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RESEARCH OF MECHANICAL PART OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER STATION

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Abstract: In dusty atmospheric conditions, various dust particles settle on their surface, which, depending on their thickness, damage the tempered glass, reduce the service life of the panels, and also prevent photovoltaic elements from receiving more sunlight, as a result, their temperature increases, the output power, short-circuit current and, therefore, the efficiency factor decrease by up to 50%. Therefore, in order to increase the efficiency and maintain the operability of solar panels, it is considered important to examine the solar panels of solar photovoltaic stations for dustiness. This article considers a photovoltaic station, which was built first on the territory of Uzbekistan. This station, with a capacity of 130 kW, was launched in test mode so that modern four type of solar in the natural and climate conditions of Uzbekistan, train personnel in the field of solar energy, improve skills in the operation of photovoltaic station, as well as to identify practical conclusions on the basis of which in the future to choose the most effective solutions. It was determined that with a contaminated optical area, as well as the absence of cooling and orientation mechanisms, short circuit current of a 250 W solar panel deviates on average from the rated value by almost 27 %, and after cleaning the deviation is 12,85 %, which means that it is possible to increase short circuit current by an average of 10-15 % by regularly cleaning the surface, thereby increasing the generation of the solar power stations itself.

Keywords: Renewable energy sources, photovoltaic station, a solar panel, solar tracker, energy efficiency, electricity, electrical parameters, carbonate anhydride, dust, cleaning system.

Introduction. It is known that limited resources such as gas, coal and fuel oil play a key role in the development of the energy sector, the economy, and the well-being of the population. The main source of energy in our country is natural gas - occupying about 80% in the structure of the primary fuel and energy balance [1]. However, access to these types of resources may end due to their limited nature, and the insufficiency, depletion of reserves and the use of such types of energy over a long period of time confirms that fuel energy causes significant harm to the environment, increases the concentration of CO₂, which contributes to the formation of the greenhouse effect, as a result of which environmental problems are caused and exacerbated [2]. It is also not sustainable and will not be able to ensure the country's energy security in the long term and to improve energy security, it is necessary to diversify the energy system, where renewable energy sources (RES) will play a key role, since according to forecasts, RES will account for 30-35 % of the total volume of electrical and thermal energy produced in the world by 2030 [4]. According to calculations, sunny days in our country are approximately 290-310 days a year, which proves the enormous technical potential of solar energy (177 million tons of oil equivalent) and confirms its relevance [5]. Therefore, sunny Uzbekistan has significantly begun to stimulate and pay special attention to solar energy).

In many countries of the world, in order to provide consumers with electricity, taking into account global climate change, there is a widespread introduction of renewable energy sources into the energy system. Among them, solar energy, which has significant advantages, is relevant, acceptable and convenient for use, therefore, special attention is paid to its development. Photovoltaic solar panels, which are one of the important and basic elements of solar energy, are used outdoors, in hard-to-reach places,

where they are exposed to dusty air and dust storms, the likelihood of which increases year after year. In such cases, various dust particles settle on their surface, which, depending on their thickness, damage the tempered glass, reduce the service life of the panels, and also prevent photovoltaic elements from receiving more sunlight, as a result, their temperature increases, the output power, short-circuit current and, therefore, the efficiency factor decrease by up to 50 %. Therefore, in order to increase the efficiency and maintain the performance of solar panels, it is considered important to study the solar panels of solar photovoltaic stations [4-5, 9-11].

In the work of Muhammed J. Adinoyi and Syed A.M. Said the influence of dust on the output of mono- and polycrystalline FBs was studied, in particular concentrated dust on their OP reduced the power by 50 % [5]. The impact of dust on the solar system was studied in the studies by Abdullah Al-Sharafi, Ahmad Bilal Ahmadullah, Ghassan Hassan, Hussain Al-Qahtani, Abba Abdulhamid Abubakar and Bekir Sami Yilbas. It was found that the loss of income due to dust is 35 % per year, and dust prevents solar power plants from receiving energy from the sun by 20 %, which naturally leads to a decrease in short circuit current, output power and efficiency [6].

In the works of L. Boyle, H. Flinchpaugh and M.P. Hannigan the influence of dust on the photovoltaic system was also investigated. It was determined that from 1 to 50 mg of dust can accumulate per day per m² of solar panels, in addition, it was revealed that each g/m² of dust on the frontal surface reduces the light transmittance of the solar panels glass by 4.1 % [7-8].

