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*To whom it may concern*

***Preambula***

For any position of an academic, i.e. university, professorship two major aspects have always been of decisive importance: *teaching* and research. Within the past decade or more these two issues have been completed by *management skills* and *public outreach*. This applies to any type of professorship, and even more so for a Full Professorship. Thus, these three topics will be the assessment and evaluation criteria for the review of the undersigned of the application material of Prof. UWr Dr.habil. Tomasz Niedzielski for a Full Professorship in Poland.

In the concrete case I feel first of all very privileged to have been addressed, and, secondly, I also feel authorized to assess and evaluate the performance and achievements of Dr. Niedzielski. This results from the fact that in my first academic education I studied geology and palaeontology as major and mineralogy and petrology as minor in Graz/Austria, and within my second studies I studied cartography, photogrammetry and remote sensing at ITC/The Netherlands. Subsequently (and after postdoctoral stays with various internationally leading researchers in the USA) I made my habilitation in General Geology and Remote Sensing and then got the *venia legendi* or *venia docendi* in Cartography through my appointment as Full Professor at TU Dresden. In this respect I consider myself capable to write the present review.

Despite the comprehensive information material about Dr. Niedzielski conveyed to me and the comparatively long time spent for its critical reading, I do not want to follow the frequently applied habit to repeat the contents of the professional records, but rather only to formulate my conclusions regarding the issue in question. Thus, my statements will be pretty short. This, however, may also be taken as a sign of my unambiguous opinion in this concrete case.

Let me finally mention that I know the candidate from several email contacts as well as personal meetings both in Wrocław and in Dresden, Germany.

## **Assessment**

In an overall statement regarding the three aforementioned domains of *Teaching (and Mentoring of Student Research Work)*, *Research / Scientific Achievements* and *Management Skills and Public Outreach* I can only assess Dr. Niedzielski in all respects as a top performer and recommend him for any higher academic university position.

Let me in the following justify this in a few complementary notes:

*Teaching (and Mentoring of Student Research Work)*. Having experienced Tomasz Niedzielski as speaker in front of various auditoria, I can only certify that he is a gifted orator who tells facts. Thus I judge him also as an excellent academic teacher. This impression is still corroborated by the fact that he also accomplished an extensive programme in Pedagogy for Teachers at the University of Wrocław.

Apart from numerous BCs and MSc thesis supervisions, also the supervision of three doctoral theses and the reviews of one dissertation and one habilitation work have to be mentioned.

*Research / Scientific Achievements*. Dr. Niedzielski's overall performance regarding his scientific publications is with the Web of Science Core Collection (state 26 September 2017) above that of an average scientist of his age. It is very much appreciated that he publishes first and foremost in internationally renowned ISI journals. In recent times he has also been nominated for the Scientific Award of *Polityka*, another sign for the appraisal of his scientific merits.

Further, the excellent knowledge and skills of Dr. Niedzielski in the field of remote sensing shall be mentioned, since today remote sensing and cartography form a pretty complementary holistic entirety.

*Management Skills and Public Outreach*. Apart from the management of both the application work and the actual project work of his big research projects, Dr. Niedzielski also organizes, since the retirement of Professor Zyszkowska, every year the annual *Cartographic School* of the University of Wrocław. His management skills are above doubt. In addition he is really active in public outreach of his research in print media as well as in radio and TV. This all goes along with his completely perfect spoken and written command of English, today's *lingua franca* in global top science and research, another asset for his appointment as "Professor Ordinarius".

## **Resumé**

Even without having read the comprehensive educational and professional record of Dr. Niedzielski, and only based on my personal oral exchange with him, I would have come to the same conclusion: Tomasz Niedzielski is, also according to the strictest international standards, in all respects suitable for the position of a Full Professor.



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