

OPINION

**by Prof. Dr. Valentina Markova Petrova,
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Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education – 5. Technical Sciences, professional field – 5.3. Communication and Computer Engineering, specialty – "Automated Systems for Information Processing and Management" (Internet-based Systems, Databases in Industrial Systems, Technology of Cyber-Physical Systems).

In the competition for Professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 48/13.06.2025, and on the website of the Technical University – Gabrovo, for the needs of the Department of "Automatics, Information and Control Engineering" at the Faculty of "Electrical Engineering and Electronics," the candidate is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Aldeniz Enverov Rashidov.

1. Overview of the submitted materials

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Aldeniz Enverov Rashidov participates in the competition for "Professor" with a total of 55 scientific publications, of which 22 are in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (Scopus, WoS), including 4 articles in journals with an impact factor (indicator B.4, G.7); and 33 publications in non-refereed but peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes (indicator G.8). The candidate has authored and co-authored 3 university textbooks (E.23) and 2 teaching aids (E.24). A total of 23 publications are single-authored, and in the remainder, Assoc. Prof. Rashidov is a co-author, being the first or leading author in a significant portion of them.

The candidate's scientific works are distributed in the following thematic areas:

- Applications of Artificial Intelligence for Automation and Optimization of Processes – [B4.1, B4.2, B4.3, B4.4, B4.10, G7.1, G7.2, G7.3, G7.4, G8.1];
- Automated Systems for Information Processing and Management – [G8.1, G8.2, G8.3, G8.4, G8.5, B4.8, B4.11, G7.3, G7.5, G7.7, G7.8, G7.9, G7.10, G8.6, G8.7, G8.9, G8.12, G8.13, G8.14, G8.16, G8.17, G8.20, G8.21, G8.22, G8.23, G8.25, G8.26, G8.27, G8.29, G8.31];
- Digitalization of Educational and Administrative Processes – [B4.12, G7.1, G7.2, G7.6, G8.8, G8.10, G8.11, G8.15, G8.18, G8.19, G8.24, G8.28, G8.30, G8.32, G8.33].

Evidence of the significance of his research includes 51 citations, of which 17 are in publications referenced and indexed in international databases, 31 in peer-reviewed collective volumes, and 3 in non-refereed publications. The candidate has also presented 5 educational publications, 1 successfully defended doctoral student, participation in 4 national and 3 international projects, as well as evidence of implemented systems with practical applicability in university practice.

The results from the submitted materials satisfy both the national quantitative requirements and the internal criteria of TU-Gabrovo for holding the academic position of "Professor," grouped in indicators B, G, D, and E, respectively.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

2.1. Educational and pedagogical activities

Assoc. Prof. Rashidov has been working at the Department of "Automatics, Information and Control systems" at the Technical University – Gabrovo since 1999, having progressively held the

academic positions of "Assistant Professor," "Senior Assistant Professor," "Chief Assistant Professor," and since 2010, he has held the position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 5.2 "Electrical Engineering, Electronics, and Automation." In his teaching activities, Assoc. Prof. Rashidov conducts lectures and practical exercises in a wide range of disciplines in the field of automation and information technology. In recent years, he has been the primary lecturer for the disciplines "Internet-based Systems," "Mobile Device Programming," "Databases in Industrial Systems," "Industrial Information Systems," "Technology of Cyber-Physical Systems," "Human Resource Management Information Systems," as well as specialized disciplines for doctoral students.

The total number of disciplines for which he has delivered lectures is 11. Of these, 6 were taught at foreign universities, and 2 disciplines at other higher education institutions in the country. He has prepared and developed 16 curricula and 5 disciplines for doctoral training.

Assoc. Prof. Rashidov is the co-author of three textbooks and two teaching aids.

As Director of the Center for Electronic and Distance Learning at TU – Gabrovo, he actively participates in the implementation of modern e-learning platforms and develops interactive educational resources.

The candidate has supervised over 65 graduating students and one successfully defended doctoral student, and is currently supervising another doctoral student in the field of automation and information technology.

2.2. Scientific and Applied Research Activity

Assoc. Prof. Rashidov has an active research and applied science activity in the fields of process automation, artificial intelligence, information systems, and the digitalization of educational and administrative processes.

The candidate has participated in 3 international, 4 national, and 9 university research projects, serving as the leader of 1 national and 9 university projects. The main focus of these projects is related to the development and implementation of systems for data management and analysis, the creation of electronic and distance learning environments, and the digitalization of administrative activities.

