

Letter of Recommendation

To whom it may concern

I am writing this to recommend Mehmet Baha Dursun for *Direktør Peder og Hustru Mary Mortensens Fond*. I have come to know Mehmet through my work as Associate Professor at the Mærsk McKinney Møller Institute at the University of Southern Denmark.

Mehmet has been student assistant on one of my research projects, where his main responsibilities have been to implement a software infrastructure for a surgical robot that allows us to record data and demonstrations to train Artificial Intelligence (AI) models. Mehmet has consistently delivered beyond expectations, showing a strong work ethic and a hunger to learn more. By researching the state of the art in robot learning and robotic surgery beyond the expectations of the job, he has helped us improve our data collection and AI pipelines. In addition, even though it was not initially part of his job responsibilities, Mehmet has helped diagnose and fix mechanical issues on the robot, leveraging his international contacts to get the support we needed. As further evidence of his work ethic, in addition to his job as student assistant, Mehmet has kept his previous job at a Turkish mobile robotics company. Through this, he has facilitated dialogue between the company and SDU Robotics on a possible international research collaboration. We expect this to lead to a European grant proposal.

Mehmet possesses a strong entrepreneurial spirit is enthusiastic and proactive. He recently approached me with an idea for a master thesis, which he subsequently wants to develop into a startup company. In his master project, Mehmet will build AI to control mobile manipulator robots for the restaurant industry, helping staff with tasks like clearing and cleaning tables and serving dishes and drinks. Thanks to a clear plan on how to collect data, build the platform, and slowly scale the solution, I believe the project is realistic even if highly ambitious.

Through a combination of engineering skill, work ethic, and can-do attitude, I believe Mehmet has a promising entrepreneurial future. Receiving this grant would help him support his master thesis work and take the first step to starting up a company. I am glad to support him in this endeavor.

If you need any additional details, do not hesitate to reach out to me.

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inju@mmmi.sdu.dk
T +4565507354

Yours sincerely,



Iñigo Iturrate
Associate Professor
SDU Robotics,
Maersk McKinney Moller Institute
University of Southern Denmark
inju@mmmi.sdu.dk