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Contact:

ASHTON-TATE TO ACQUIRE DECISION RESOURCES, INC.,
A LEADING BUSINESS GRAPHICS SOFTWARE COMPANY

TORRANCE, Calif., August 5, 1986 -- Ashton-Tate today
announced it has signed a letter of intent to acquire Decision
Resources, Inc., of Westport Conn., the developer and marketer
of best-selling business graphics software packages CHART-MASTER,
SIGN-MASTER, DIAGRAM-MASTER and MAP-MASTER for the IBM Personal
Computer and compatibles.

Proposed terms of the agreement are approximately $13.0
million in cash. Decision Resources' unaudited sales and
profits after taxes were approximately $13.0 million and
$900,000, respectively, for the twelve months ended June 30,
1986. Actual terms will be disclosed upon completion of the
deal.

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A definitive agreement is expected by early September 1986, with completion of the acquisition, subject to the approval of both companies' boards, anticipated within 60 days.

"The acquisition of Decision Resources will fulfill several strategic goals for Ashton-Tate," said Edward M. Esber Jr., Ashton-Tate president and chief executive officer.

"Most importantly, it expands our line of best-selling products to four major business software categories," Esber said. "We will have industry standards in three of these categories: databases, with dBASE III PLUS; word processing, with the MultiMate product line; and business graphics, with Decision Resources' MASTER GRAPHICS Series. In addition, we offer the best integrated solution for the PC on the market today, Framework II. So the acquisition of Decision Resources will be a significant part of our strategy to broaden our product line across new applications software segments.

"We continue to see increasing integration of graphics technology into conventional horizontal applications, like spreadsheets, databases and word processing," Esber said. "We also will be able to enter a rapidly-growing segment, business graphics, with a family of leading products that are already corporate standards and a top-notch product development team already in place.

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"Decision Resources' products currently are being used by such leading Fortune 1000 companies as IBM, 3M, General Electric and McDonnell Douglas. The market growth for business graphics products is fueled by managers' and professionals' increasing need to produce presentation-quality charts, graphs and reports," he said.

"We also will be able to increase international sales of Decision Resources' products through our established network of subsidiaries, master distributors and distributors in the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, South America, and Australia," Esber added.

In announcing the signing of the letter of intent, Esber also cited Ashton-Tate's experience in managing remote centers. In 1985, Ashton-Tate acquired MultiMate International Corp. of East Hartford, Conn., and Forefront Corp. of Sunnyvale, Calif.

Decision Resources, founded in 1981, is a pioneer in the field of microcomputer business graphics. A profitable, privately-held company, it has grown to more than 100 employees.

"Our acquisition by Ashton-Tate will give us the resources necessary in a maturing industry to continue to develop leading software products," said Sean O'Connor, Decision Resources'

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president and co-founder. O'Connor and key members of the
company's management team will remain with Ashton-Tate after the
completion of the acquisition.

"Like our company, Ashton-Tate has a very strong presence in
the corporate marketplace," O'Connor said. "Our experience in
development, marketing and support of business graphics software
will be complemented by Ashton-Tate's domestic and international
sales capability. The management styles of the companies are
similar. It's an ideal match."

Decision Resources products include:

CHART-MASTER (suggested retail price: $375), which enables
users to create presentation-quality bar, area, scatter and
pie charts and line graphs. The DataGrabber feature allows
access to data stored in spreadsheets.

SIGN-MASTER ($245), which produces word charts, tables and
signs for presentations, proposals and business plans.

DIAGRAM-MASTER ($345), which has applications for the
creation of organization and Gantt charts. A Drawing Board
feature allows users to create their own free-form diagrams,
such as flow charts, decision trees and schedules.

MAP-MASTER ($395), a data-driven mapping product that can
produce high-quality maps displaying the geographic
distribution of corporate data and demographic information.
Users can view data by county, state or country, or define
other regions.

Ashton-Tate is one of the world's leading developers and
marketers of microcomputer business applications software. The
company's products include dBASE II, dBASE III PLUS and dBASE III
PLUS LAN Pack, members of the industry-standard dBASE product

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family; the MultiMate word processing product line, including MultiMate Advantage and the MultiMate 3.3 Series Professional Word Processor; and Framework II, a leading integrated software package.

Ashton-Tate reported revenues of $41.2 million and net income of $5.1 million for the first quarter of fiscal 1987, ended April 30, 1986, increases of 72 percent and 119 percent, respectively, from the same period the previous year.

For its most recent fiscal year, ended January 31, 1986, Ashton-Tate reported record revenues of $121.6 million and record net income of $16.6 million.   •

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