

For release:

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ASHTON-TATE REPORTS FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

TORRANCE, CA, April 18, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today reported a net loss of \$1.0 million (\$.04 per share) on net revenues of \$57.0 million for its first quarter ended March 30, 1990. The company reported net income of \$11.5 million (\$.44 per share) on net revenues of \$89.8 million for the quarter ended March 31, 1989.

According to the company, the first quarter net loss was primarily attributable to reduced revenues.

"As we cautioned in February 1990, sales of the current dBASE IV version have declined as dBASE IV version 1.1 progresses toward shipment," said Edward M. Esber, Jr., Ashton-Tate's chairman and chief executive officer. "Many customers have delayed their purchases of dBASE IV in anticipation of the shipment of a new version. We believe this trend will continue until the shipment of dBASE IV version 1.1."

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Although the company is not predicting a specific delivery date for dBASE IV version 1.1, Esber said development and testing of the product continues to progress.

During the quarter, Ashton-Tate shipped four new software products. APPLAUSE II, a microcomputer presentation graphics software program, was introduced in early February 1990 at a special introductory suggested retail price of \$99.95. More than 50,000 copies were sold in its first 2 months of release.

Later in February, the company introduced two new dBASE DIRECT products for IBM's 3270 and AS/400 systems. The products enable dBASE III PLUS users to access data residing in these midrange and mainframe systems.

In March, Ashton-Tate introduced Control Room, a utility software package that enables users to inspect, personalize and protect their hardware and software systems.

Also announced in the first quarter were four significant enhancements to the company's technical support programs, including free and unlimited telephone support, the ASSIST program of fee-based support plans, toll-free access to the Ashton-Tate BBS, a bulletin board system which publishes information regarding Ashton-Tate products and Auto-Tate, a toll-free automated attendant/information system.

In addition, the company launched A.T.T.A.I.N., the Ashton-Tate Training Association Information Network, which makes available to customers national and regional training organizations authorized to offer training on Ashton-Tate

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products.

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 is an international company with products available in 20 languages in more than 50 countries. The company also offers a comprehensive line of consulting, training and support services for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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COMPARATIVE RESULTS
(In thousands, except per share data)

	<u>THREE MONTHS ENDED</u>		
	<u>Mar. 31, 1990</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1989</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 1989</u>
Net Revenues	\$57,004	\$89,803	\$62,111
Pre-Tax Income (Loss)	(1,079)	17,102	(1,495)
Net Income (Loss)	(979)	11,502	(995)
Net Income (Loss) Per Share	(.04)	.44	(.04)
Average Shares Outstanding	26,614	26,402	26,234