



School of Engineering and Technology
UNSW Canberra
Canberra ACT 2600

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National Innovation Visa Office

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to provide my strongest support for Dr Thai Binh Nguyen's application for the National Innovation visa. As his direct manager and a Professor within the School of Engineering and Technology at UNSW Canberra, I have had the privilege of working closely with Binh since his appointment as a Research Associate on the Defence Trailblazer program for drone swarm intelligence.

Initial Recruitment and Early Promise

I first met Binh during an online interview for a Research Associate position while he was finalizing his PhD thesis and exploring postdoctoral opportunities. His credentials were immediately impressive: a solid portfolio of research publications, extensive industry experience developing real-world robotics products and prototypes, and expertise that perfectly aligned with our Defence Trailblazer project requirements. Based on the outstanding quality of his background and the clear match with our project needs, I recommended his appointment even though he had not yet been awarded his PhD degree at that time. This decision reflected my confidence in both his technical capabilities and his potential to make significant contributions to our project.

Exceptional Performance and Achievement

My belief in Binh's abilities has been more than justified by his outstanding performance over the past three months. His achievements during this brief period have been remarkable and demonstrate the exceptional talent that makes him an ideal candidate for the National Innovation visa.

Within three months of commencing his role, Binh completed his Remote Pilot course and successfully obtained both a Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) and an Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate (AROC) issued by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). These certifications are essential for operating unmanned aerial systems in Australian airspace and demonstrate his commitment to meeting the highest professional and regulatory standards. Obtaining these qualifications while simultaneously managing research responsibilities reflects excellent time management and dedication.

Binh demonstrated remarkable technical leadership by designing, procuring components for, building, and successfully testing an entirely new drone prototype platform from scratch. The quadrotor platform capable of autonomous flight both indoors and outdoors, provides a solid foundation for our upcoming research on decentralised swarm coordination. This amount of development work would typically require well over three months for an experienced team to complete. That Binh achieved this milestone while handling many

additional responsibilities speaks volumes about his technical competence, project management skills, and work ethic.

Throughout this period, Binh has also excelled in supporting tasks including liaising with industrial partners, participating in workshops and training sessions, presenting his work at research group meetings, and contributing to university internal conferences. Most recently, following positive feedback and nomination for a Dean's Award for Excellence for his thesis from external examiners, Binh finalised his thesis revisions in just couple of days and was formally awarded his PhD degree. The fact that Binh has accomplished all these achievements including professional certifications, and research platform development within just three months is truly extraordinary. His ability to maintain excellence across multiple concurrent responsibilities demonstrates the versatility and professionalism that characterizes top-tier researchers.

Contribution to Australian National Priorities

Binh's work directly aligns with Australia's strategic priorities in defence technology and national security. His expertise in autonomous swarm intelligence for unmanned aerial systems can address critical capability gaps in Australia's defence sector. As drone technology becomes increasingly central to modern warfare and security operations, as evidenced by current global conflicts, Binh's specialised knowledge in drone navigation, obstacle avoidance, and swarm coordination embodies exactly the type of advanced technical capability that Australia needs to enrich and retain domestically.

Character and Professional Qualities

Binh is an initiative-taking, conscientious, and collaborative researcher who brings exceptional technical skills, strong work ethic, and genuine passion for innovation to every project he undertakes. His ability to work effectively with industry partners, academic colleagues, and government agencies demonstrates the interpersonal and communication skills essential for translating research into real-world impact. He is surely the type of talented individual who will make lasting contributions to Australia's innovation ecosystem and technological sovereignty.

Commitment to Ongoing Support

I am fully committed to continuing my supervision and mentorship of Binh's work on the Defence Trailblazer program and will provide whatever support is necessary to ensure his continued success. I will gladly complete a Nomination Form (Form 1000) should his Expression of Interest receive an invitation to proceed.

Dr Thai Binh Nguyen represents an exceptional talent in robotics, artificial intelligence, and autonomous systems, fields that are critically important to Australia's future defence capabilities and technological competitiveness. His track record of achievement, demonstrated capacity for innovation, and alignment with national priorities make him an outstanding candidate for the National Innovation visa. I provide my strongest recommendation for his application.

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

Yours sincerely,



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