In the studies of Bazarbayev R., Kurbanov D., Karazhanov S. and K. Yakubov in a test chamber the influence of external factors on panels was studied. In particular, it was revealed that with dust deposition of 16 mg/m², short circuit current panels decreased and it was revealed that it is much more sensitive to dust than open circuit voltage, therefore the importance of work to maintain output power is emphasized, and one of the ways to maximize it is to study the panels for dustiness [7-8].

Methodology & empirical analysis. The first practical step in the transition of the energy system to renewable energy sources, namely to solar energy, began in 2014. At this year the first test photovoltaic station (PVS) was built. The main purpose of building this station was testing modern types of solar panels in the natural and climatic conditions of Uzbekistan, improving practical skills in operating PVS, training personnel in the field of solar energy, as well as identifying practical conclusions on the basis of which it would be possible to choose the most effective solutions in the future.

The station with an installed capacity of 130 kW was built in the Pap district of the Namangan region in 09.2014. The station is capable of producing about 500 kWh of electricity per day and transmitting it to the grid, as it was integrated with the general grid of the country's energy system. The territory where the solar power plant is located has a slight slope to the south (fig. 1). Below is a figure of the station's location.

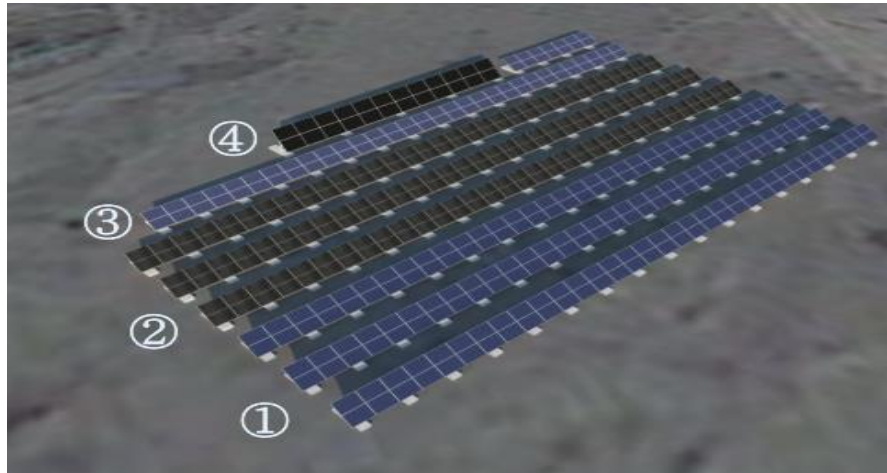


Figure 1. Location of solar panels of solar photovoltaic station

As can be seen from Figure 1, the station consists of 8 rows, where the first three rows are equipped with JSPV solar panels (SP), the total number of which is 198 pieces, rows 4-6 are equipped with HANHWA SP, the total number of which is also 198 pieces, the seventh row is equipped with 72 pieces of panels called S-ENERGY, and the last row consists of TOP SUN panels, the number of which is 24 pieces.

The panels, which have a power of 250 W, are installed on solar trackers, which are shown in Figure 2.

