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ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES RECORD RESULTS FOR FISCAL 1985

CULVER CITY, CA., March 25, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate (OTC: TATE) today announced record results for the fiscal year ended January 31, 1985. The Company's net revenues for the 1985 fiscal year were \$82.3 million, up 107 percent from pro forma net revenues of \$39.8 million for the fiscal year ended January 31, 1984. Net income for fiscal 1985 was \$7.5 million, an increase of 20 percent over the \$6.2 million pro forma figure for fiscal 1984. Earnings per share for fiscal 1985 were \$.80, up from the pro forma figure of \$.78 in fiscal 1984. Net revenues for the fourth quarter of fiscal 1985 were \$27.2 million, an increase of 102 percent compared with \$13.5 million for the fourth quarter of fiscal 1984. Net income for the fourth quarter of fiscal 1985 was \$3.1 million, up 72.0 percent from \$1.8 million for the fourth quarter of the prior year. Fourth quarter earnings per share were \$.34 compared with \$.20 in the fourth quarter of fiscal 1984. Net income for fiscal 1985 included a non-recurring extraordinary income item during the third quarter of \$1,000,000 (\$.10 per share).

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Edward M. Esber, Jr., president and chief executive officer, released the following statement on the year-end and fourth quarter results:

"We are delighted to report our record results for the fourth quarter and fiscal 1985.

"The higher revenues over the past year were due primarily to excellent market acceptance of the company's two major new products, dBASE III, Ashton-Tate's advanced database management system, and Framework, the company's integrated product.

"We're extremely pleased with the reception dBASE III and Framework have received, as well as with the continuing popularity of dBASE II. Ashton-Tate has now firmly established itself as one of the few companies in the microcomputer software industry with successful product entries in two important market segments.

"dBASE III has become the best selling database management system for microcomputers in the world. The performance of dBASE III since its initial shipment in June has further strengthened Ashton-Tate's worldwide leadership in microcomputer database management systems.

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"Framework has also made an important contribution to the company's results. The product has received excellent reviews and has been selected for distribution by several major microcomputer manufacturers.

"Framework is one of the most highly-reviewed software products in history and has received excellent marks from both the media and industry analysts. 'Software Digest', for example has given Framework a three-star rating -- a mark that puts it ahead of all competitors. In addition, 'Future Computing' has placed Framework on its 'Top 10 List of Revenue Generators for 1984'.

"The positive response our new products have received in Europe and other international markets has also contributed significantly to our higher revenues, and has important implications for our long-term growth strategy. Our European subsidiaries achieved significantly higher revenues during the fourth quarter due primarily to the availability of Framework and dBASE III in several foreign languages.

"Ashton-Tate has demonstrated unusual ability to serve overseas markets and we plan to continue this aggressive international expansion. During the last year, we announced agreements in Mexico, Italy and France.

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"As one of the leading independent microcomputer software publishers in the world, we have come a long way from our founding less than five years ago.

"Our future will be exciting. We are planning now for our continued growth -- through acquisitions, through development of new products and through extension of existing product lines. We'll continue to enter new markets and distribution channels and, as appropriate, explore new areas of business.

"Our management team is solid and stable, and brings with it diverse backgrounds. We have become that rare phenomenon among microcomputer software companies: a multi-product, internationally successful company with a strong balance sheet, experienced, professional management and an ability to support rapid, continued growth."

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