

For release: IMMEDIATE  
Contact: Dian L. Melius  
Ashton-Tate Corporation  
(213) 538-7321

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

**ASHTON-TATE SIMULTANEOUSLY SHIPS dBASE IV VERSION 1.1  
IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN**

TORRANCE, Calif., -- July 31, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced the shipment of dBASE IV version 1.1 in English, German and French to coincide with the first customer shipment of the English product in the United States and Great Britian. This marks the first time the company has simultaneously shipped a new software product or upgrade in multiple languages.

dBASE IV version 1.1 is the latest release of Ashton-Tate's flagship database management system. The new product features major enhancements including reduced memory requirements, increased performance, Structured Query Language (SQL) improvements, simplified installation, nine new language commands, and several other new features and functions. dBASE IV version 1.1 is available in the standard DOS edition, the Developer's Edition with unlimited RunTime, and a LAN Pack version for local area network installation.

- more -

"We are delighted to ship dBASE IV version 1.1 to our customers in the U.K., France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium at the same time that we first ship the product in the U.S.," said Bill Lyons, Ashton-Tate's president and chief operating officer. "We believe that this announcement demonstrates our commitment to respond quickly to customer needs and market demand throughout the world," Lyons added.

"The teamwork and focused efforts of our people both in the US and in Ashton-Tate's European Development Center (EDC) have been commendable," added Floyd Bradley, vice president and general manager of Ashton-Tate's European division. "Our next priority is to ship localized versions of dBASE IV version 1.1 to our Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and Nordic customers as quickly as possible," Bradley said.

#### The Scope of the Project

Simultaneously shipping multiple language versions of a complex software product like dBASE IV version 1.1 required coordinating and managing three major operations:

**\* Localization of approximately 20,000 messages**

Over 1000 help screens and 100 sample files as well as full character support for sorting, decimal separation, currency symbols and country defaults

**\* Translation, printing and packaging**

Over 20 pieces of collateral material, including 1200 pages of documentation, templates, labels and registration information in three languages

**\* Production of 30 different packages**

Production of the three versions of the product (Standard, Developer's and LAN Editions) into full systems and upgrades for English, French and German.

Project Management Focus, Automated Testing & Resource Coordination

With an emphasis on combining strong project management with sophisticated automated testing procedures, a 20 member translation team synchronized U.S. development efforts with the translation and localization personnel, resources and systems in the U.K., Germany and France. This process included selecting and managing local translation agencies, coordinating the translation process with the local subsidiaries and interfacing daily with the EDC team leaders for documentation, software and testing assurance.

In addition to strong project management, automated testing procedures allowed the EDC team to respond quickly to changes made in the U.S. baseline as well as translate and localize the product while it was still in final development. According to Mark Lancaster, Manager of the EDC, over 140,000 automated test suites were employed in the language testing of international versions of dBASE IV version 1.1 software. Close coordination and daily communication with the U.S. development team allowed the Europeans to continually upgrade the code as well as provide international testing feedback to the U.S. "Over 95% of our testing was automated to reduce human error," explained Lancaster. "In addition, we had over 95% testing coverage to ensure that every message and screen was translated with full support and sorting on all European language characters."

"We fully expect that the organization and processes we have put into place for dBASE IV version 1.1 translations will help us shorten the time frame and improve the quality of future product translations and localizations," said Lancaster. The development center is currently working on translated versions of the company's new APPLAUSE II graphics software and MultiMate 4.0 word processing program.

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 has operations worldwide, with products available in 20 languages and 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, dBASE IV and MultiMate are registered trademarks of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

tm Applause II is a trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation.