



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel to Participate in Analyst Conferences

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MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 3, 2005--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) announces that it is scheduled to participate in the following analyst conferences:

Smith Barney Citigroup
Fifteenth Annual Entertainment, Media and Monday
Telecommunications Conference January 10

Raymond James & Associates
Monday
26th Annual Institutional Investors Conference March 7

Merrill Lynch Wednesday
Communications Forum March 9

Conference hosts may provide webcast availability in some cases. For information regarding specific presentation times and webcast availability, please visit CenturyTel's Web site at www.centurytel.com, Investor Relations, Calendar of Events. Participation in these conferences is subject to change due to unforeseen events. Therefore, please check the company's Investor Relations Calendar of Events prior to each conference.

CenturyTel, Inc. provides communications services including local, long distance, Internet access and data services to 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.