



**Maarten Vanneste, President and CEO, Abbit Meeting Support and President, Meeting Support Institute**

In 1982 Mr Vanneste founded ABBIT in Belgium. The company grew towards an audiovisual supplier with a turnover of 2 million Euros doing 66% export and almost 50% for US based clients. In 1999 Maarten became member of MPI (Meeting Professionals International), he was president of the Belgian chapter in '02-'03 and attained his CMM in 2004 (Global certification in Meetings Management). He is also involved in many other associations as a speaker and author.

In 2006 Maarten founded the Meeting Support Institute, based on his CMM business plan. This not for profit institute groups meeting support companies and educates, informs and motivates meeting planners about the Meeting Support side of their meetings. Maarten Vanneste won the IMEX Academy award 2005.