

Remarkable Anniversaries

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The life of a publication closely follows the development of the institution producing it. In this sense “Problems of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics” series is an inseparable part of the establishment and development of informatics, cybernetics and robotics within the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS).

This year we mark several important anniversaries. The first one is 45 years since the founding of the Automation and Telemechanics section in the Technical Sciences Department of BAS, lead by Denjo Belev. 40 years have passed since the establishment of the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics (IEC) at BAS, headed by Nikolay Naplatanov. This year also marks 26 years since the founding of the Institute of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics (IECR) at BAS, headed successively by Angel Angelov and Vassil Sgurev. It is also 10 years since the Institute of Information Technologies (IIT) at BAS with director Vassil Vassilev was formed as an independent entity (previously a part of IECR). The Central Laboratory of Mechatronics and Instrumentation (CLMI) at BAS, with director Roman Zahariev also celebrates its first decade this year.

The common feature in these scientific units is their tradition in uniting the efforts of many outstanding scientists and specialists in different areas. Some of them are of automation, cybernetics, robotics and information technologies. Nowadays those separate studies have been united under the name information-communication technologies.

The growth of our academic divisions is not arbitrary at all, it is dictated by the developing needs of the Bulgarian industry. It has evolved so that it can satisfy these practical requirements. We can hardly imagine the high tech progress in Bulgaria without the already emblematic Institute of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics at BAS. Being the largest academic institute in its field, it has pioneered the establishment of the branches in Bulgarian industry related to industrial robots and personal computers.

Nowadays the state of the Bulgarian economy, especially the ongoing transition from resource-oriented heavy industry towards competitive production of commodities and services has presented new challenges; challenges which the Bulgarian institutes and laboratories are ready to work on. The changing demands bring on further responsibilities to Bulgarian scientists, such a change is the future membership of Bulgaria in the European Union. This future membership will hopefully bring a quick transition to an innovation-oriented, knowledge-based hi-tech economy.

“Problems of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics” series was established 40 years ago at IEC of BAS. It was initially published under the title “Papers on Engineering Cybernetics” until 1979, when it got its present name. It has stayed an open and progressive publication, publishing the work by many young researchers. This journal has always aimed to preserve the scientific standards achieved at different stages of the information-communication technologies development of BAS.

In its sixth decade, “Problems of Engineering Cybernetics and Robotics” series will attempt to react adequately to the challenges of modern information technologies.