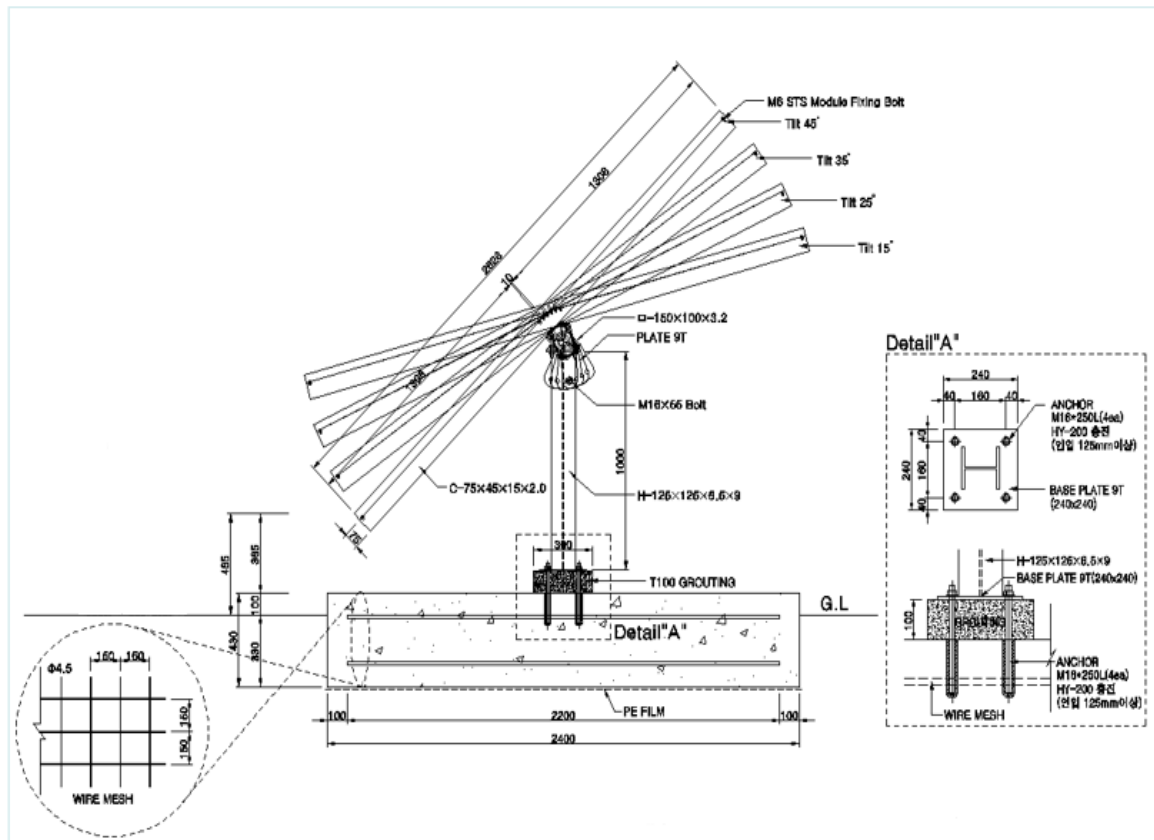


Figure 2. Solar tracker of solar panel TOP SUN

As can be seen from fig. 2, the TOP SUN solar panel tracker, which is installed in the 8th row, has a sun tracking system, only not automatic, but manual, which requires additional labor to change the position of the modules for each season. The trackers (1-7th row) of solar panel HANWHA, S-ENERGY and JSPV are not stationary, not mobile, which means that they are not equipped with a cleaning system and a sun tracking system, as a result of which it becomes impossible to maximally convert solar energy into electrical energy and. The fact is that solar modules operate in the open air, experiencing various natural phenomena, changing and losing their parameters and properties. In order to identify these changes, the authors conducted scientific and practical research at the station.

For the analysis, as well as for the assessment of the current state of the panels of the studied solar photovoltaic station, the electrical parameters were measured every hour for 7 days from October 9 to October 15, 2022. During the research, the following were used: UNI-T UT 204 current clamps (measuring short circuit current I_{sc}); UNI-T UT890C multimeter (measuring open circuit voltage U_{oc}), DT-1307 pyranometer (fixing solar radiation E). The total measuring instruments are shown below.



Figure 3. General views of used electrical measurements

Results. At fig. 5 shows the electrical parameters of solar panels, which are identical in power. The graphs show the short circuit current (I_{sc}) values of the S-ENERGY, JSPV and HANWHA modules, respectively. The modules are all identical in power, their current parameters, entered in the comparison graphs, were obtained by measuring on 15.10.2022 year. The parameters were measured every hour, the radiation value on this day varied $E=39,5\div 651 \text{ W/m}^2$.

