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**BIOGRAPHY**: Bart Preneel received the Electrical Engineering degree and the Doctorate in Applied Sciences in 1987 and 1993 respectively, both from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). He is a professor at the Electrical Engineering Department of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and visiting professor at the T.U.Graz in Austria. He is heading the research group COSIC at the K.U.Leuven, which currently has about 35 members. He has held visiting professor positions at the Ruhr-Univ. Bochum (Germany), at the Univ. of Bergen (Norway) and the Univ. of Ghent (Belgium). He has also been a research fellow at the EECS Department of the University of California at Berkeley.

His main research interests are cryptology and information security. He has authored and coauthored more than 190 articles in international journals and conference proceedings and is editor of eight books. He is Vice President of the International Association of Cryptologic Research (http://www.iacr.org), Chairman of the Leuven Security Excellence Consortium (http://www.l-sec.be) and he has been project manager of the European IST projects NESSIE and STORK. Currently he is project manager of ECRYPT (http://www.ecrypt.eu.org), the EUfunded European Network of Excellence on Cryptology and Watermarking. In 2003, he has received the European Information Security Award in the area of academic research, and he received an honorary Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) designation by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA). He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Cryptology, the ACM Transactions on Information Security and the IEEE Transactions on Forensics and Security. He has extensive expertise in standardization and more than 15 years of experience in consulting for the IT and financial industry.

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