

2023-05-11

Håkan Nilsson
Professor

Dr. Saeed Salehi

To whom it may concern,

I have had the true pleasure to work together with Dr. Saeed Salehi since October 2019, when I employed him as a post-doc. I should mention that I actually postponed the start of that project about half a year until Saeed was available, since I definitely wanted him to have the position. Although it gave me some additional problems related to the funding, it was definitely worth it. After his first two-year post-doc, I was lucky enough to get funding to continue employing him at Chalmers University of Technology (Chalmers) until end of September 2023 and after that hire him through Chalmers Industrial Technology (CIT) until end of June 2027. The change to CIT is because Chalmers is extremely restrictive when it comes to permanent positions, and even more at the department of Mechanics and Maritime Sciences. Through the collaboration with CIT, I can be able to continue this extremely fruitful collaboration with Saeed. However, Saeed wants to continue his academic career and he definitely has all the qualities needed to continue his career as an independent researcher in academia. Since I am unfortunately not able to offer him a permanent position at Chalmers, I encourage him to apply for any position that he finds interesting and challenging enough, and I sincerely recommend him for a permanent position in academia. If he leaves me and Chalmers, even before my funding for his position ends, I really hope we will be able to continue collaborating closely in other ways in the future.

Saeed is extremely knowledgeable in fluid mechanics and in computational fluid dynamics (CFD), and in particular in developments of numerical methods for CFD in the OpenFOAM open source CFD software. He has a background in machine learning techniques, which he has now started to incorporate in his own work as well as in the work by a newly employed PhD student. He took the lead in the definition of that project, and contributed to a very large extent to the application of funding that was granted. He also contributed to a successful application for a PhD project in hydropower lifetime analysis, which has recently started. He also contributed with the main ideas and writing of the proposal for his own funding until mid-2027, as described above. He is now the formal co-supervisor of those two new PhD projects, in addition to a PhD project in the ALPHEUS EU

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project since June 2020. He has also been engaged in supporting PhD students at TU Delft at their reoccurring meetings for PhD students working with OpenFOAM. Saeed is also actively sharing knowledge and developments with our industrial collaboration partners, who are now using the features Saeed has developed in OpenFOAM.

Saeed also has fantastic qualities as a teacher. I have involved him in my international PhD courses. He started as an assistant, but I quickly let him use his potential to contribute with new teaching material and his great ability to teach that material. He continuously contributes with strategic decisions related to those courses, and he has been an invaluable asset in those courses since 2020. He has developed his own PhD course in fluid dynamics in water turbines and delivered that course as part of a research school in the Swedish Hydropower Center. He has been initiator and main supervisor in master student project work. Saeed is very thorough in everything he is doing, and therefore he is now taking several pedagogical courses in order to acquiring a Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. I see a great future for Saeed as a teacher in academia if he can get the chance to get a permanent position at a university.

Saeed is a very open and caring person who always wants to help others and contribute to a nice working environment. I sincerely recommend Saeed for a permanent position in academia. I would definitely have employed him permanently myself if I had the possibility.



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