

Associate Professor  
Software and Intelligent Control Engineering Laboratory  
Department of ICT and Natural Sciences  
Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering  
NTNU — Norwegian University of Technology and Science  
Postboks 1517, NO-6025 Ålesund, Norway  
Phone: +47 40082880  
Email: [robin.t.bye@ntnu.no](mailto:robin.t.bye@ntnu.no)

To whom it may concern

15 October 2017

### **Recommendation letter for professor Hans Georg Schaathun**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have known Hans Georg (“George”) since he joined our department in 2011. Since then, I have had the pleasure of working quite closely with him on several occasions, including:

- as a co-teacher in the course Functional Programming and Intelligent Algorithms (FPIA)
- as a member of the SoftICE Lab on several research projects, including
  - Artificial Intelligence for Winch Design
  - Artificial Intelligence for Crane Design
  - Active Learning for Microcontrollers (educational research project)
  - Dynamic Resource Allocation with Maritime Application (DRAMA)

Over the years, cooperating with Hans Georg both when teaching a course together and when doing research together has been a highly valuable experience for me in which Hans Georg always has set the bar for quality and work ethics. Although Hans Georg himself likes to describe himself as a “jack of all trades, master of none,” I would like to emphasise that Hans Georg has excellent general skills in both his educational practice as a teacher and as a researcher. With his broad knowledge and expertise, as well as superb professional ethics, he has served as a mentor on many occasions for myself and colleagues. In particular, I would highlight his ability to critically evaluate both pros and cons in situations where others may easily neglect the drawbacks of going forward with propositions that may have promising upside but also significant risks. Consequently, I always consult with Hans Georg for advice when faced with a number of options for how to proceed.

In educational practice, Hans Georg has made several contributions:

- he has provided invaluable critical insight into how our department can improve our bachelor and master study programmes by being able to make objective evaluations of ourselves and how we perform our profession

- he has set the bar for critical self-evaluation of the courses that we teach and introduced the concept of on-going course evaluation, where every class begins with a short discussion session in which the student can provide feedback on progress, teaching methods, and suggestions for change, something I have successfully adopted in my own courses
- he has initiated and explored modern educational teaching approaches such as flipped classroom and student-active learning activities and willingly disseminated his findings informally, in campus seminars for staff and students, at conferences, and in publications
- led by example by employing a scientific approach towards the course improvement cycle of planning, execution, and evaluation, always keeping up to date with the latest educational literature, and revising his courses for improvement

I would in particular highlight the educational research project *Active Learning in Microcontrollers*, in which he headed our investigation and evaluation of the course Microcontrollers by means of using action research and student focus groups. The research approach was unusual to our department at the time but its findings were highly valuable and I strongly believe we should repeat this kind of evaluation studies for other courses and for our study programmes.

In research, Hans Georg has been a good leader of the SoftICE Lab and in various research projects:

- whilst he has a very broad knowledge of technology and ICT, he also has the ability to very quickly school himself on unfamiliar topics
- his leadership style is a good balance between encouraging free will and independent thinking whilst providing constructively-critical insight
- he ensures that the quality of our work is of a high scientific standard
- he has strong strategic capabilities enabling us to make the right decisions on which projects to aim for and when to lean back

Hans Georg has been one of the most influential scientific staff members on campus since he commenced work with us both in the field of education and research. With respect to his recent application for the promotion to teacher with merit, I would strongly recommend his application be granted.

Sincerely,



Robin T. Bye