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ASHTON-TATE REPORTS CALENDAR 1989 RESULTS

Fourth Quarter Revenues Up 15% Over Third Quarter

TORRANCE, CA, February 7, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today reported a net loss of \$28.6 million (\$1.09 per share) on revenues of \$265.3 million for the calendar year ended December 31, 1989. For the fiscal year ended January 31, 1989, the company reported net income of \$47.7 million (\$1.83 per share) on revenues of \$307.3 million.

The company reported a fourth quarter net loss of \$1.0 million (\$.04 per share) on \$62.1 million in revenues, compared with net income of \$13.4 million (\$.51 per share) on revenues of \$87.3 million for the quarter ended January 31, 1989.

"We have addressed the significant challenges of 1989, including substantially reducing U.S. distribution channel inventories and bringing expense levels in line with the lower revenue expectations," said Edward M. Esber, Jr., Ashton-Tate chairman and chief executive officer. "The losses for the year and the fourth quarter were primarily due to reduced revenues." He also stated that the results included a gain on the sale of the Company's interest in Sybase, Inc., which was offset by

write-offs of approximately equivalent amounts.

Esber added, "We believe, however, we began to see some benefit from our year-long actions. Fourth quarter revenues increased, we substantially reduced our loss compared to the third quarter and reduced expenses, receivables and inventories."

Esber noted that in spite of Ashton-Tate's significant 1989 losses, the company's balance sheet remained strong with no long term debt and a cash balance that exceeded \$96 million at year-end.

"We believe our improvement in the fourth quarter reflects the strength of dBASE III PLUS and dBASE IV, both of which continue to pace worldwide microcomputer DBMS sales," he said. "As in the third quarter, we believe fourth quarter U.S. product sell-through exceeded our fourth quarter revenues. The recent launch of MultiMate version 4.0 and our forthcoming graphics product, APPLAUSE II, should aid our recovery."

The company said it continues to receive strong positive feedback from dBASE IV version 1.1 beta test sites. "Beta testers tell us we have made significant progress in the areas of performance and memory management and that we have made great strides toward delivering the quality product they demand," Esber said. He reiterated, however, that dBASE IV version 1.1 will not ship until the beta program has been completed and the company determines that the product is ready.

Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate develops and markets microcomputer business applications software for the DOS, OS/2 and Macintosh operating systems. The company offers

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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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dBASE IV, MultiMate and Ashton-Tate are
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APPLAUSE is a trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

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COMPARATIVE RESULTS
(In thousands, except per share data)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED		
	Dec. 31, 1989	Jan. 31, 1989*	Sept. 30, 1989
Net Revenues	\$62,111	\$87,298	\$53,916
Pre-Tax Income (Loss)	(1,495)	18,944	(23,369)
Net Income (Loss)	(995)	13,444	(19,369)
Net Income (Loss) Per Share	(.04)	.51	(.74)
Average Shares Outstanding	26,234	26,382	26,148

	YEAR ENDED	
	Dec. 31, 1989	Jan. 31, 1989*
Net Revenues	\$265,319	\$307,283
Pre-Tax Income (Loss)	(31,642)	73,455
Net Income (Loss)	(28,642)	47,755
Net Income (Loss) Per Share	(1.09)	1.83
Average Shares Outstanding	26,306	26,158

* Effective in 1989, Ashton-Tate changed its financial reporting year-end from January 31 to December 31.