

November 17, 2012

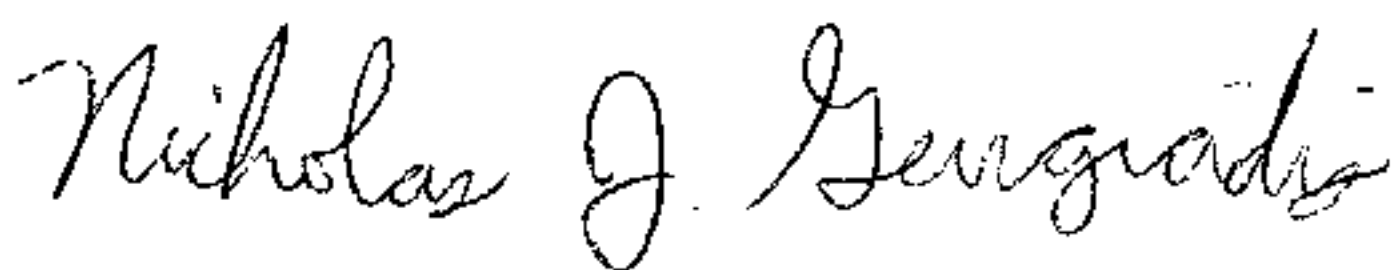
To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to highly recommend Dr. Shiv Kumar Sambasivan. I have been a researcher at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland Ohio for the past 22 years working in the same field, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) that Dr. Sambasivan is working in. I came to know him during my time leading the CFD subcommittee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Fluid Dynamics Technical Committee, 2008-2010.

Every two years, AIAA sponsors a best student paper competition at its summer CFD Conference. This has become a highly competitive event, where the top graduate students working in CFD from the best universities from not only the United States but also other countries are participants. The students have to submit a formal written paper, which is on par (and frequently superior) to the majority of other technical papers submitted by seasoned professionals, and then also deliver a half hour presentation during a regular professional session of the CFD Conference. The competition draws approximately 30 participants each time it is held, and all of the entries are top notch submissions. In 2009, Dr. Shiv Kumar Sambasivan won this competition for his paper entitled "Local Adaptive Mesh Refinement for High Speed Impact Mechanics and Multimaterial Dynamics" while he was a doctoral student at Iowa State University.

The entire field of computational mechanics, and in particular CFD, is one of the most difficult technologies that countries are trying to develop. The field is crucially important to commerce, technology advancement, and national security. It would be highly advantageous for the United States to retain a leading young researcher in this field like Dr. Shiv Kumar Sambasivan. The number of native born graduate students in this area is not sufficient to maintain the United States' leadership in computational mechanics, and other countries are working very hard to match and surpass the United States' capabilities.

If you would like to discuss Dr. Sambasivan's capabilities, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. My contact information is shown below.



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