

OPINION

by Professor PhD Eng. Atanaska Dimitrova Bosakova-Ardenska

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on the materials submitted for the Competition
for the academic position of “**Associate Professor**”
at Plovdiv University “**Paisii Hilendarski**”

in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences

professional field 5.2. Electrical engineering, electronics and automation (*Theoretical electrical engineering*)

In the competition for “Associate Professor”, announced in the State Gazette, issue 34 of 07.04.2026 and on the website of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, for the needs of the Department of Electrical Power Engineering and Communications at the Faculty of Physics and Technology, as the only one applicant is Chief Assistant PhD Eng. Velislava Hristova Raydovska, from the Department of Electrical Power Engineering and Communications at the Faculty of Physics and Technology.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

On the grounds of Order No. ПД-22-1116 of 05.06.2026 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (PU) I was appointed for a member of the Scientific jury of the competition for the occupation of the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” in PU in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, professional field 5.2. Electrical engineering, electronics and automation (*Theoretical electrical engineering*), **announced for the needs of the Department Electrical Power Engineering and Communications** at the Faculty of Physics and Technology.

Only **one candidate** has submitted documents to participate in the announced competition: Chief Assistant, PhD Eng. Velislava Hristova Raydovska from the Department of Electrical Power Engineering and Communications at the Faculty of Physics and Technology at the University of Plovdiv (PU). The candidate has acquired the professional qualification of Master of Engineering in Electronics and Automation by graduating from the Higher Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Institute - Sofia, Plovdiv Branch in 1993 and has acquired the educational and science degree "Doctor" based on a defended dissertation on the topic "Investigation of the possibilities for measuring the tangent of the angle of dielectric losses of equipment in operational conditions" in 2015. In the period 1987-1988 Velislava Raydovska worked as an etcher-engraver in the “Disk Storage Devices” company in the city of Stara Zagora, where she gained practical experience. From

1996 to 2017 Velislava Raydovska worked as a lecturer at the Technical College – Smolyan, successively holding the positions of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant. From 2017 to the present, the candidate holds the academic position of chief assistant in the Department of “Electrical Power Engineering and Communications” at the Faculty of Physics and Technology of the PU “Paisiy Hilendarski”.

The set of materials presented by Chief Assistant PhD. Eng. Velislava Hristova Raydovska is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv. The candidate has submitted a total of 29 scientific papers, 1 book published on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", a monographic book entitled "Opportunities for training students through simulation research in electrical engineering in conditions of a pandemic", a list of publications for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and a list of research projects and National Programs in which he has participated. 29 scientific papers that are outside the dissertation are accepted for review and are taken into account in the final grade.

2. General characteristics of the activities of the candidate

The candidate, Chief Assistant PhD Velislava Raydovska, has been working as a lecturer at the PU “Paisiy Hilendarski” since 2017 until now. She is the author of 8 curricula (6 for the Bachelor's and 2 for the Master's degree) in disciplines in the field of professional direction 5.2. "Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation" ("Electrical Engineering 1", "Electrical Engineering 2", "High Voltage Engineering", "Electrical Measurements", "Technologies and Systems for Renewable Energy Sources", "Electrical Materials", "Insulation Systems and Structures" and "Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles" for students of the specialties "Power Supply and Electrical Equipment" and "Automotive Electronic Systems"). Chief Assistant Velislava Raydovska is the author of four textbooks published in the period 2016-2019, of which she is an independent author of two ("Handbook on Electrical Engineering" and "Analysis of Transient Processes in Linear Electrical Circuits"), and in the remaining two she is part of a team of authors (textbook on "Electrical Engineering and Electronics" and tutorial on "Computer Simulations in the Education of Electrical Engineering and Electronics"). In the period 2023-2025 the candidate was the supervisor of 8 successfully defended graduates, of which 6 graduates from the "Master" and 2 graduates from the "Bachelor" degree. For the same period, Chief Assistant Velislava Raydovska reviewed the diploma projects of 8 students (3 defended the "Bachelor" degree and 5 defended the "Master" degree). As part of the candidate's teaching activities related to the discipline of the competition (Theoretical Electrical Engineering), the participation as an Academic Mentor of students from the specialty

"Automotive Electronic Systems" from the first to the fourth year and the participation in the organization of the Republican Student Olympiad in "Theoretical Electrical Engineering" in 2025 can be noted. In the period 2014-2026 Chief Assistant Velislava Raydovska has completed thirteen courses to improve her qualifications in the field of language teaching (English levels A1-A2, B1-B2 and specialized English for academic purposes), the application of artificial intelligence and a competency-based approach in education, working with e-learning platforms, virtual reality, etc., which shows a clear desire for self-improvement. Chief Assistant Raydovska actively attracts students to her research activities, which is also evidenced by the twelve publications presented, the authorship of which includes students.

