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**ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES RETAIL SHIPMENT OF THE
ASHTON-TATE/MICROSOFT SQL SERVER**

TORRANCE, CA and REDMOND, WA -- May 3, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) announced that retail shipment of the Ashton-Tate/Microsoft SQL Server began April 29th. The product is the result of a joint development effort of Ashton-Tate, Microsoft Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) and Sybase, Inc. SQL Server is a powerful relational database server for PC-based Local Area Networks (LANs). It employs an advanced client-server architecture, which lets DOS, OS/2 and Microsoft Windows front-end applications concurrently access powerful multi-user database services over the network.

Ed Esber, chairman and CEO of Ashton-Tate, said, "Our successful partnership with Microsoft has resulted in the shipping of a high quality product to the marketplace: the Ashton-Tate/Microsoft SQL Server. This represents a major advance in PC workgroup computing. SQL Server, with its wide range of front ends and the support of standard programming languages, supports an entire range of business applications, from decision support to complex transaction processing systems. We are committed to supporting SQL Server as an open platform for a variety of front-ends -- PC database products, including dBASE IV, spreadsheets and other applications."

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"It's great working with Ashton-Tate to bring SQL Server to PC network users," said Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft. "The delivery of SQL Server opens up a whole new class of mission-critical applications on PC LANs, applications which were formerly possible only on minis and mainframes. With SQL Server, LANs can now meet the critical need for data integrity, security and high availability."

ISV and Corporate Support Strong for SQL Server

The retail shipment follows a very successful six-month developer's program, under which Microsoft and Ashton-Tate sold over 1,000 SQL Server Network Developer's Kits (NDKs) to corporate developers and independent software vendors (ISVs).

Popular PC front ends under development for SQL Server include DataEase, Advanced Revelation, PC focus, Paradox, Lotus 1-2-3, dBASE IV, Excel and numerous other products. Developers will also be able to create SQL Server applications using standard programming languages such as C and COBOL.

"We have been using the SQL Server throughout the developer's program to build a mission critical Debt Trading System for Merrill Lynch Canada," said Bob Jull, president of LinkAge, Inc. of Toronto, Canada. "Due to the superior transaction processing features of SQL Server and the quality of the early release, we delivered the trading and banking support functions of the System to Merrill Lynch on May 1, 1989."

Dave Feldstein, Micro Products Division Vice President for Information Builders, commented, "The Ashton-Tate/Microsoft SQL Server will be an important standard among database servers. We are

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pleased that our upcoming PC/FOCUS release will offer customers transparent access to SQL Server directly from the PC/FOCUS interface they are familiar with."

Ashton-Tate System Products Channel for SQL Server Sales & Support

Ashton-Tate will sell SQL Server through its newly established System Products channel, consisting of Ashton-Tate Authorized SQL Server Resellers, Super VARs and ISVs, and Value-Added Distributors. Ashton-Tate created the System Products channel specifically to ensure high quality sales support and product training for SQL Server. Details on new System Products channel programs will be released shortly by Ashton-Tate.

The suggested retail price for SQL Server is \$2495 per server, with no limit to the number of users per server. SQL Server requires OS/2 on the server. Networks supporting SQL Server include 3Com 3+Open, IBM LAN Server and Ungermann-Bass Net/One MS OS/2 LAN Manager. SQL Server will work with other popular PC networks in the future, including other Microsoft LAN Manager-based products and Novell NetWare. SQL Server Network Developer's Kit owners can upgrade to the retail version for \$300. Upgrades can be ordered through Ashton-Tate Corporate and Government Services, (213)538-7755. The NDK program is being phased out with shipment of the retail version.

Based in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate markets microcomputer business applications software for DOS, OS/2 and Macintosh operating systems. Products are available in six major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support software, spreadsheets, graphics and

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desktop publishing. Tate Publishing offers a variety of software applications, tools and utilities, as well as a library of best-selling computer hardware and software related books and periodicals. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

Microsoft Corporation develops, markets and supports a wide range of software for business and professional use, including operating systems, languages and application programs, as well as books, hardware and CD-ROM products for the microcomputer marketplace.

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