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Contact:

Dian L. Melius
Ashton-Tate Corporation
(213) 538-7321

20101 Hamilton Avenue
Torrance, California 90509-9972
Telephone: 213-329-8000
Fax: 213-538-7998

**ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES dBASE CROSS PLATFORM CHALLENGE
AT COMDEX '90**

Customers can run their DOS-based dBASE applications on VAX VMS systems, UNIX workstations or Macintosh computers.

TORRANCE, Calif., Oct. 30, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced that it will be conducting a dBASE Cross Platform Challenge at the COMDEX '90 Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas, Nov. 12-16. The Challenge will allow participants to port an existing DOS-based dBASE application and data to a VAX VMS system, UNIX workstation or Macintosh computer.

"The dBASE Cross Platform Challenge is the best way for us to demonstrate what we call the 'true portability' of dBASE IV across PC, VMS, UNIX and Macintosh platforms," said David Proctor, Ashton-Tate executive vice president, product development. "Participants will be able to watch an existing PC dBASE application run on another platform without recompilation or modification."

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According to Proctor, this level of portability is particularly desirable for the existing 3 million users of dBASE products on a DOS-based PC.

The true portability of these products allows users to easily migrate to other hardware platforms while permitting companies to leverage the large investments they have in applications, data and training.

Challenge Guidelines

Conducted in the Ashton-Tate booth (H8218) in the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, appointments for the dBASE Cross Platform Challenge are being scheduled in one-half hour increments from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of the show.

Anyone interested in participating in the Ashton-Tate dBASE Cross Platform Challenge should contact the company's Advanced Consulting Group at (213) 538-6116 to schedule an appointment. Participants will be asked to bring their application and data on either a 5-1/4" or 3-1/2" disk to the Ashton-Tate booth at COMDEX '90.

Due to time restrictions, Ashton-Tate is limiting the size of the application to no more than 5,000 lines of pure dBASE code and requesting that the application does not include "load and call" routines.

The company also suggests that participants bring additional blank media compatible with the target environment to make a copy of the ported application. All participants will receive a "dBASE Cross Platform Challenge" T-shirt.

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 has international operations in most countries around the world, with products available in 20 languages in more than 50 countries. The company also offers a comprehensive line of training and support services for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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