

April 13, 2026

Letter of recommendation for Assoc. Prof. Ing. Radoslav Paulen, PhD, regarding promotion to full professor

To Prof. Ing. Anton Gatial, DrSc., Dean, Chairman of the Scientific Board Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Associate Professor Radoslav Paulen, of the Department of Information Engineering and Process Control, Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, for promotion to the rank of full professor. I have known Prof. Paulen for more than a decade through close scientific collaboration and have had the opportunity to observe directly his development as a researcher, collaborator, mentor, and academic leader. I first interacted with him in 2012, when he obtained a prestigious scholarship of the Slovak government for conducting a six-month research stay in my group at Imperial College London. During his stay in London, I was impressed by his intellectual ability, scientific maturity, and willingness to collaborate with my PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Despite the relatively short duration of this visit, our interaction was highly productive and led to a full-length journal paper as well as four conference papers.

Prof. Paulen later returned to Imperial in connection with his Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship, and we collaborated further on the topics of set-membership estimation and feasibility analysis. This second period of collaboration resulted in additional journal and conference publications, including work published in the *Journal of Process Control* that was subsequently recognized with the journal's triennial theory/methods paper prize. On this basis, we established a strong and lasting collaboration that continues to this day. This has included exchanges of Slovak PhD students to Imperial as well as joint research proposal activities. Most recently, I had the pleasure of co-developing a Marie Curie Doctoral Network proposal coordinated by Prof. Paulen; although it was not ultimately funded, it received an excellent evaluation score above 93%, which in itself reflects the quality, ambition, and international competitiveness of his scientific leadership.

From an international perspective, Prof. Paulen has built an impressive profile in process modelling, control, and optimisation. He has authored 1 monograph, 30 journal papers, 86 peer-reviewed full-paper conference contributions, 2 book chapters, and 10 encyclopedia entries. His work has attracted substantial visibility, with his public Google Scholar profile currently indicating about 1,300 citations, an h-index around 20, and an i10-index of 36. His achievements have been recognized through several important distinctions, including a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship, the Young Scientist of the Year award at STU, and the *Journal of Process Control* Paper Prize. He has also developed a strong international profile through research stays and collaborations at leading institutions including Imperial College London, the University of Lorraine, and NTNU.

In addition to his research accomplishments, Prof. Paulen has demonstrated sustained commitment to academic service, mentoring, and institutional leadership. He has served as Associate Professor at STU since 2017 and as Deputy Head of the Department since 2018. He has supervised doctoral and master's students, organized internal seminar series with internationally recognized scientists, contributed actively to the IFAC Technical Committee on Chemical Process Control and to the EUCA General Assembly, and

taken leading roles in the organization of international scientific meetings. He also serves the research community extensively as reviewer, session chair, and associate editor for major conferences and journals in systems and control, process engineering, and optimisation. Taken together, these activities are clear evidence of a mature scholar who is already operating at the level expected of a full professor.

Personally, I consider Prof. Paulen to be an outstanding scholar, who makes regular, substantial, and high-quality contributions to the field of process modelling, control, and optimisation. He combines scientific depth with collegiality, international outlook, leadership, and a genuine commitment to collaboration and student development. In my opinion, he has collected outstanding achievements and has proven himself to be a highly accomplished researcher and teacher of international standing. I am therefore unequivocally convinced that Prof. Paulen meets the standards for promotion to the rank of full professor, and I recommend his advancement without reservation.

Sincerely,

B. Rachvat

Professor of Process Systems Engineering
Department of Chemical Engineering
Imperial College London