

I have known David Sanchez closely for around 8 years. We have cooperated on certain projects, and have been very regularly in contact for professional reasons during this time. I have come to value very highly David's dedication and purposefulness. His objectives have included some which are singularly difficult - a prime example is his foundation of, and position of Editor-in-Chief in, the "International Journal of Neurocomputing". His unfaltering persistence has led to continually greater successes.

I have never known David to look backwards when, as always, there are pressing future needs. This relates to his research area of robotics and adjacent fields; or strategy in regard to the Journal, opening out onto the overall evolution and progress of the field of neurocomputing; or issues related to the graduate students working under his supervision; or finally in commercial projects (training, consultancy) where again the immediate tasks in hand were inextricably linked in his perspective with the general development of method and of technique in the area of neurocomputing and related domains.

His research work includes application and development work at the highest levels. He has been actively involved in major national and international consortia, often at a leadership level. In fact, the professional characteristic of David Sanchez which comes most immediately to mind is his scientific leadership. This includes scientific management, but also makes use of scientific future-oriented vision. This match of qualities has been always grounded in practical problems of space science and other fields, the past 7 years of which have been in Germany's premier space research establishment.

As researcher and as mentor for graduate students, David Sanchez is clearly positioned well ahead of his peers. His path has not been well-traveled: he has sought a position of scientific leadership, and his persistence and dedication have permitted him to attain this, and to command the heights which he has taken. Graduate students clearly have much to gain from such a profile, and from close association with the highest professional standards.

In robotics and vision, in space science, in neurocomputing software and hardware, David Sanchez has much to contribute in future years. His activities in industry, as well as in research and lecturing, provide even more input to his far-reaching but eminently practical output. The immediate future holds further great promise, and it is clear that this will be of long-term benefit and significance to those in the close professional vicinity of David Sanchez.

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