



NEWS RELEASE

## CenturyTel Released Third Quarter 2008 Earnings on October 27, 2008; Cancels Third Quarter 2008 Earnings Conference Call Previously Scheduled for October 30, 2008

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MONROE, La., Oct. 28 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE: CTL) released third quarter 2008 earnings on October 27, 2008 in conjunction with the company's announcement of a definitive agreement to acquire EMBARQ Corporation. Therefore, the third quarter 2008 earnings conference call previously scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. CDT is cancelled. Third quarter 2008 results can be found on CenturyTel's website at <http://www.centurytel.com>.

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 <http://www.centurytel.com>.

SOURCE CenturyTel, Inc.

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