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Prof. Anton Gatial, DSc  
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### **Recommendation Letter for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Radoslav Paulen**

Dear Professor Gatial,

It is my pleasure to recommend Assoc. Prof. Dr. Radoslav Paulen as a Full Professor in the Department of Information Engineering and Process Control of the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. I know Dr. Paulen very well, as he was a PostDoc in my group in the Department of Biochemical and Chemical Engineering from 2012 to 2017. This appointment was made possible by my ERF Advanced Investigator Grant MOBOCON – Model-based optimizing control – from a vision to industrial reality.

During his stay in Dortmund, Dr. Paulen made enormously valuable contributions to the teaching and research of the group. He took over some of my compulsory and elective courses, provided assistance and inspiration to several doctoral students, and contributed to several other projects, especially the EU funded project DYMASOS on distributed management and control of large-scale industrial and power systems and the EU Support Action CPSoS, where together with several partners we developed a research agenda on Cyber-physical Systems for the European Commission and the scientific community. His work in Dortmund resulted in more than 20 papers with him and me as co-authors and several more which he published independently with PhD students of the group. From these, 4 papers have more than 50 citations in Google Scholar. His main research theme in this period was guaranteed parameter estimation. In this area he became one of the leading researchers worldwide which was documented by his co-authorship of the 2017-2019 Best Theory Paper of Journal of Process Control. During his time in Dortmund, his research interests and publications expanded to other areas, distributed optimization of production complexes, multi-stage nonlinear model-predictive control, and cyber-physical systems.

Dr. Paulen collaborated intensely with several PhD students of my group which was continued in a joint DAAD project after he moved back to Bratislava, especially related to the application of Modifier Adaptation to membrane separation processes. His advice and support were highly appreciated by the younger researchers, enabled them to realize their full potential, and led to a significant number of high-quality publications. I am very grateful for his contributions both in teaching and in research.

After his time in Dortmund, Dr. Paulen returned to Bratislava and stayed very active and visible in the systems and control and process systems engineering communities, both in theoretical and in applied research. His application interests cover a broad area from distillation columns over membrane separations to growing lettuce in greenhouses but he still makes significant contributions to estimation and control theory as well. In the years 2022 - 2025 he was a co-author of 22 papers that are listed in Scopus

with current citation indices of 17 (Scopus) and 20 (Google Scholar), demonstrating a significant impact of his work.

I attended several presentations by Dr. Paulen and was always impressed by his ability to present complex matters in a transparent manner, to focus on the essentials and to provide clear messages. His teaching abilities were highly valued by the students, both in class and during the supervision of Master thesis projects. Besides his teaching and research, Dr. Paulen has also been very active in organizing conferences and workshops at conferences and is an active member in international scientific organizations such as IFAC and EUCA.

To summarize, Dr. Radoslav Paulen is an established internationally recognized researcher and an excellent teacher. He meets all criteria for a professor in an engineering faculty of international standing. To interact with him was always stimulating and pleasant and he is a friendly communicative person around whom younger researchers gather.

I wholeheartedly and without any reservation support his appointment as a professor in your faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Engell', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sebastian Engell

Emeritus Professor of Process Dynamics and Operations  
Fellow of the International Federation of Automatic Control