



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Declares Quarterly Cash Dividend

2005-08-23

MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 23, 2005--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE Symbol: CTL) today announced that its Board of Directors voted to declare a quarterly cash dividend of \$.06 per share, payable on September 16, 2005, to shareholders of record on September 2, 2005.

Included in the S&P 500 Index, CenturyTel (NYSE: CTL) is a leading provider of a full array of communications services primarily to rural areas and small to mid-size cities in 26 states. Visit CenturyTel at www.centurytel.com.

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