



Leibniz-Institut für
Oberflächenmodifizierung e.V.

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Vitezslav Stranak, PhD
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Prof. Dr. André Anders
Direktor
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Unser Zeichen:

Datum: 25.07.2022

Letter of Recommendation and Support for Dr. V. Stranak

*Dear Vitezslav,
please find this letter of Recommendation and Support and use it at will for
the process of your promotion.*

Dear Committee members of the promotional committee at the University of South Bohemia, and to whom it may concern,

It is my great pleasure to write this *Letter of Recommendation and Support* for Dr. Vitezslav Stranak, an Associate Professor of your university who is under consideration for a promotion to Professor of Applied Physics.

First, let me state that I do not have a direct relation to Dr. Stranak; we have not published together, nor have we done joint research or joint pending research applications. While there is not direct relationship, I'm well aware of the accomplishments of Dr. Stranak through his publications and our occasional encounters at scientific conferences such as the ICMCTF.

Since we work in closely related fields, I have followed Dr. Stranak's development through his publications and presentations, which I found very relevant and innovative. I highly appreciate his approach to use plasmas for the engineering of surfaces according to specific applications such as for sensing and for biomedical applications. His general philosophy that plasma is a tool to be developed to work on important challenges of our time, such as improving the health of people or to reduce corrosion of surfaces in critical environments, is clearly aligned with the overarching research goals formulated by guiding bodies such as the European Commission. As he has demonstrated through successful generation of third-party funding, the work proposed and executed is recognized by research bodies and peers alike.

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Since I also work in the field of high power impulse magnetron sputtering (HiPIMS), I feel especially competent to judge the scientific contributions he has made to the field over the last years. Of special importance is the relationship between plasma properties and thin film microstructure. As Dr. Stranak has shown, using HiPIMS, a broad range of materials can be tailored to the demands of the application. These materials range from the hard and corrosion-resistant coatings to highly structured surfaces for biomedical applications, to polymeric materials. In fact, it is the breadth and width of the materials work that is very impressive. Dr. Stranak has shown, as evidenced through his publications, that he has a deep knowledge of the various materials systems and their applications, and that he can combine, with innovative ideas, the world of plasmas with the world of materials and thin films.

Besides accomplishments in research, I like to highlight two other points that make Dr. Stranak eligible for the promotion. One is his broad international experience. I firmly believe that scientists being trained and educated in difference places are especially suited to meet the demands of today's expectations of leaders in science and education. Dr. Stranak has extensive and first-hand experience with foreign research institutions. The other point is his experience in teaching. Dr. Stranak is already extensively involved in regular lectures and interactions with undergraduate and graduate students. The combination of research accomplishments and teaching makes him well qualified to be a professor of applied physics. I fully support his promotion and I'm convinced that he will be very successful in the next phases of his professional development. I strongly recommend proceeding with the considered promotion.

In case of any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

André Anders, Fellow of APS, AVS, IoP, and IEEE

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