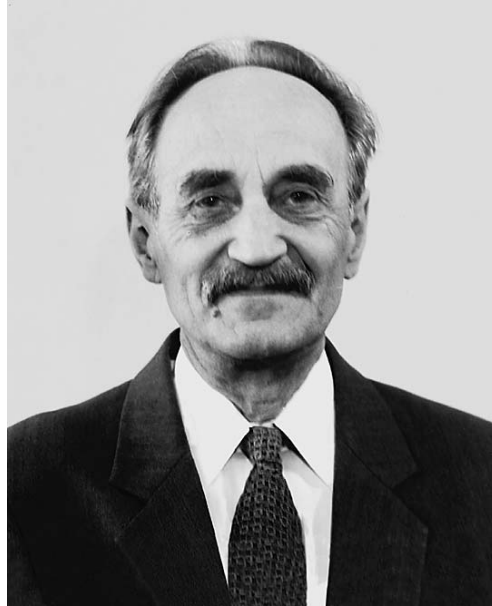

OBITUARY



Vladimir Aleksandrovich Zhozhikashvili (May 28, 1925—November 1, 2008)

DOI: 10.1134/S0005117909030163

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Zhozhikashvili was born in Tbilisi on May 28, 1925. In 1949 he graduated from the Department of Electrical Engineering of the Tbilisi Polytechnical Institute and began his post-graduate studies at the Institute of Automation and Remote Control (now Trapeznikov Institute of Control Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences) under the guidance of Mikhail Aleksandrovich Gavrilov, the Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. After completing his post-graduate studies in July 1952, V.A. Zhozhikashvili remained with the Institute.

During his work at the Institute V.A. Zhozhikashvili made the way the from an engineer to the laboratory chief. In 1953 he defended the Candidate thesis, and in 1974 he was conferred the doctoral degree for the works on development and introduction of an automated queuing system “Sirena.” He also was conferred the academic rank of Professor for his pedagogical activity as the All-Union Extramural Power Institute and the Refresher Courses of the Radio Industry Ministry. In 1995 V.A. Zhozhikashvili was elected a member of the International Academy of Informatics and in 2002, a foreign member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences.

V.A. Zhozhikashvili headed a laboratory at the Institute of Control Sciences from 1959 till 2008. During this period V.A. Zhozhikashvili formulated, developed, and introduced into the national economy some fundamental scientific and technical directions of studies in the field of automatic control. In the early 1950s he pioneered in formulating the problem of contactless remote control systems based on the magnetic hysteresis elements. This direction was widely recognized in this country and gave rise to a commercial production of the contactless remote control systems for

power engineering, trunk communication systems, radio and light landing control systems, and irrigation systems, which for many years predetermined the paths of development of the national remote control.

In the mid-1960s V.A. Zhzhikashvili formulated the second fundamental line of scientific research, the computer-aided queuing systems using the data transmission systems. He headed development of the theoretical fundamentals of design of such systems and methods of their design and their wide-scale introduction. In particular, V.A. Zhzhikashvili was the design manager of the all-union flight reservation and ticketing system “Sirena” which works and makes continuous progress for more than 35 years. This system exemplified the first national distributed computer-aided queuing system intensively using the computing and data transmission facilities.

Till his last days Vladimir Aleksandrovich was the design manager of the “Sirena” system. Since then nobody of those working with “Sirena” would dare to assume this title bearing in mind the complexity of the technical and managerial challenges that faced Vladimir Aleksandrovich in the design of “Sirena” (ASU-5) and “Sirena-2” which undoubtedly represented an important contribution to the introduction of the data technologies into the civil aviation.

Vladimir Aleksandrovich was capable to arouse interest of many and reconcile them. He was on friendly terms with all “competitors” in the field of “Sirena.” Therefore, the thought of Vladimir Aleksandrovich reminds the Gospel saying “Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.”

At the turn of the century V.A. Zhzhikashvili formulated a new, third promising path of fundamental research—development of the theory and practice of computer-aided queuing systems based on the natural language of computer-aided speech recognition. The studies carried out in this area and the practical results obtained were recognized as the best work of the Institute in 2004.

The results of V.A. Zhzhikashvili’s research appeared in more than 140 publications including monographs, author’s certificates, booklets, and papers in various journals. More than 40 candidate theses were prepared and defended under his guidance.

V.A. Zhzhikashvili organized and for six years headed the the All-union scientific workshop on the theory and practice of designing the computer-aided queuing systems which worked in the Moscow area, Ukraine, Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Kirgizia.

V.A. Zhzhikashvili was awarded the order of the “Red Banner of Labor” and given the title of the “Merited Machine Builder of RSFSR” for his merits in the development of the theory and design of the large-scale computer-aided queuing systems.

V.A. Zhzhikashvili enjoyed authority with the workers of the Trapeznikov Institute of Control Sciences and his collaborators.

Vladimir Aleksandrovich liked his work, valued the Institute, was distinguished for the width and variety of his interests, was affectionate husband, father, and grand-father. Till his last days he worked actively, planned further development of the laboratory, was keenly interested in the domestic and international events.

The fond memories of Vladimir Aleksandrovich will be kept in our hearts and souls.

Editorial Board