



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Declares Quarterly Cash Dividend

2005-05-24

MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 24, 2005--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) today announced that the Board of Directors voted to declare a quarterly cash dividend of \$.06 per share, payable on June 17, 2005, to shareholders of record on June 3, 2005.

CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) provides a full range of local, long distance, Internet and broadband services to consumers in 22 states. Included in the S&P 500 Index, CenturyTel is a leading provider of integrated communications services to rural areas and small to mid-size cities in the United States. Visit CenturyTel at www.centurytel.com.

CONTACT: CenturyTel, Inc.
, Monroe
Tony Davis, 318-388-9525
tony.davis@centurytel.com

SOURCE: CenturyTel, Inc.