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**ASHTON-TATE SIGNS TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT
WITH RATIONAL SYSTEMS**

Torrance, CA, October 23, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) and Rational Systems, Inc. of Natick, Massachusetts today announced that Rational will provide its DOS/16M DOS extender technology to Ashton-Tate for future application software products. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Rational's DOS/16M eliminates the 640K barrier imposed by the DOS operating system. Ashton-Tate joins a number of software developers that are using DOS/16M, including Lotus Development Corporation (for Lotus 1-2-3 Release 3), TOPS Division of Sun Microsystems, QMS/Imagen, Autodesk, Informix, Inference, Information Resources, Simucad, Viewlogic and Xilinx.

Ashton-Tate's support of DOS/16M promotes it to the level of defacto standard," said Terry Colligan, president of Rational Systems.

"Users want to utilize the newest generation of applications on the millions of installed DOS 286/386 systems," said Ed Esber, chief executive officer of Ashton-Tate.

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"Ashton-Tate users will benefit because they can take advantage of the latest applications without having to buy new and expensive personal computers or having to learn a new operating system."

DOS/16M takes advantage of the fact that the 80286 and 80386 microprocessors run in two modes. "Real" mode was developed to provide full DOS compatibility. "Protected" mode supports multitasking operating systems with large memory requirements. DOS/16M uses a personal computer's untapped potential by allowing software to access the additional memory set aside for protected mode.

Users, however, do not have to worry about real or protected mode or about memory management. All DOS/16M functions are performed automatically and transparently.

Rational Systems develops and markets professional programming tools for the personal computer. The company is a leader in providing development environments that maximize efficiency and creativity and enable programmers to deliver PC applications that are not limited by the DOS 640K barrier.

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Ashton-Tate markets business application software for DOS and Macintosh environments. Products are available in five major categories: database management systems, word processing, graphics, decision support integrated software and spreadsheets.

The company also offers a variety of software applications, tools and utilities, as well as a library of best-selling computer hardware and software related books and periodicals.

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