

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**POKERTEK SIGNS THREE-YEAR CONTRACT
WITH CARNIVAL CORP.**

Charlotte, N.C. – July 17, 2006 – PokerTek, Inc., (Nasdaq: PTEK) announced today that the company has signed a three-year contract to provide its PokerPro™ electronic poker tables to Carnival Corporation & plc cruise ships.

The initial installation of the PokerPro™ table occurred on April 23 on Carnival Cruise Lines' 2,758-passenger Carnival Victory and based on the successful performance of the product, further installations will take place on various Carnival cruise ships as ordered by Carnival and as scheduling allows.

“We are delighted that Carnival recognizes the immediate benefits of the PokerPro™ system to both the poker player and the casino operator,” said James Crawford, President of PokerTek.

The cruise ship arena is a targeted market segment for PokerTek as cruise ships generally feature entertainment and casino activities. Carnival Cruise Lines operates 21 ships with three on order.

About PokerTek, Inc.

PokerTek, Inc., headquartered in Charlotte, NC, develops and markets the PokerPro™ system, an electronic poker table that provides a fully automated poker room environment. The PokerPro™ system was developed to increase casino revenue by increasing hands per hour, while reducing labor costs within poker rooms. PokerTek's Intellectual Property currently consists of twenty-six patents pending covering various aspects of the PokerPro™ system. For more information please visit the company's website at www.pokertek.com or contact Becca Bernstein at 704-849-0860, ext. 119.

About Carnival Corporation

For more information please visit the company's website at www.carnivalcorp.com or contact Tim Gallagher at 305-599-2600, ext. 16000.

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The forward-looking statements herein, include, but are not limited to, the expected adoption of the PokerPro™ system by casinos, cruise ships and card clubs, the expected acceptance of the PokerPro™ system by players, the anticipated long term duration of the relationship with Carnival Corporation, the anticipated orders by Carnival Corporation, and the granting of patents. Our actual results may differ materially from those projected, stated or implied in these forward-looking statements as a result of many factors, including, but not limited to, overall industry environment, customer acceptance of our products, further approvals of regulatory authorities, adverse court rulings, production and/or quality control problems, the denial, suspension or revocation of permits or licenses by regulatory authorities, termination or non-renewal of customer contracts, competitive pressures and general economic conditions. These and other risks and uncertainties are described in more detail in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. PokerTek does not undertake any obligation to update the information contained herein, which speaks only as of this date.