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**ASHTON-TATE REPORTS FIRST QUARTER EARNINGS UP 118.6%
ON SALES INCREASE OF 71.8%**

TORRANCE, Calif., May 19, 1986 -- Ashton-Tate (OTC: TATE) today reported net income for the first quarter of fiscal 1987, ended April 30, of \$5.12 million, a 118.6 percent increase over net income of \$2.35 million for the same period last year. Earnings per share were \$1.47, compared with \$0.25 for last year's first quarter.

Revenues for the quarter were \$41.17 million, up 71.8 percent over \$24.0 million for the first quarter last year.

"Ashton-Tate continues to record impressive growth," said Edward M. Esber Jr., president and chief executive officer of Ashton-Tate. "In the first quarter, high demand for dBASE III PLUS, combined with rapid sales in our Multimate product line, were the prime reasons for sales and earnings growth."

Esber said demand for the Multimate Advantage package exceeded expectations, while the Multimate 3.3 Series continued to sell well. Version 3.60 of Multimate Advantage adds several features, including columnar operations, a built-in, 40,000-word thesaurus and a typewriter mode.

(more)

During the quarter, the company completed its integration of MultiMate International Corporation, which was acquired by Ashton-Tate in December 1985. Under a reorganization plan, development, documentation, technical support and some marketing activity for the MultiMate product line is housed in Ashton-Tate's East Hartford, Connecticut facility. Production, distribution, product management and marketing for the MultiMate products are conducted at Ashton-Tate headquarters in Torrance.

"As part of our commitment to provide our customers with the widest range of services and products, we signed two key agreements during the first quarter," Esber said. "Our deal with Javelin Software Corporation for international distribution of the Javelin business analysis and reporting package adds another strong business package to our international lineup, while a VAR agreement with Satellite Information Systems Company (SISCOM) will give our Framework II users easy and inexpensive, direct access to financial information."

In addition, the company maintained its leadership position in linking microcomputers to mainframes by signing a joint development pact with Applied Data Research, Inc. (ADR). Under the agreement, Ashton-Tate and ADR will develop a direct information exchange between ADR's Datacom/DB and Ashton-Tate's dBASE and Framework product families.

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"We believe this gives Ashton-Tate the broadest line of micro-to-mainframe links in the industry," Esber said. Ashton-Tate has several similar agreements with other large mainframe companies including Software AG and Informatics General Corporation, now a subsidiary of Sterling Corporation, and expects to announce a number of additional alliances this year.

Other major activities in the first quarter included:

- o Issuance through a public offering of 1.495 million shares of the company's Common Stock at a price of 21 3/8.
- o A licensing agreement with Zenith Data Systems under which Zenith is expected to supply the United States Armed Forces with approximately 90,000 units of dBASE III, MultiMate 3.3 and dBASE II. The three-year agreement is worth more than \$15 million.

Ashton-Tate is the second largest independent developer and marketer of microcomputer business applications software. The company is the recognized leader in the database market and is a major presence in the word processing and integrated software markets.

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tmdBASE III PLUS and Framework II are trademarks of Ashton-Tate.

COMPARATIVE QUARTERLY RESULTS
(In thousands, except per share data)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED		
	<u>April 30, 1986</u>	<u>April 30, 1985</u>	<u>January 31 1986</u>
Net Revenues	\$41,171	\$23,971	\$41,509
Pre-Tax Income	9,668	4,345	11,022
Net Income	\$ 5,124	\$ 2,344	\$ 5,967
Earnings Per Share	\$.47	\$.25	\$.59