

ASHTON-TATE NEWS

ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT WITH INTERBASE SOFTWARE CORPORATION

TORRANCE, Calif., April 11, 1988 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced a technology agreement with Interbase Software Corporation.

Under the agreement, Ashton-Tate has licensed Interbase technology, and with Interbase will jointly develop technology components for Ashton-Tate's next generation of workstation database products running under OS/2 Presentation Manager and other operating system platforms such as VMS, UNIX and Macintosh. Ashton-Tate will have exclusive marketing rights to the jointly-developed technology, which it will co-own with Interbase. As part of the agreement, Ashton-Tate has taken an equity position in Interbase.

"dBASE IV from Ashton-Tate represents the state of the art in character-based database management systems [DBMS]," said Luther J. Nussbaum, Ashton-Tate's president and chief operating officer. "Our future, graphics-based distributed database products require next-generation technology."

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"Interbase has developed one of the most advanced DBMS technologies in existence. The jointly-developed technology to come from this agreement will be a key piece of Ashton-Tate's future workstation database strategy and will allow us to continue to meet the needs of our users," Nussbaum added.

Based in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts, Interbase is the developer and marketer of the InterBase relational database management system. The InterBase DBMS currently is designed for database environments characterized by a high degree of data sharing among multi-vendor networks, complex data such as CAD images or digitized voice, and large volumes of accessible data. The distributed data sharing and complex data type handling capabilities are some of the key reasons behind Ashton-Tate's interest in Interbase's technology.

In addition, next generation Ashton-Tate products that utilize the Interbase technology will have bi-directional connectivity with existing and future Interbase products. Interbase's current product has connections to a number of leading minicomputer and workstation databases.

"This relationship with Ashton-Tate will allow Interbase to move its field-proven technology from the engineering/scientific workstation environment to the general business environment on a number of computing platforms," said James Starkey, president of Interbase. "Our ability to quickly integrate the technology with a variety of operating systems will enable Ashton-Tate to quickly respond to the future needs of its customers.

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"Jointly-developed Interbase and Ashton-Tate technology will move minicomputer and mainframe DBMS capabilities downward to personal computers, and will extend products such as dBASE upwards into larger-system environments," Starkey said.

Ashton-Tate and Interbase already are working together to develop components of future workstation DBMS products, including an OS/2 Presentation Manager version of dBASE, Ashton-Tate's industry-standard personal computer DBMS. The products to come from this alliance will be completely compatible with dBASE IV, the recently announced product for DOS and OS/2 Version 1.0. They also will be compatible with SQL Server, the database server product to be delivered by Ashton-Tate in the second half of this year.

Ashton-Tate Corporation is one of the largest developers and marketers of business applications software and the major supplier of relational database management systems for microcomputers. The company markets microcomputer software products in the following categories: database management, word processing, business graphics, desktop publishing and integrated products.

Founded in 1984, Interbase Software Corporation develops and markets advanced database management software for Apollo and Sun workstations and Digital Equipment Corporation's VAX line of computers. The company's premier product is InterBase, a relational distributed database system for production computing environments.

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