Assoc. Prof. Rashidov is a member of 11 editorial boards of indexed scientific journals, including: International Journal of Advanced Computer Research (IJACR), International Journal of Communication and Computer Technologies (IJCCTS), International Research Journal of Innovations in Engineering and Technology (IRJIET), and Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies (JAIET). He is also a member of 5 organizing and scientific committees for international scientific conferences, including the International Conference on Automatics and Informatics (ICAI) - Bulgaria, the International IEEE Conference on Computing, Communication and Networking Technologies (ICCCNT) - India, the International Conference on Computers Communications and Networking (CCNet) – India, as well as forums dedicated to artificial intelligence and intelligent systems. Furthermore, he is a member of the organizing and scientific committees of 3 national scientific conferences, including the National Conference on E-Learning in Higher Education (Veliko Tarnovo) and the National Scientific-Practical Conference on Digital Transformation of Education – Problems and Solutions (Ruse).

In 2024, Assoc. Prof. Rashidov was promoted to Senior Member of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) – an international recognition of his professionalism, contributions, and active scientific and applied work in the field of automation and information technology.

His active participation in scientific editorial and organizational structures confirms his high professional authority and international recognition within the academic community.

2.3. Implementation Activity

Assoc. Prof. Rashidov has made a significant contribution to the development and implementation of information systems with real-world applications in the academic and educational environment. Among the most substantial implemented developments is the University Management Information System (UMIS) – a comprehensive integrated platform for managing academic and administrative processes, initially implemented at the Technical University – Gabrovo and later adapted for the needs of other higher education institutions in the country.

Furthermore, Assoc. Prof. Rashidov is the author of a "Virtual Environment for Year-Round Online Exams" and a "Virtual Environment for Year-Round Admission of Application Documents," which are successfully functioning at TU – Gabrovo and contribute to the digitalization and automation of key administrative and educational activities.

3. Contributions

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Aldeniz Enverov Rashidov presents contributions of a distinctly scientific, scientific-applied, and applied nature, characterized by innovation and high practical value. These are the result of many years of consistent and purposeful research work aimed at developing and implementing automated systems in various fields of technical sciences and education.

The main achievements can be summarized in the following thematic areas:

"Applications of Artificial Intelligence for Automation and Optimization of Processes";

"Automated Systems for Information Processing and Management";

"Digitalization of Educational and Administrative Processes".

The contributions of Assoc. Prof. Rashidov have been widely disseminated through his active publication record and are reflected in 51 citations in scientific literature, which confirms their scientific and applied impact.

Based on the evidence presented, I consider the stated contributions to be real, well-argued, and entirely sufficient for holding the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 5.3 "Communication and Computer Engineering."

4. Assessment of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

The single-authored scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Aldeniz Enverov Rashidov, as well as his leading authorial role in a significant portion of the joint publications, clearly demonstrate his individual contribution to formulating scientific problems, conducting experimental research, and summarizing the results.

The candidate demonstrates independence, a systematic approach, and consistency in his scientific activities, and his developments have a distinct personal style and are oriented towards the implementation of practically applicable solutions in the field of information technology, automation, and digitalization.

5. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

I have no remarks regarding the submitted materials. The formulated contributions are clear and well-argued. The candidate's teaching and research activities are at a high academic level and demonstrate sustainable development over the years.

I would recommend that Assoc. Prof. Rashidov direct some of his future publications towards high-ranking international journals with an impact factor (Scopus, WoS), and continue his efforts

to expand the practical application and transfer of his research results to industry and the public sector.

6. Personal Impressions

The presented materials and results show a high level of professionalism, a systematic approach, and consistency in his research and teaching activities. Assoc. Prof. Rashidov demonstrates knowledge of current trends in information technology, automation, artificial intelligence, and digitalization, as well as skills in managing scientific teams and projects.

7. Conclusion

The documents submitted by the candidate for the competition for the academic position of "Professor" comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations of TU-Gabrovo.

In view of the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Aldeniz Enverov Rashidov to be elected as "Professor" in the field of higher education - 5. Technical Sciences, professional field - 5.3. Communication and Computer Engineering, specialty "Automated Systems for Information Processing and Management" (Internet-based Systems, Databases in Industrial Systems, Technology of Cyber-Physical Systems).

October 17, 2025

Jury Member:

(Prof. Dr. Valentina Petrova)