



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Schedules Third Quarter 2003 Earnings Conference Call

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MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 9, 2003--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE: CTL) plans to release its third quarter 2003 earnings results pre-market opening on Thursday, October 30, 2003, and host a related conference call at 10:30 a.m. CST that day.

The conference call will be streamed live over CenturyTel's Web site at www.centurytel.com. Interested parties can also access the call by dialing 800.346.2923 and entering the conference ID number: 3383 five minutes prior to the start of the call. A digital recording of the call will be available beginning at 1:30 p.m. CST on October 30, 2003, and ending November 3, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. CST. The replay can be accessed by calling 800.332.6854 and entering the conference ID number: 3383. A replay of the call will also be available on the Web site after 12:30 p.m. CST on October 30, 2003.

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.

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SOURCE: CenturyTel, Inc.