application in medicine", published in the State Gazette No. 39/13.05.2025.

candidate: Ch. Assistant Eng. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva, PhD

Scientific jury member: **Prof. Eng. Reneta Krasimirova Dimitrova, PhD**  
Technical University of Sofia, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Automation of Discrete Production.

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

One candidate participates in the competition - Ch. Assistant Eng. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva PhD, at the Institute of Robotics, BAS. The candidate's research and applied scientific activity is in the field of the competition. The candidate fully meets the national minimum requirements, as well as those of BAS for holding the academic position of "associate professor", as follows:

**Indicator A** - a diploma for "PhD" degree issued by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences № 001260/19.06.2020 is presented.

**Indicator B** – the candidate has presented 11 scientific publications in journals that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, equivalent to a monographic work. The total number of points is 223 (publication B9 carries 15 points, not 20 points as the candidate indicated) with a required 100 points, which shows the double overachievement on this indicator. In 9 of the submitted scientific publications, Ch. Assistant Eng. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva PhD is the first author.

**Indicator D** – the candidate has submitted peer-reviewed monograph G6.1 on the topic "Tactile laparoscopic robot tool for restore sense of touch", Editions Universities Europeans (25.04.2017), 2017, ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-3-330-86913-4, ISBN-10: 3330869135, which carries 30 points. The 6 scientific publications presented by the candidate (G7.1, G7.2, G7.3, G7.4, G7.5 and G7.6) in G7 as scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information are not such and should be referred to group G8 (20/ n). For group G8 scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review, the candidate has presented 16 issues, for 5 issues of which there are presented separation protocols between the authors (G8.2, G8.3, G8.7, G8.8 and G8.14). In total, the candidate has 255.33 points, which shows the fulfillment of the requirements under this indicator.

**Indicator D** – the candidate has presented for D12 citations that are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information 18 issues with a total number of points 180, which I accept. For D13 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, the candidate has presented 6 issues of which I accept 1 issue (D13.25) carrying 3 points. The presented citations D13.19, D13.21 and D13.24 are not citations according to the requirements of the law and I do not accept them. The citations D13.20 and D13.23 presented by the candidate are citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review and are from group D14 carrying 2 issues. points for each. In total, the candidate has 187 points, which shows the multiple over fulfillment of the requirements for this indicator.

**Indicator E** – the candidate has submitted a report on his/her participation in 1 national scientific project E18.1 with a total number of points 10, 1 international scientific project E19.1 carrying 20 points, as well as a published utility model E26.1 carrying 40 points. The candidate has submitted awards in architecture or design competitions given by national professional forums and organizations E27 and in architecture or design competitions given



by professional forums and organizations abroad E28 with a total number of points 30. In total, the candidate has 100 points under this indicator.

<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Minimum requirements for AD "Docent"</b>	<b>Candidate indicators</b>
A	50	50
B	-	-
In	100	223
G	200	255.33
D	50	187
E	-	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>815.33</b>

## **2. Evaluation of the candidate's performance.**

Ch. Assistant Eng. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva PhD was appointed as an engineer at the Central Laboratory of Mechatronics and Instrumentation at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in 2002, and since 2004 she has held the position of research associate. She was appointed to the position of Chief Assistant at the Institute of Systems Engineering and Robotics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in 2011, and since 2017 as Chief Assistant at the Institute of Robotics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. She is fluent in English and German. I believe that Ch. Assistant Eng. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva PhD has a very good scientific background and 23 years of research experience, which corresponds to the requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

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

The candidate has submitted a statement of original scientific contributions that clearly demonstrate that they are in the field of the competition. They are formulated based on many years of work and development by the candidate, accurately and comprehensively reflecting everything done to date.

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

The contributions can be summarized as: formulating new hypotheses, creating new methods and methodologies for research, proving with new means significant new aspects of existing theories, as well as developing original solutions and concrete results in the field under consideration.

## **5. Critical notes and recommendations.**

I did not find any fundamental errors or incorrect use of other people's works, but some of them have uncorrected technical errors and inaccuracies. I recommend that Ch. Assistant Eng. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva PhD pay more attention when preparing the documentation and increase the publication of independent works in prestigious international journals with an impact factor (IF on Web of Science) and/or an impact rank (SJR on Scopus).

## **6. Conclusion**

The candidate has fulfilled all the indicators required to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation and has also fulfilled an indicator that is not required. **On this basis, I give a positive assessment and with conviction I propose that Ch. Assistant Eng. Veronika Ivanova Atanasova-Georgieva PhD take the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, in the professional field 5.1 Mechanical Engineering, scientific specialty "Robotic Devices with Application in Medicine" at the Institute of Robotics, at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.**

Date: 29.08.2025

Scientific jury member:

/Prof. Eng. Reneta Dimitrova, PhD