



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Increases Quarterly Cash Dividend

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MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 22, 2005--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE: CTL) today announced that its Board of Directors voted to increase the quarterly cash dividend to \$.06 from \$.0575 per share, a 4.3 percent increase, payable on March 18, 2005, to shareholders of record on March 4, 2005.

"CenturyTel is pleased to announce an increase in common dividends for the 32nd consecutive year," Glen F. Post III, CenturyTel's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said.

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.

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