Support Letter for Thai Binh Nguyen - National Innovation Visa Application

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11 October 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide my strongest support for Mr. Thai Binh Nguyen's application for the National Innovation Visa. As his principal PhD supervisor at Federation University Australia from 2022 to 2025, I have had the privilege of witnessing his exceptional research abilities, innovative mindset, and unwavering commitment to advancing autonomous aerial systems.

Binh has demonstrated outstanding productivity throughout his PhD candidature, first-authoring five high-quality manuscripts without any other student co-authors during his doctoral studies. All these manuscripts have been submitted to not just prestigious but also shortlisted specialist journals and conferences that every robotics scholar aspires to publish in, with four already published and one currently under review. His work has been published in IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (IEEE RA-L), which is ranked #1 in robotics publication venues according to Google Scholar, as well as presented at the top-tier conference in the UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) research community that is the International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ICUAS). This publication record is exceptional for a PhD candidate and demonstrates his ability to conduct research at the highest international standards.

What particularly distinguished Binh during his candidature was his remarkable initiative in establishing Intelligent Drone Laboratory, the first and only indoor flight facility at Federation University Australia. Given a very limited budget, he was still able to convert an empty space into a fully functional flight arena capable of supporting cutting-edge research in aerial robotics. This facility has become an invaluable asset for our university and demonstrates Binh's ability to identify critical needs, develop practical solutions, and execute complex projects with limited resources, qualities essential for innovation leadership.

Binh possesses a unique combination of rigorous academic research expertise and extensive industry experience, having worked across multiple sectors including defence, agriculture, and commercial drone operations. This rare combination of theoretical excellence, practical implementation skills, and industry credentials positions Binh as a pioneering robotics technology leader.

In an era where drone technology is becoming increasingly critical for defence and national security, researchers with Binh's expertise in UAV are invaluable assets.

I wholeheartedly recommend Thai Binh Nguyen for the National Innovation Visa. His exceptional research output, proven innovation leadership, international impact, and unique blend of academic and industrial capabilities make him an ideal candidate who will significantly contribute to Australia's critical technology priorities in autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, and defence capabilities. Binh represents exactly the type of high-calibre talent that will strengthen Australia's position as a leader in robotics and autonomous systems innovation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Linh Nguyen, PhD

Associate Professor

Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability

Federation University Australia

Email: l.nguyen@federation.edu.au / Phone: 03 5122 6129