

For release:

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**ASHTON-TATE BEGINS BETA TESTING OF dBASE IV FOR VAX VMS SYSTEMS**

TORRANCE, Calif., May 3, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today announced the availability of the beta version of dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems. This product is the result of joint development and marketing efforts announced by Ashton-Tate and Digital Equipment Corporation in October, 1988. The beta software will be demonstrated in Digital's booth number 13 at DECUS, May 7 - 11, 1990 at the New Orleans Convention Center.

"The results of our internal testing programs and the early feedback from external field test sites have been very positive," said Floyd Bradley, Vice President and General Manager of Ashton-Tate's Database Division. "We are now beginning a formal beta program to ensure that dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems meets our customers' quality and reliability requirements prior to the product's formal release," Bradley added.

dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems is a character-based version of Ashton-Tate's dBASE IV, an integrated application development language and 4GL (4th generation language) programming and productivity tool, designed for use on Digital's VAX VMS operating system.

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The VAX VMS version of dBASE IV maintains the same look and feel as the DOS version to leverage current dBASE users' product knowledge.

dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems includes the capabilities of the DOS-based dBASE IV and dBASE IV Developer's Edition and can operate either as a self-contained data management system or as a front-end client for any VAX Rdb/VMS server through Digital's SQL Services component of Network Applications Support (NAS). The Rdb server can be located either on the same host as dBASE IV or remotely through DECnet connection. The product will be a key element in Digital's portfolio of Business Intelligence applications that enable users to access, analyze and share business information and insight throughout the organization.

dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems includes a collection of sophisticated 4GL developer tools such as a code generator, template language, integrated debugger and program editor, and interactive tools for designing forms, reports, labels, menus, quick applications and Query by Example (QBE).

The product is upwardly compatible with all dBASE products running on the MS DOS operating system and offers a high level of portability for applications. This means that data, index and program files created with a DOS version of dBASE IV can be used on VAX systems.

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dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems provides current dBASE users with a transparent migration path from the PC DOS environment to Digital's minicomputer and workstation environments.

This portability across platforms means that the thousands of dBASE applications that have been written and used successfully on DOS-based PCs can now be run in the VAX VMS operating environment. This not only preserves the application investment of current dBASE customers but gives existing users of Digital terminals and workstations access to dBASE PC applications.

dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems also brings the full range of sophisticated VAX VMS features to dBASE applications including extensive networking capabilities, extended data storage, data sharing, more memory, higher performance and throughput and greater security.

To obtain further information on participating in beta test program for dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems, interested parties should call or send a FAX to Diana Davidson or Willem Stoeller at Ashton-Tate. Davidson can be reached on (213) 538-7576; Stoeller on (213) 538-7635. The Ashton-Tate FAX number is (213) 538-7989.

Based in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate Corporation develops and markets microcomputer business applications and advanced connectivity software. The company's major product categories include database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets, graphics and software utilities.

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Ashton-Tate is an international company with products available in 20 languages in more than 50 countries.

The company also offers a comprehensive line of consulting, training and support services for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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