

OPINION



on the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor”

Field of higher education: 5 “*Technical Sciences*”;

Professional field: 5.2 “*Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation*”;

Scientific specialty: “*Elements and Devices of Automation and Computing Technology*”.

Announced in the *State Gazette*, Issue No. 51 of 05 June 2026, for the needs of the “SITRM”
Section/Laboratory, Institute of Robotics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,

with candidate: *Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Eng. Svetoslav Atanasov Noykov*

Member of the Scientific Jury: *Assoc. Prof. Paulina Tsvetanova Tsvetkova*

I. General Provisions and Biographical Information

The competition was announced for the needs of the “Sensors and Measurement Technologies in Robotics and Mechatronics” Section at the Institute of Robotics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in the *State Gazette*, Issue No. 51 of 5 June 2026. The candidate for the academic position of “Associate Professor,” Dr. Eng. Svetoslav Atanasov Noykov, is a Chief Assistant Professor in the same Section. At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, held on 13 August 2026, I was selected to prepare an opinion and received the complete set of documents submitted for participation in the competition.

II. Assessment of Compliance with the Minimum National Requirements and the Requirements of the Institute of Robotics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Pursuant to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its Implementation (RILDASRB), and the requirements of the Institute of Robotics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, candidates for the academic position of “Associate Professor” are required to meet specific criteria and conditions.

In accordance with these requirements, Dr. Noykov holds a Diploma for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the scientific specialty 02.21.02 “Elements and Devices of Automation and Computing Technology,” based on his successfully defended dissertation entitled “Hardware and Software Tools for Processing Sensor Information in Environmental Exploration Using a Class of Mobile Robots.” Thus, he fulfills the requirements under Indicator A of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Dr. Svetoslav Noykov has submitted a total of 37 scientific works for the competition. Ten scientific publications equivalent to a habilitation thesis have been submitted under Group B, Indicator 4, of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor.” The score under this indicator is 169 points, compared with the required minimum of 100 points.

Under Indicator G7, “Scientific publication in journals that are refereed and indexed in internationally recognized databases of scientific information,” nine scientific publications indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science have been submitted. All of these publications have

been published in journals with an SJR, including one article published in a journal ranked in the highest quartile, Q1.

Under Indicator G8, “Scientific publication in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or in edited collective volumes,” 18 scientific publications have been submitted, including one single-authored publication.

Under Group D, Indicator D12, “Citations or reviews in scientific publications refereed and indexed in internationally recognized databases of scientific information or in monographs and edited collective volumes,” the candidate has presented an impressive total of 220 points based on citations, thereby substantially exceeding the required minimum of 50 points.

The analysis demonstrates that Dr. Noykov not only meets but significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor” in professional field 5.2 “Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation.”

II. Assessment of Research Activities and Results

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Svetoslav Noykov has an established presence in the scientific community, with profiles in the most prestigious databases of scientific information. A review conducted online on 30 September 2026 identified the following scientometric indicators, with self-citations excluded in both Scopus and Web of Science:

Indicator	Scopus	WoS
Author documents	24	10
Citations	132	34
H-index	6	3

The significance of the candidate’s research activity is evidenced by the dissemination of his scientific works and the substantial number of citations they have received, including citations by international authors in publications indexed in internationally recognized databases.

III. Significance of the Contributions to Science and Practice

Based on the publications submitted, it can be concluded that the scientific achievements of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Svetoslav Noykov are directly relevant to the subject matter of the announced competition. The candidate’s contributions are of significant scientific and research-and-development value and can be systematized into several areas: measurement and instrumentation and sensor technology, including radiation monitoring systems; automation and control systems; electronics and electromechanical systems; and software solutions for automation.

I consider the scientific contributions presented to be significant and substantial, contributing both to the development of theory and to the advancement of practical applications in the respective scientific field. They expand existing scientific knowledge and contribute to the generation of new results of high scientific value. Dr. Svetoslav Noykov possesses solid competencies in working with a broad range of specialized and applied software, including programming languages and environments (6502 Assembler, MATLAB, C/C++, OrCAD), office software packages (Microsoft Office, LibreOffice), software for servicing medical electronic

The candidate is a co-author of 19 patents, which is indicative of significant scientific and research-and-development activity focused on the development of novel technical solutions and the transformation of research results into practically applicable technologies.

Dr. Svetoslav Noykov has participated in the preparation, management, coordination, and implementation of various research and applied projects and tasks, contributing to the development of scientific capacity and the establishment of sustainable models for research and applied activities. His scientific-organizational, teaching and educational, and expert activities contribute to the development of scientific capacity and the advancement of the scientific community in the respective field. The supervision of a doctoral student who has successfully defended their dissertation demonstrates a high level of scientific competence and a contribution to the training of a new generation of researchers.

The distinctions received within the fields of science and education are indicative of recognition by the academic and professional community of the quality and significance of the candidate's inventive achievements and results, which have contributed to enhancing the reputation of the Institute of Systems Engineering and Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. They demonstrate a high level of professional competence, scientific expertise, and sustained contribution to the development of the respective scientific field.

IV. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

Overall, I have no critical remarks regarding the materials submitted for the competition. The candidate's scientific works are written in clear and appropriate scientific language and demonstrate a high level of professional competence.

My recommendations to the candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Svetoslav Noykov, are as follows:

- to further develop and deepen his research activities in his established areas of research;
- to continue his active work in the field of inventive and technological developments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, my assessment of the scientific and research activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Svetoslav Atanasov Noykov is **positive**. The national requirements established by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its Implementation (RILDASRB), as well as the requirements of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, have been fulfilled.

Based on my review of the scientific works submitted, their significance, and the scientific, research-and-development, and applied contributions contained therein, I find it justified to recommend that **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Svetoslav Atanasov Noykov be appointed to the academic position of "Associate Professor"** in professional field 5.2 "*Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation*", scientific specialty "*Elements and Devices of Automation and Computing Technology*."

30.09.2026

Member of the scientific jury:

Sofia

/Assoc.prof. Paulina Tsvetkova/