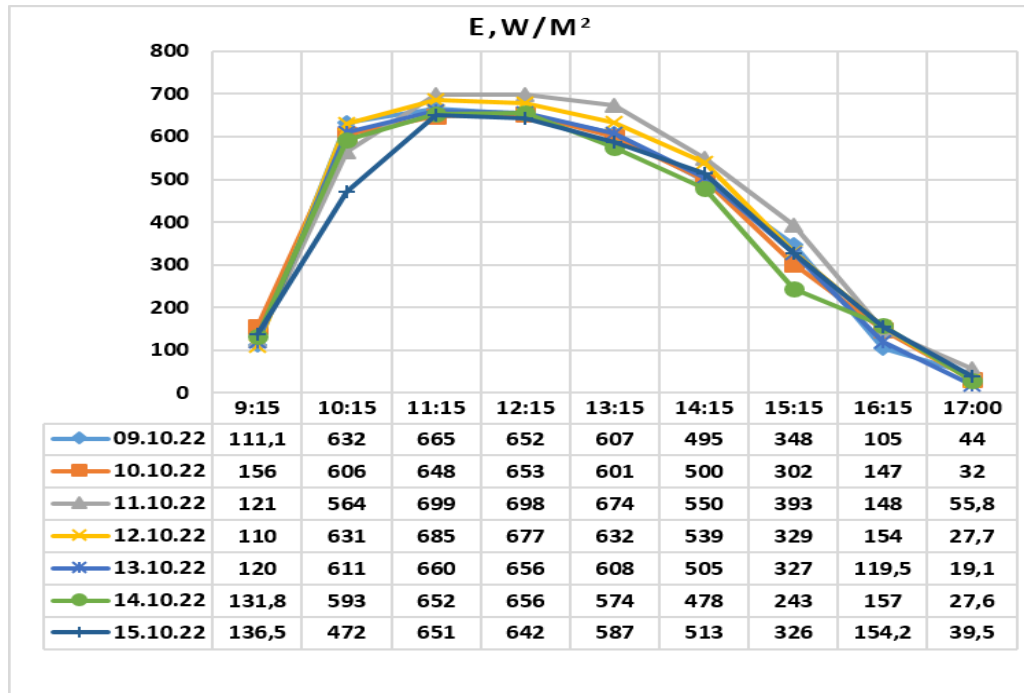


Figure 4. Change in solar radiation

The change in E falling on the surface solar panels is shown graphically (fig.4). If we conduct an analysis, the maximum value of E was observed in the middle of the day, i.e. on October 11, 2022 at 11:15 a.m. (the 3rd day of the study) $E = 699 \text{ W/m}^2$, and the minimum value of E was recorded almost at the end of the day, more precisely on October 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. (the 5th day of the study) $E = 19,1 \text{ W/m}^2$. The average value of E for each day of the study (09-15.10.2022) is 406.56, 405, 433.64, 420.52, 402.84, 390.26, and 391,24 W/m^2 , respectively.

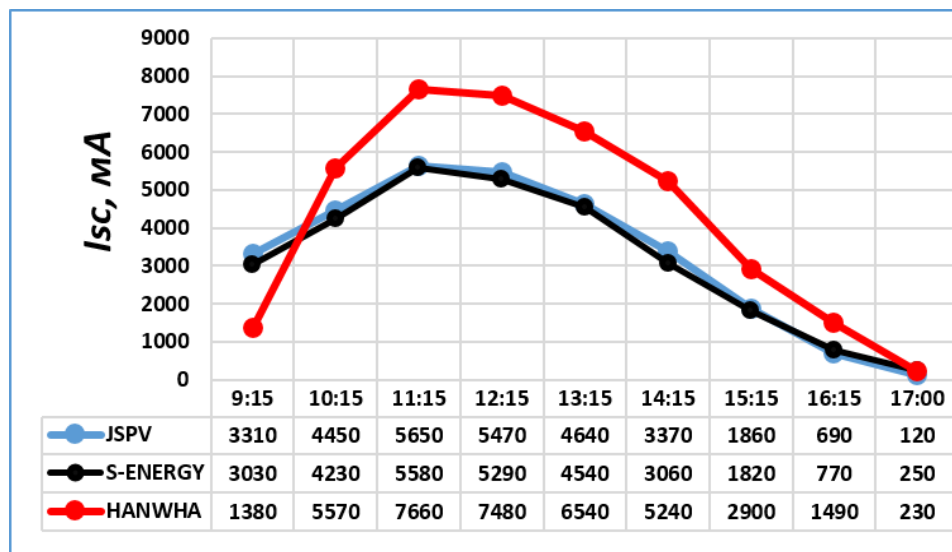


Figure 5. Electrical parameters of solar panels

The surface of the HANWHA panel was manually cleaned, after which its parameter increased sharply and this became noticeable on the graph [42,82-87; 49]. For example, when $E=651 \text{ W/m}^2$ current of the S-ENERGY, JSPV and HANWHA panels was 5580, 5650 and 7660 mA, respectively. If we compare, I_{sc} of the cleaned panel is higher than this parameter of these uncleaned modules by 2080 mA (37.27%) and 2010 mA (35.57%), respectively. The average value of I_{sc} (6,44 A) of the HANWHA module before cleaning decreased on average by 26,73% compared to the catalog value (8,79 A). However, after cleaning, the average value I_{sc} was 7,66 A, which is only 12,85% less than with the passport value and is 18,94% (1.22 A) more than the average value I_{sc} before cleaning, which creates the preconditions for a possible increase in I_{sc} by an average of 10-15%, with regular cleaning of the active area of the solar panel from contamination.

