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IMMEDIATE

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ASHTON-TATE REPORTS THIRD QUARTER PROFIT

TORRANCE, Calif., October 17, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today reported net income of \$1.1 million (\$.04 per share) on net revenues of \$60.4 million for its third quarter ended September 30, 1990, compared with a net loss of \$19.3 million (\$.74 per share) on net revenues of \$53.9 million for the quarter ended September 30, 1989.

For the nine months ended September 30, 1990, the company reported a net loss of \$12.5 million (\$.47 per share) on net revenues of \$165.5 million. The net loss for the nine months ended September 30, 1989 was \$27.6 million (\$1.05 per share) on net revenues of \$203.2 million.

The company stated that its 1990 third quarter profit was primarily attributable to increased worldwide revenues.

On July 31, 1990, Ashton-Tate shipped dBASE IV version 1.1 in three editions: the Standard Edition, Developers' Edition and LAN Pack. The company also simultaneously shipped anglicized English, French and German versions of the product.

"We are very pleased with the progress we've made on dBASE IV version 1.1," said Bill Lyons, Ashton-Tate's president. "We have shipped more than 350,000 units, including free upgrades, channel stock balancing and full-system sales; the product has been favorably reviewed in the industry press; and our customers are confirming that it is stable and reliable."

At the dBASE IV version 1.1 launch, Ashton-Tate unveiled plans to port dBASE IV across multiple hardware platforms and operating systems. According to the company, dBASE IV for VAX VMS, which will run on Digital Equipment Corporation machines, and dBASE IV for SUN, for Sun Microsystems workstations, are scheduled to ship in the fourth quarter.

Other ports, including dBASE IV RunTime PLUS for Apple's Macintosh and several UNIX-compatible versions, and the dBASE IV Server Edition, are currently in beta test.

During the quarter, the company announced that its directors had authorized the repurchase of up to 3 million shares of its common stock. It has already repurchased approximately 1.7 million of such shares.

Headquartered 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. Ashton-Tate is an multinational 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.

	THREE MONTHS ENDED			
	Sept. 30, 1990	Sept. 30, 1989	Sept. 30, 1988	Sept. 30, 1987
Net Revenues	\$60,400	\$51,919	\$11,073	\$11,073

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Other product names used herein are for identification purposes only and may be trademarks of their respective companies.

Average Shares Outstanding	26,295	26,144	26,144	26,144
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	NINE MONTHS ENDED	
	Sept. 30, 1990	Sept. 30, 1989
Net Revenues	\$159,414	\$203,206
Pre-tax Income (Loss)	(1,679)	(30,141)
Net Income (Loss)	(12,475)	(12,647)
Net Income (Loss) Per Share	(.47)	(.48)
Average Shares Outstanding	26,497	26,330

COMPARATIVE RESULTS

(In thousands, except per share data)

	<u>THREE MONTHS ENDED</u>		
	<u>Sept. 30, 1990</u>	<u>Sept. 30, 1989</u>	<u>June 30, 1990</u>
Net Revenues	\$60,400	\$53,916	\$48,072
Pre-Tax Income (Loss)	1,152	(23,369)	(13,951)
Net Income (Loss)	1,052	(19,369)	(12,551)
Net Income (Loss) Per Share	.04	(.74)	(.47)
Average Shares Outstanding	26,296	26,148	26,583

	<u>NINE MONTHS ENDED</u>	
	<u>Sept. 30, 1990</u>	<u>Sept. 30, 1989</u>
Net Revenues	\$165,476	\$203,208
Pre-Tax Income (Loss)	(13,878)	(30,147)
Net Income (Loss)	(12,478)	(27,647)
Net Income (Loss) Per Share	(.47)	(1.05)
Average Shares Outstanding	26,497	26,330

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