

For release: **Immediate**

Contact: **Linda Duttonhaver
Ashton-Tate Corporation
(213) 538-7011**

20101 Hamilton Avenue
Torrance, California 90509-9972
Telephone: 213-329-8000
Fax: 213-538-7998

**ASHTON-TATE EXHIBITS POWERSTEP AT
NeXT PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Spreadsheet software developed for NeXT
maximizes the machine's leading edge technology**

SAN FRANCISCO, California, September 18, 1990 -- As a participant in NeXT's new product announcements being made today, Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) will demonstrate PowerStep, the company's new spreadsheet software for NeXT machines. PowerStep will be exhibited in the NeXT Product Showcase taking place throughout the day.

Designed specifically for the NeXT platform using NeXT's Interface Builder, PowerStep includes such features as 3-D graphics, voice annotations, spreadsheet publishing capabilities and an intuitive, easy-to-use graphical user interface. PowerStep is in beta test now; availability and pricing were not announced.

Bill Lyons, Ashton-Tate's President and Chief Operating Officer, said, "The combination of NeXT and PowerStep will offer customers the power and ease-of-use that maximizes their productivity. PowerStep takes full advantage of the graphical and audio output capabilities offered by NeXT machines, so our customers can benefit from these leading edge capabilities."

(more)

PowerStep Features and Benefits**Spreadsheet Features**

- Virtually unlimited worksheet size
A 16,384 x 16,384 cell matrix can include financial, math, string and user-defined functions. As a result, users are not limited to what has traditionally been a smaller cell matrix.
- Consolidation of multiple spreadsheets
A virtually unlimited number of spreadsheets can be combined with a point and click of the mouse. This simplifies what could otherwise be a timely and cumbersome task.
- Spreadsheet linking
Users can call up multiple resizable windows of text, graphics and numbers and set up live links among them. This is accomplished via a simple point and click of the mouse, again saving time and maximizing productivity.
- Lotus 1-2-3 file import and export
Easy data import and export from this popular DOS spreadsheet eliminates data re-entry and expands PowerStep's usefulness. This is particularly useful for companies that have both DOS and NeXT computers.

Graphics Features

- 3-D charts with live rotation
Users can directly control the rotation, elevation and perspective of 3D bar and surface charts using the mouse. This way, users can quickly and easily create 3-D charts that appear exactly the way they want.
- 13 chart types
These include pie, bar, high-low-close, area, line, scatter and 3D surface charts. All chart types are automatically updated as spreadsheet data changes, eliminating data re-entry.

Usability Features

- Ease-of-use
PowerStep uses NeXT's Interface Builder for an icon-based, intuitive interface. In addition, commonly-used commands are conveniently located on the icon bar at the side of the worksheet. The result is a short learning curve, and maximum productivity for both novice and advanced users.

(more)

Usability Features (continued)

- Voice annotation
Using NeXT's built-in-CD quality sound, comments can be recorded directly on any spreadsheet.
- Spreadsheet publishing features
With PowerStep, users can combine numbers, text, charts, graphics and voice annotations on the same page. In addition, they can set page breaks, insert titles and add introductory text. This saves using a separate desktop publishing package, and provides professional, presentation-quality output.
- WILMA programming language
Users can take advantage of 161 macro commands and 11 macro statement types; these macros can be called from within spreadsheet formulas. This macro language gives developers the tools they need to extend PowerStep's functionality.

Product Specifics

PowerStep will run on any NeXT computer; a hard drive is recommended.

Once the software begins shipping, it will be available through the Ashton-Tate authorized reseller network. Unlimited, free support, along with local access to the Ashton-Tate Bulletin Board System, will be included with the product.

Pricing and ship date are not available at this time.

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.

(more)

Ashton-Tate has operations worldwide, with products available in 20 languages in more than 50 countries. The company also offers a comprehensive line of training and support services for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

#

R Ashton-Tate is a registered trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation. NeXT and NeXTstep are registered trademarks of NeXT Computer, Inc.

tm PowerStep is a trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation. Interface Builder is a trademark of NeXT Computer, Inc.

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