Conclusions. On the territory of the solar power plant, where it was located, the level of air pollution exceeds the norm, especially in summer and autumn, which causes a significant decrease in the power of solar panels, as a result of which the energy efficiency of the station decreases. Due to the lack of a sun tracking system in rows 1-7, which consist of HANWHA, JSPV and S-ENERGY solar panels, it becomes impossible to obtain maximum energy from them. Due to the non-automatic, but manual tracking of the sun of the 8-row, which consists of TOP SUN panels, additional labor is required for each season to change the position of the modules. It was determined that with a contaminated optical area, as well as the absence of cooling and orientation mechanisms, I_{sc} of a 250 W solar panel deviates on average from the rated value by almost 27 %, and after cleaning the deviation is 12,85 %, which means that it is possible to increase I_{sc} by an average of 10-15 % by regularly cleaning the surface, thereby increasing the generation of the solar power stations itself.

To increase the energy efficiency of solar panels, the authors propose to develop and apply an automatic panel cleaning system with minimal energy consumption for their own needs, as well as a sun tracking system, as a result of which not only the energy efficiency of solar panels and solar power plants will increase, but also the efficiency, ease of use, service life, and the payback period will be reduced.

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C O N T E N T S

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: COTTON, TEXTILE AND LIGHT INDUSTRY

Dustkobilov U.	
Circular economy practices in the textile industry: Current status, indicators, and development opportunities	3
Kuldashov G., Oripov J.	
Forecasting the temperature gradient of cotton revolt	10
Kuldashov G., Oripov J.	
Optoelectronic three-wave moisture meter of raw cotton	16
Umarov A.	
Research on the optimization of the saw gin's roll box	26
Tursunov A., Sharibaev N.	
Techniques and devices for mitigating environmental pollution in cotton processing industries	36
Ganikhanov Kh., Mavlyanov A., Abdusamatov A., Mirzaumidov A.	
Effect of the forces on the separation of fiber flow from the saw in an improved lower fiber removal device	43
Nurulloyeva Kh., Abdusamatov A., Mirzaumidov A.	
Experimental determination of the load on the multifaceted columns on the elastic supports of the cotton ginner	49
Muradov A.	
Study of the dynamics of the drive mechanism of moving needles	54
Ismatullayev N., Shamsiyeva M.	
Development of technology for producing leather from african catfish skins	59
Rahmatova S.	
Theoretical study of the quality indicators of newly structured knitted fabrics based on a mathematical model	65
Parpieva N., Kayumov J., Parpiyev D., Lastochkin P.	
Theory of torsional vibrations of grooved cylinders	71
Komilov Sh., Mamadaliyev N., Jurayeva G.	
Quality indicators of cotton fiber analyzed	83

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TECHNOLOGIES

Sobirova M., Mohamed R., Farmonov J., Samadiy M.	
Impact of calcium chloride on the cheese yield during swiss cheese manufacturing process	91

Kurayazov Z., Ravshanov S., Kanoatov X.	
Analysis of the influence of the whitening process during preparation for flouring on the quality of bakery flour made from a mixture of wheat and rye grains	96
Xusanxodjayeva F., Meliboyev M., Ergashev O.	
Development of technology for complex processing of garlic onions	105
Meliboyev M.	
Development of complex processing technology for the secondary mass of watermelons and zucchini	112
Nishonov U., Mominov U.	
Evaluation of organoleptic properties of soft drinks prepared from plant materials	118
Khurmamatov A., Yusupova N., Sarsenbayev N., Mallabayev O.	
Results of determination of bitumen movement modes at different temperatures	124
Yusupova N., Sarsenbayev N., Mallabayev O.	
Results of improving the construction of the plate heat exchange	130

