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**ASHTON-TATE SIGNS AGREEMENT TO
PURCHASE MULTIMATE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION**

CULVER CITY, CALIF., OCTOBER 7, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate today announced it has signed a definitive agreement in connection with its previously announced acquisition of MultiMate International Corporation of East Hartford, Conn., producer of the best-selling word processing software package, MultiMate Professional Word Processor.

Upon completion of the acquisition, Ashton-Tate will pay \$8,550,000 in cash and 983,530 shares of its stock for MultiMate. It is expected that the purchase will be concluded during December 1985. The transaction is subject, among other conditions, to approval by MultiMate's shareholders. Ashton-Tate has the right to terminate its obligation to acquire MultiMate at any time prior to the closing on the occurrence of certain adverse changes or other events.

Under terms of the agreement, Wilton H. Jones, MultiMate's chairman of the board, and Richard A. Lefebvre, executive vice president, have agreed to six-month employment agreements and two-year limited covenants not to compete against Ashton-Tate.

The Ashton-Tate/MultiMate acquisition will be the largest ever in the microcomputer software industry. Ashton-Tate reported sales of \$82.3 million for its fiscal year ended January 31, 1985. MultiMate, a profitable, privately held company, reported sales of \$21 million in its last fiscal year, ended March 31, 1985.

Upon completion of the agreement, Ashton-Tate will market, on a worldwide basis, best-selling products in three major categories: word processing, database management systems and integrated software.

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MultiMate Definitive Agreement
Page Two

The acquisition will give Ashton-Tate four of the best-selling products in the microcomputer software industry. Two of the products are in the top five: the MultiMate Professional Word Processor, and dBASE III, the industry-standard database management system for 16-bit microcomputers. Ashton-Tate also offers Framework, a critically acclaimed integrated package, and dBASE II, the industry standard for 8-bit microcomputers.

In addition, Ashton-Tate recently announced Framework II, a new and improved version of its current Framework product, that contains a larger, faster and more powerful spreadsheet and an advanced word processor that includes an 80,000-word spell checker, visible page breaks and a built-in mailmerge capability. Framework II, which will replace Framework, will be available for shipment this month.

Upon completion of the MultiMate acquisition, Ashton-Tate will become the second-largest independent microcomputer applications software company in the world. Its revenues will exceed \$100 million -- solely from applications software sales and support.

For the quarter ended July 31, 1985, Ashton-Tate's net revenues were \$27.5 million, up 43 percent from the same quarter of the previous year. Net income was \$3.45 million, up 407 percent over the same quarter a year ago.

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