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Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
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Dear National Academy Research Associate Program Committee:

This is a letter of recommendation for Oleksander (Alexander) Ivanchenko for your postdoctoral position at the National Academy Research Associate Program.

I have known Oleksander as a graduate student at the University of Alabama (UA) since 2004. Oleksander has taken some of my courses including Theory of Elasticity and Experimental Mechanics. I also served as our department graduate program director at the time he was offered an assistantship in our department.

We have been fortunate to have Oleksander as a graduate student. He came to us with work experience as an electrical engineer, and with experience teaching mathematics. I feel that he would have been accepted to any university to which he applied, and it was fortunate timing on our part that he accepted our offer.

I believe that Oleksander is one of the very best graduate students we have had in the Engineering Science and Mechanics program in the Aerospace Engineering Science and Mechanics Department at UA.

When solving problems in Elasticity, he has come up with detailed and novel solutions to problems. A standard assignment in this course is for students to present their own lecture on a section of the course material. Oleksander presented a lecture that was more clearly presented than was in our own textbook.

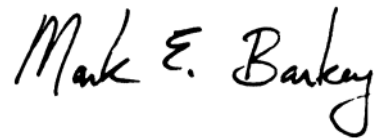
For his dissertation, Oleksander worked with Dr. Semih Olcmen in the area of experimental aerodynamics. He was directly involved with supersonic flow investigation, including pressure, velocity, and acoustic measurements using PIV and LDV techniques. He has additional experience with computational fluid dynamics (CFD).

Furthermore, Oleksander has an intensity and drive towards accomplishing his tasks and goals that are unlike any other graduate student that I have seen at UA. I strongly believe that this characteristic, in addition to his prior knowledge and experience will ultimately make him quite successful in any setting, particularly one with advanced capabilities such

as the National Academy Research Associate Program, and I recommend him without reservation.

Please contact me if you would like to have any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Barkey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and a distinct 'E'.

Mark E. Barkey