

CENTURYTEL INC  
Form FWP  
September 15, 2009

Filed pursuant to rule 433  
Registration no. 333-157188

**CenturyTel, Inc.**  
\$400,000,000 7.60% Senior Notes, Series P, due 2039  
Pricing Term Sheet  
Date: September 14, 2009

Issuer: CenturyTel, Inc.  
Principal Amount: \$400,000,000  
Security: \$400,000,000 7.60% Senior Notes, Series P, due 2039  
Maturity: September 15, 2039  
Coupon: 7.60%  
Issue Price: 99.955%  
Yield to Maturity: 7.604%  
Spread to Benchmark: 3.375%  
Treasury Benchmark: T 4.250% due May 15, 2039  
Treasury Benchmark: 4.229%  
Treasury Yield: March 15 and September 15, commencing March 15, 2010  
Interest Payment Dates: 30/360  
Interest Calculation Convention: \$2,000 minimum x \$1,000  
Denominations: At any time at greater of Par and Make-Whole at discount rate of Treasury plus 50 basis points.  
Optional Redemption: T+5; September 21, 2009  
Settlement Date: BBB- by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (Stable outlook); Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Stable outlook); BBB- by Fitch Ratings Ltd. (Stable outlook)  
Anticipated Ratings:  
Joint Book-Running Managers: Banc of America Securities LLC  
Senior Co-Managers: Barclays Capital Inc.  
J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.  
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC  
Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc.  
Co-Managers: Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated  
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.  
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.  
Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.  
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.

**The issuer has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus in that registration statement and other documents the issuer has filed with the SEC for more complete information about the issuer and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC Web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Alternatively, the issuer, any underwriter or any dealer participating in the offering will arrange to send you the prospectus if you request it by calling Banc of America Securities LLC toll free at 1-800-294-1322, Barclays Capital Inc. at 1-888-603-5847, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. collect at 212-834-4533 or Wells Fargo Securities, LLC at 1-800-326-5897.**

Note: A securities rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time.