

For release: **IMMEDIATE**

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**ASHTON-TATE SELLS ITS INTEREST IN SYBASE, INC.
TO LOTUS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

TORRANCE, Calif., December 14, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today announced it has sold its interest in Sybase, Inc. of Emeryville, California (acquired in April, 1988) to Lotus Development Corporation of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"Although Ashton-Tate remains committed to supporting SQL Server, which is based on Sybase technology, with a dBASE IV version 1.1 Server Edition, we plan to support multiple servers, including our previously announced future support for Digital Equipment Corporation's RdB and IBM's Extended Edition," said Ashton-Tate's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Edward M. Esber Jr.

Esber added that Ashton-Tate's investment in Sybase had caused considerable confusion among its customers since its subsidiary, Interbase Software Corporation, competes with Sybase in the minicomputer database area. "This divestiture should clarify our position," he said.

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Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate markets microcomputer business applications software for the DOS, OS/2 and Macintosh operating systems. The company offers products in five major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support software, spreadsheets and graphics. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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