

February 11, 2000

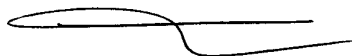
Dear Mr. Foti,

Hereby we confirm that the original patent and patent application information, as provided to NIST with our original submission in June 1998, has not changed. To the best of our knowledge, there are no patents or patent applications covering the practice of the algorithm, reference implementation or the mathematically optimized implementations.

Sincerely yours,



Joan Daemen



Vincent Rijmen