CHEMICAL SCIENCES

Jumayeva D., Zaripbaev K., Oxunjonov Z., Nomonova Z.	
Compositional analysis of raw materials in sorbent production	135
Abdumalikov A., Ummatov O., Mamajonov B., Esonkulova N., Ochilov G.	
Thermal treatment of various samples of low-molecular-weight polyethylene – a by-product of polyethylene production	145
Mamajonova M., Salixanova D., Abduraxmonov E., Ismailova M.	
Energetics of water molecule adsorption on modified bentonite surfaces	153
Abdurahimov A., Abdullayeva F., Usmonova Z.	
Infrared spectroscopic analysis of the purification of sunflower oil from waxy substances using perlite and vermiculite	160
Eshbaeva U., Gökhan Z., Bahri B.	
Theoretical foundations for ensuring the mechanical strength of papers containing collagen hydrolysates	167
Eshbaeva U.	
Research on the printing and technical properties of kraft paper incorporating "cotton cellulose-industrial waste-paculate"	172
Makhkamova D.	
Research on the separation of zinc from metallurgy waste with a mixture of ammonia and ammonium salts	181
Yuldasheva M., Makhkamova D., Turayev Z	
	188

Study of interaction of components in the $H_3BO_3-KNO_3-H_2O$ system	
Juraev M., Siddikov D., Askarova O.	
Aboveground components of salvia sarawschanica	194
Davlatova O.	
Zeolite-based bimetallic composite catalysts for pyrolysis and gasification: chemical technologies for deep biofuel upgrading and conversion intensification	202
Davlatova O.	
Use of BaNaY faujasite zeolite-based bimetallic composite catalysts for deep biofuel purification and selective xylene separation	208
Shamuratova M., Giyasidinov A., Eshmetov I., Nurjanova G.	
On the study of physicochemical properties of soils in the regions of the republic	214
Hoshimov F., Lutpillayeva M.	
Optimized chemical synthesis of stable silver nanoparticles using various reducing and stabilizing agents	220
Sarimsakova N.	
Investigation of the adsorption properties of the sorbent obtained in the process of modification of clinoptilothite in the purification of natural gas from sulfur compounds	227
Kokharov M., Bakhronov Kh., Sultonov A., Jumaeva D., Jumaboeva Z., Gaybullayeva D., Abdumutalova G.	
Adsorption isotherm of hydrogen sulfide on an activated adsorbent derived from hybrid paulownia tomentosa wood	234
Ikramov M., Zakirov B.	
Optimization of the aqueous solubility of monoammonium phosphate, potassium nitrate, and magnesium nitrate via thermodynamic analysis and selective crystallization	243
Nazhimova N., Seitnazarova O.	
Study of the chemical and mineralogical composition of thermal power plant wastes	249

TECHNICAL SCIENCES: MECHANICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Berdiev U., Hasanov F., Avazov B., Ostanayev., Viktor M.	
Study of the nature and prospects of practical application of the magnetocaloric effect in energy-efficient cooling systems	256

Sodikov T.	
Research of mechanical part of solar photovoltaic power station	263
Otamirzayev D.	
Calculation of absorption coefficient of organic dye N719 for dye-sensitive solar cell (DSSC)	270
Abdovakhidov M.	
Study on determining the bending and torsional stiffness of packaged working bodies	276
Abdovakhidov M.	
The study torsion fluctuations packet worker organ with provision for influences of the correlation longitudinal acerbity their element	280
Shodmonov J.	
Energy-integrated smart textiles: international trends and prospects for uzbekistan's research ecosystem	285
Djurayev Sh.	
Integrated genetic-differential evolution approach for simultaneous pressure-drop reduction and efficiency enhancement in multi-cyclone dust collectors	292
Mamaxanova Z.	
Technological principles for creating a suit that ensures high reliability and safety in aquatic environments	297
Pirnazarov U.	
Theoretic observation of the cotton movement in the operating camera of the new separator	306
Pirnazarov U.	
Investigation of the interaction between the moving separator screen surface and the cotton mass	315
Yusupov D., Abduraximov D., Muxammadjonov M.	
Determination of energy loss in the magnetic core of oil power transformers under long-term operation conditions	319

ADVANCED PEDAGOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

Abdullayev X.	
Transition function of second-order element	326

ECONOMICAL SCIENCES

Isroilov R.	
Criteria, indicators and laws of small business development	331

Isroilov R.

Concept of assessment of the economic development potential of small business and its evaluation **340**

Bustonov M.

Econometric analysis of the activities of multi-sectoral farms **348**

Bustonov M.

Global digitalization: paths and problems **356**

Kadirova Kh.

Prospects for development and improvement of the mechanism of functioning of the stock market **366**
