IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ashton-Tate informs, assists users of dBASE, Framework II, MultiMate with new ATSIG on The Source - special low rate beats competition.

McLEAN, Vir., May 23, 1986 -- Source Telecomputing Corporation and the Ashton-Tate Software Support Center have introduced a new online SIG (special interest group) for users of dBASE II, dBASE III PLUS, Framework II, and other Ashton-Tate products. The ATSIG offers answers to product-related questions, usage tips, a technical reference library, product update alerts, bulletin boards, documentation supplements, free software and inexpensive shareware programs for downloading and more.

SIGS are the lowest priced services on The Source, and are priced as much as 50 percent lower than a leading competitor; they start at just 10 cents per minute ($6 per hour). Registration on The Source Information Network is available for a one-time fee of $49.95 (all prices suggested US retail) at participating computer retailers or direct from Source Telecomputing Corporation.

The ATSIG also offers a member directory, books and workbook series titles, and news releases of interest to users and dealers. The Source Ashton-Tate SIG also offers explanations of the company's software support and customer service programs, with information on where and when to call, and a pre-call checklist. Ashton-Tate Software Support Center technicians are the ATSIG SysOps (system operators).

The ATSIG searches are simplified by special features that can locate desired entries in seconds, saving users valuable time and money while online. The ATSIG public domain software and "shareware" programs are available for downloading using the Kermit protocol for error-free 8-bit binary transfers.

The Source is one of the world's premier online information services. It offers a wealth of information and communication services, all easily accessible via simple menus or by direct command-level request.

SourceMail, an electronic mail system for members, is one of the most popular features of The Source. Its other communication facilities include computer conferencing, a live Chat facility for real-time conversations among users, and more than 70 bulletin boards.

The Source offers news and sports from United Press
International, the Associated Press, The Washington Post,
Scripps-Howard, and United Media Features. A Today section
offers the day's top news stories, business news, sports and
feature articles selected by The Source round-the-clock newsroom.

A complete investor service offers real-time or delayed
stock quotes, a portfolio manager, online execution and
confirmation of stock trades, brokerage reports, stock analysis
and more.

Travel services on The Source include the latest airline
schedules and fares, weather forecasts, worldwide hotel and
restaurant reviews and special travel opportunities; members can
even book reservations through an online travel club.

The Source also offers an encyclopedia, online catalog
shopping, games, and much more.

The Source offers new users a unique way to comfortably
familiarize themselves with its services: a no-charge online
tutorial and introduction. This supplements the bountiful member
information already available to users at no charge: online
connection to customer support or to billing information, a
member's guide, a schedule of current rates for usage and
storage, and more.

Source Telecomputing Corporation, a subsidiary of The
Reader's Digest Association, Inc. can be reached at 1616 Anderson
Road, McLean, VA 22102; (800) 336-3366.

Ashton-Tate's products include dBASE II, dBASE III PLUS,
dBASE III PLUS LAN PAK, Framework II, and the MultiMate word
processing line. Ashton-Tate reported net revenues of $121.6
million and net income of $16.6 million for fiscal 1986, ended
January 31, 1986, an increase of 47.7 percent and 122 percent,
respectively, from the previous year.

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