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# McKesson to sell APS segment to Parata

**MAY. 30 8:24 A.M. ET** Healthcare services and information technology company McKesson Corp. said Tuesday that Parata Systems, a pharmacy robotics company, has agreed to buy nearly all the assets in its Automated Prescription Systems segment for an undisclosed sum, in a deal aimed at capitalizing on growing use of pharmacy automation in drugstores.

McKesson also said the two companies have struck a marketing agreement, under which McKesson will become the sole third-party distributor for all Parata products in North America and become a minority investor in Parata. McKesson's High Volume Solutions and McKesson Pharmacy Systems units are excluded from the sale, it added.

The deal is expected to close in McKesson's fiscal first quarter, pending customary conditions. Separately, Parata said it expects the deal will close in mid to late June.

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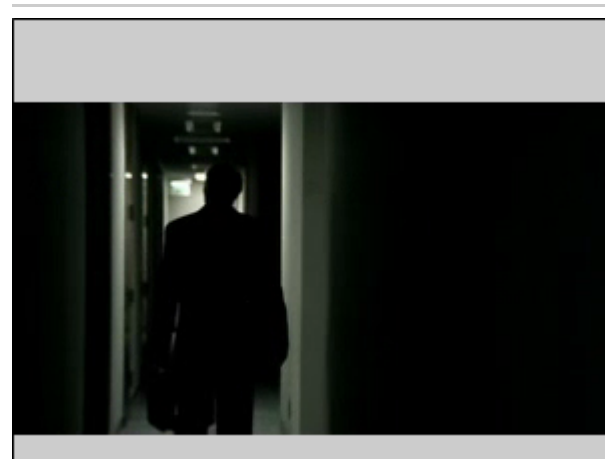
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Charges from the sale will lower McKesson's earnings per share by about 4 cents in the quarter in which it closes. The company also said it would also fill two of five seats on Parata's board.

Analysts expect McKesson to earn 62 cents per share in the first quarter, according to a Thomson Financial poll.

McKesson said fewer than 10 percent of the nation's drugstores now use automation, but adoption of automation technology is expected to rise amid prescription growth and a shortage of pharmacists nationwide.

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