Chief Assistant Velislava Raydovska has submitted 29 scientific papers for participation in the competition, of which 16 are in Bulgarian, and the remaining 13 are in English. Some of the publications are indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Scopus, Web of Science). The results of the candidate's scientific research activities have been presented at prestigious scientific forums in the field of education and technology in the country and abroad. Table 1 presents a distribution of the candidate's scientific papers by year for the period 1999-2025.

Table 1. Distribution of candidate's publications by years

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Amount	2	-	2	2	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Amount	-	-	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	-	1	-	2	

The table presented shows a lack of publication activity in the period 2007-2014, for which period, however, the candidate has scientific achievements related to the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", the publications in connection with which are not subject to consideration in the present procedure.

The candidate is an independent author of a book published based on a defended dissertation in 2025. In the scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition, Chief Assistant Velislava Raydovska is a member of the author team, occupying a different position (Table 2).

Table 2. Candidate's position in the author's team

Number of authors	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of publications	8	7	4	6	4
Position of the candidate	1-st	2-nd	3-rd	4-th	5-th
Amount of publications	15	7	3	3	1

The candidate occupies a leading position (1st or 2nd) in 76% of the presented scientific production, which testifies to his active participation and a significant share in achieving the results under consideration. In 72% of the presented scientific production, the candidate is a member of a team of authors, which shows the ability to work in a team. The 29 publications under consideration and the published book based on a defended dissertation (1 in category G6, 5 in category G7 and 24 in category G8) form a total of 357 points according to indicator G of the National Minimum Requirements with a required 200 points. For this scientific production, the candidate has formed 13 contributions, of which 8 are indicated as "Scientific-Applied" and 5 as contributions of an applied nature. I accept the contributions in substance and believe that they correctly reflect the achieved results.

The candidate has presented a monographic work on the topic "Opportunities for training students through simulation research in electrical engineering in conditions of a pandemic", which confirms the use of modern digital tools and technologies in ensuring the educational process. The monographic work provides the necessary 100 points according to indicator B of the National Minimum Requirements and is 200 pages long, reviewed by Prof. PhD Eng. Nadezhda Kafadarova and Prof. PhD Eng. Slavi Lyubomirov and refers to 101 literary sources, of which 29 are available on the Internet. The monographic work examines numerous examples related to the application of software technologies in modeling and simulating basic processes in electrical circuits using the Matlab, TINA-TI and NI Simulink environments. Appendix 2 of the monograph presents the results of a survey "Use of virtual tools in the Electrical Engineering course", conducted with engineering students from the Faculty of Physics and Technology at the PU "Paisiy Hilendarski", which show the positive impressions of the students who used simulation models before the actual conduct of laboratory exercises in the field of electrical engineering. When using simulation models before conducting real laboratory work, 93% of the students feel more confident, and 86% make fewer mistakes when working in the real laboratory environment, which confirms the effectiveness of the applied methodology. The candidate has formed 9 contributions (6 in the "Scientific and Applied" category and 3 in the "Applied" category), which summarize the achievements of the monographic work. I accept the classification of the contributions made and believe that they reflect the achievements of the candidate.

The achievements in the candidate's scientific research work have been positively assessed by the scientific community, as evidenced by the 30 citations noted, of which 12 are in publications in issues that are indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) and 18 are in non-refereed publications with scientific review. The noted citations form a

total of 156 points with a required 50 points. The indicated citations were made from publications published in the period 2019-2024, which confirms the relevance of the researches presented by Chief Assistant Velislava Raydovska.

Chief Assistant. Prof. Dr. Velislava Raydovska has participated in 6 research projects, 5 of which are funded by the Scientific Research Fund at the PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" and 1 is nationally funded (DUEcoS program). In 5 of the submitted projects, the candidate is a participant, and for 1 of them he is a leader ("Construction of a laboratory for simulation and experimental research in electrical engineering").

The candidate's scientific output forms a total of 613 points on indicators B, G and D with a required 350 points, which exceeds the minimum requirements by 75%. The materials submitted for participation in the competition give me reason to conclude that the achieved results were obtained entirely with the participation of the candidate Chief Assistant Velislava Raidovska.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

Regarding the candidate's work, I would recommend that in the future she focus on publishing articles in prestigious scientific publications (journals), which would lead to a higher impact factor, and also to continue attracting young people (students and doctoral candidates) to her research activities.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assistant PhD Eng. Velislava Hristova Raydovska meet all the requirements of Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for implementation of LDASRB and the respective Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The applicant in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defence of educational and scientific degree "Doctor". The candidate's works contain original scientific-applied contributions that have received international recognition. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability and some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Chief Assistant PhD Eng. Velislava Raydovska meet the requirements of the competition. The achieved academic and research results correspond to the National minimum requirements and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Physics and Technology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the implementation of LDASRB.

After having acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, the analysis of their significance and the contributions contained in them I find it justifiable to give my positive opinion and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Physics and Technology for the election of **Chief Assistant PhD Eng. Velislava Hristova Raydovska** for the academic position "**Associate Professor**" at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, professional field 5.2. Electrical engineering, electronics and automation (*Theoretical electrical engineering*).

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The opinion was prepared by:

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