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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Action Technologies, Inc. and Ashton-Tate Corporation Announce MHS
Licensing Agreement**

Palo Alto, CA, March 19, 1990 -- Action Technologies and Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:Tate) today announced an agreement under which Ashton-Tate is licensing *MHS By Action Technologies* for inclusion in future products. Initially this will include MultiMate(R) Version 4.0 and Framework III LAN (R). The announcement is a result of each company's strategy to help end users increase productivity while supporting existing user environments and applications.

MHS is a widely used store and forward messaging technology that allows people using dissimilar computers, applications and protocols to perform inter- and intra-network messaging in the most cost effective and efficient time frame. MultiMate 4.0 is Ashton-Tate's new DOS word processing software that provides power and ease of use. It includes an integrated grammar checker, graphics, transparent file conversion and a number of other new features.

"We are very pleased with the reception that MHS has received with these products," said Bill Lyons, Vice President and General Manager of Ashton-Tate's Applications Group. " We look forward to including MHS's integrated electronic mail capabilities in future Ashton-Tate products to provide our worldwide customers with the best technology available."

For the first time, MultiMate 4.0 users will realize:

- **Increased productivity** -- Users will be able to reduce the amount of time spent performing inter- and intra-networking functions. For example, a user can now fax a document directly over the network by choosing an option from a pull-down menu that automatically sends the document. Previously, you would have to print the document and take it to a fax station.
- **Additional electronic mail capabilities** -- MultiMate 4.0 will provide an open system which will allow users to communicate with other Ashton-Tate applications, in addition to accessing workstations using CompuServe applications.

"MHS has become a widely used product because its ability to operate across a large number of environments and its ease of use positively effect the productivity and work environment of the user," said Tom White, President, Action Technologies. "We are committed to continuing our leadership position by working within leading platforms, applications and gateways such as x.400, PROFS, SMTP and All-in-1."

Ashton-Tate has sold close to one million copies of MultiMate 4.0 since its introduction in 1982. Sales of the product reached near record levels in the fourth quarter of 1989. MHS has an installed base of 750,000 users worldwide.

MultiMate 4.0 with MHS capability is now available through the Ashton-Tate authorized reseller network. The product has a suggested retail price of \$565 and includes free, unlimited support. Upgrades for previous versions of MultiMate are available for \$75 from Ashton-Tate customer service at 1-800-2-ASHTON.

Action Technologies has developed strategic alliances with Novell, Inc., Dayna Communications and others to develop products based on MHS protocols. Other companies currently supporting the MHS protocols include Alcom Inc., British Telecom, CC:Mail, Conectic Systems, CompuServe, Informix Software, Network Technology, Noteworks, OCP Software, Powercore, Quarterdeck Office Systems, SoftSwich Inc., Computer Mail Services, OSISI Systems, DaVinci Systems, OAZ Communications, Information Research Corporation, and many others.

Action Technologies is a privately held company founded in 1983. The company provides work management and communications software to the business user and enabling technologies to the original equipment-manufacturer (OEM) markets. Its products include The Coordinator Version II, a work management and communications software application that offers scheduling and calendaring features along with sophisticated electronic mail capabilities, and *MHS by Action Technologies*, a message handling software product that provides transparent store and transfer services for application to application communications, either within a single local area network environment, or between systems.

Based in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate markets microcomputer business applications for DOS and Macintosh operating systems. Products are available in five major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, 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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