LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

FOR ASKAR TAXIMOV

I, Ainur Sidelkovskaya, am a skilled IT and Big Data specialist with more than 15 years of experience. My areas of expertise include developing, customizing, and implementing corporate software solutions from leading vendors such as IBM, Microsoft, KNIME, SAS, SAP, Oracle, and Tableau. To illustrate my projects, I led the "Smart data Ukimet" project, a significant government-level AI and Big Data initiative in Kazakhstan, and established Big Data & Data science departments at Eurasian Resources Group in its capacity as CTO and curator of national IT projects. Over the past five years, I have worked with large enterprises including Kazatomprom, National Information Technologies, and other ministries and banks, and advised and implemented analytical solutions for all of Kazakhstan's main banks. Finally, I also teach and consult at Almaty International business school and the Academy of Public administration on Big Data and Data Science.

I have the honor to recommend Askar Taximov as a highly qualified and talented specialist, whose contribution to the development of information technology, information and cybersecurity, IT project management, technology and innovation is difficult to overestimate. From the first days of our acquaintance, I was impressed by his deep knowledge and extensive experience in a variety of fields - from construction and urban planning to economics, IT and project management.

Askar's education speaks for itself: a Master of science in Building and urban design in development from University College London, as well as a Bachelor of economics and business from the Karaganda Economic University of Kazpotrebsoyuz and a Bachelor of Civil engineering from the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University. This impressive wealth of knowledge is supported by years of successful work in leadership positions in such organizations as the State enterprise on the Right of economic management "City Center for monitoring and rapid response" of the Akimat of Astana "iKOMEK109", LLP "Code craft", JSC "Astana Innovations" and others.

At iKOMEK109, Askar facilitated the development of key digital technologies and telecommunications infrastructure, demonstrating a remarkable capacity for integrating complex systems. As well as the management of constructing a call center and making sure that communication with the IT sector occurs, he converted the call center into a very effective mechanism for enhancing the quality of life for the local inhabitants. In addition, he realises that effective solution-mediated issue resolution, smooth access to informational processes and being able make them leave their voice heard over the people all had to be in operation to create real efficiency.

In his groundbreaking article, "How to use the geonomics information system to update and generate citizen data," Askar addressed the critical challenge of maintaining accurate and up-to-date citizen data, a fundamental requirement for effective urban governance. He proposed an innovative approach to leveraging the Geonomics system, moving beyond simple data entry to create a dynamic, interconnected database.

In the context of rapidly changing urban landscapes, where the population is constantly moving, and information is often scattered and stored in different departments, this task is becoming increasingly complex. Askar does not just explore the theoretical possibilities of information systems, he offers specific, practical solutions to overcome real-world problems associated with collecting, integrating and verifying data. This has enormous implications for a variety of areas — from resource allocation and emergency response to long-term urban development strategies. Askar's ideas are especially relevant in the context of modern trends such as smart city initiatives and digital government programs. As a result, his work offers a roadmap for cities looking to harness the power of data to govern more effectively.

The article "How to apply it tools to improve city life. The iKomek experience" is not just a retrospective analysis of the iKomek experience, it is a look into the future, a kind of urban transformation project. Askar masterfully analyzes the successes and failures of iKomek, extracting valuable lessons that can be applied to other urban contexts. Where digital solutions are becoming more and more essential to us, his work does provide a kind of algorithm for how better the technology can be used in urban governance. He is not just reporting of technologies that are already available, but demonstrates how these can be strategically deployed to address particular urban challenges, including enhancement of citizen engagement, service delivery optimization, and enhancement of public safety. Hence, Askar's unique solution is that he takes sides in favour of citizen's interests, and that technology must serve citizen needs, not the other way round. The relevance of the article in the current context in which citizens expect governments to offer easy and cheap access to digital services involves the increasingly high expectations from citizens that the governments in charge will offer smart city solutions easily and cheaply to citizens.

The article "Big Data as a smart city management tool" examines the complex and often intimidating topics of Big Data turning it into a real mechanism for solving urban problems. It does not just discuss the potential of big data but attempts to offer real mechanisms by which the potential of big data can be employed in smart city initiatives. In a period where cities are drowning in the data whilst often lacking the means to process and use it effectively, Askar's work is a breath of fresh air, offering innovative methods on how to collect, channel and analyse huge quantities of data in an effort to obtain practical information regarding urban dynamics. His concentration on areas such as traffic management or environmental monitoring indicates the practical value that big data can have in improving urban life and his work is especially timely given the ever-increasing focus on data driven decision making in urban and IT management. His work can also provide valuable support for urban leaders seeking to create more efficient, sustainable and livable cities.

Moreover, his performances at such prestigious venues as GITEX Global, Profit Smart City Day, KazHackstan always arouse keen interest among the audience. He is also actively involved in training and developing young IT specialists, acting as a judge at the iTeach Me competition. Therefore, I am convinced that Askar is among the top 10% of specialists in Kazakhstan in the field of IT, digital technologies, urban management and innovation projects. This is confirmed by his many years of experience, successful projects, recognition from the professional community and his ability to find innovative solutions to complex problems. Askar's contribution to the development of digital and IT technologies in Kazakhstan is as he initiates and implements projects aimed at improving the quality of life of city residents. Also, he offers innovative solutions for the digitalization of urban management. He actively shares his experience and knowledge with the professional community and promotes the development of young IT specialists. He approaches complex urban problems using principles and concepts from modern urban science and IT technology. With his extensive understanding of modern complex city challenges, he is able to solve their problems.

Finally, Askar Taximov demonstrates standards of professionalism that are second to none. To illustrate, he is very meticulous and detail oriented with all his undertakings. Achieving unmatched results is both his passion and main priority. In addition, he takes pride in what he does as well as being able to perform well under pressure. He causes these advancements because of his strong desire to innovate and lead others to embrace multiple emerging concepts which I believe makes his ideas unique and important for the industry.

Through his activities, Askar makes a significant contribution to the development of the IT industry in Kazakhstan and helps create more modern and comfortable cities.

Best regards,
Managing Partner A2DATA LLC   **Ainur Sidelkovskaya**