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**ASHTON-TATE NAMES RELATIONAL DATABASE EXPERT AS SENIOR SCIENTIST;
ACQUIRES SQL TECHNOLOGY**

TORRANCE, Calif., April 8, 1987 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today announced the appointment of Harry K.T. Wong as senior scientist, a new position at the company.

Joining the Ashton-Tate database development team after seven years at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Wong will provide technical direction in the areas of Structured Query Language (SQL) and advanced database architectures, as well as manage research into advanced relational database technologies.

Ashton-Tate has previously announced its intention to support SQL in a future release of dBASE. As part of Dr. Wong's appointment, the company is acquiring technology to further its development of a future database product that incorporates SQL.

"We welcome Dr. Wong to Ashton-Tate," said Roy E. Folk, executive vice president and general manager of Ashton-Tate's Software Products Division. "With his arrival, we have acquired significant technology which complements our own SQL development effort currently underway. The 'marriage' of Dr. Wong's expertise with Ashton-Tate's leadership position in the database area is an ideal partnership."

(more)

Dr. Wong has more than 14 years experience in research and teaching the implementation of advanced database management systems. Among the areas of research, and included in the technology acquired by Ashton-Tate, are natural language interfaces, object-oriented database programming languages, semantic data modeling, query optimization, graphical user interfaces, large statistical databases, bit-mapped file structures and data compression techniques for relational databases.

"We are confident that under Dr. Wong's direction, Ashton-Tate will remain not only the leader in providing database solutions to the enduser, but the technical innovator in microcomputer databases," Folk added.

"I look forward to working with Ashton-Tate in exploring new directions in database management systems," said Dr. Wong.

"Technology is entering a new era in terms of both hardware and software connectivity. This, coupled with IBM's announcement of its new generation of microcomputers, presents a major opportunity for Ashton-Tate."

Dr. Wong, who has published more than 40 scholastic papers on database technologies, received an IBM International Thomas J. Watson Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in 1979, a prestigious honor bestowed on a handful of computer scientists each year. He was invited to the IBM San Jose Research Laboratory, where he participated in the development of System R, the foundation for all subsequent relational databases utilizing SQL.

Wong is best known for his work on: the object-oriented database programming language called TAXIS; graphical user interfaces based on the Entity-Relationship data model; and query-processing techniques for SQL-based languages.

Wong received his Ph.D. in 1979 from the University of Toronto, which also honored him with a University Open Fellowship. He graduated first in his class at Pennsylvania State University, where he received a B.S. degree in computer science in 1973.

In 1982 he was named an associate professor in the Computer Science Department of San Francisco State University, an affiliation he will continue.

Ashton-Tate reported revenues of \$210.8 million and net income of \$30.1 million for fiscal 1987, ended January 31, 1987, increases of 73.4 percent and 81.3 percent, respectively, from fiscal 1986.

The company markets leading products in four major categories: database management systems, with dBASE III PLUS and RapidFile; word processing, with MultiMate Advantage; graphics, with the MASTER-GRAPHICS Series; and integrated software, with Framework II.

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