



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Schedules Third Quarter 2005 Earnings Conference Call

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MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 7, 2005--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) plans to release its third quarter 2005 earnings results pre-market opening on Thursday, October 27, 2005, and host a related conference call at 10:30 a.m. CDT 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 866-259-7123 five minutes prior to the start of the call. A digital recording of the call will be available beginning at 2:00 p.m. CDT on October 27, 2005, and ending November 2, 2005, at 11:59 p.m. CDT. The replay can be accessed by calling 888-266-2081 and entering the access code: 788978. A replay of the call will also be available on the Web site beginning at 2:00 p.m. CDT on October 27, 2005 and ending November 16, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.

Delivering advanced communications with a personal touch, CenturyTel is focused on people, solutions and networks. CenturyTel is listed on the NYSE as CTL and included in the S&P 500 Index. The company is a leading provider of advanced communications solutions primarily to rural areas and small to mid-size cities in 26 states. Visit CenturyTel at www.centurytel.com.

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