

OBITUARY

IN MEMORY OF V. N. SRETENSKII (1919-1996)

The death has occurred of the outstanding physicist Vasilii Nikolaevich Sretenskii, prominent specialist in radio measurements, metrology, and electronics, Honored Scientist and Technologist of the RSFSR, doctor of technical sciences, professor, academician of the Metrological Academy of Russia, academician of the International Academy of Information Science, laureate of the State Prize of the USSR.

V. N. Sretenskii was born in Ustyuzhna in 1919. In 1938 he entered the physics faculty of Leningrad State University. The war, the defense of Leningrad, the Military Academy of Communications, the Far-Eastern Front, were followed by work in enterprises and educational institutions (Moscow State University, Moscow Physicotechnical Institute, Moscow Institute of Electronic Technology, Moscow Institute of Electronic Engineering), public organizations (the Higher Certification Committee, the Committee on State Prizes of Russia, the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Department of Radio-Electronic Instruments, the editorship of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia and of the Encyclopedia of Electronics).

V. N. Sretenskii was one of the originators of military and physical metrology. His circle of scientific interest included: microwave instruments and measurements; questions of quality, reliability, and special stability, and automated monitoring systems; the fundamental constants; relativistic electronics, and much more.

All who worked in the areas of electronics, metrology, and measurements knew V. N. Sretenskii as a versatile inquisitive specialist in the rf and microwave oscillators of the first Russian radar stations, in developing them and ensuring their high reliability and incorporation in test systems. During the same period, one of the complex and most important the problems became that of measuring the parameters of rf and microwave oscillations. V. N. Sretenskii was one of those who successfully solved this problem.

It is difficult even briefly to throw light on the numerous works of V. N. Sretenskii concerning the metrological assurance of the development, production, and operation of modern products of electronics and microelectronic technology and on the search for new directions in metrology. This work was always distinguished by originality, scientific and practical significance, formulating novel problems and developing effective methods for solving them.

The many-sided scientific investigations of V. N. Sretenskii are generalized in a number of widely known books, handbooks and methodic publications, patent certificates, and articles.

The inexhaustible energy, striving to produce practical results, and the extensive use of complex scientific concepts, his encyclopedic erudition and ability to concentrate on the essentials placed V. N. Sretenskii among the number of universally recognized scientific leaders and managers of many talented scientific groups.

Many of his pupils and followers will always be grateful to V. N. Sretenskii, doctors and candidates of science who themselves have now become well-known scientists and specialists.

V. N. Sretenskii was not only an outstanding scientist and teacher, he was even more an exceptional and bright human being. He harmoniously combined an unusual modesty and scientific demanding nature, friendly tact and high intelligence, scientific adherence to principles, attraction to anything new, an unusual interest in all proposals which were put forward by colleagues, and the ability to react to their proposals with the greatest respect.

The life of Vasilii Nikolaevich, a true Russian intellectual, is an example of human, working, and scientific achievement and of selfless service to people. The memory of him will always remain in our hearts.

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