



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Declares Quarterly Cash Dividend

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MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 22, 2006--

CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) today announced that its Board of Directors voted to declare a quarterly cash dividend of \$.0625 per share, payable on September 15, 2006, to shareholders of record on September 5, 2006.

CenturyTel (NYSE:CTL) is a leading provider of communications, high-speed Internet and entertainment services in small-to-mid-size cities through our broadband and fiber transport networks. Included in the S&P 500 Index, CenturyTel delivers advanced communications with a personal touch to customers in 25 states. Visit us at www.centurytel.com.

Source: CenturyTel, Inc.

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