



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Increases Quarterly Cash Dividend

2004-02-25

MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 25, 2004--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) today announced that the Board of Directors voted to increase the quarterly cash dividend to \$.0575 from \$.0550 per share, a 4.5 percent increase, payable on March 19, 2004, to shareholders of record on March 8, 2004.

"CenturyTel is pleased to announce an increase in common dividends for the 31st consecutive year," Glen F. Post III, CenturyTel's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said.

CenturyTel, Inc. provides communications services including local, long distance, Internet access and data services to more than 3 million customers in 22 states. The company, headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana, is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CTL, and is included in the S&P 500 Index. CenturyTel is the 8th largest local exchange telephone company, based on access lines, in the United States. Visit CenturyTel at www.centurytel.com.

CONTACT: CenturyTel Inc.
, Monroe

Investors: Tony Davis, 318-388-9525
tony.davis@centurytel.com
www.centurytel.com

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