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Parata Systems to buy McKesson unit

BY SABINE VOLLMER, Staff Writer

Parata Systems of Durham is buying the automated prescription business unit of McKesson Corp. to expand its presence in retail pharmacies.

McKesson is the biggest drug wholesaler in the United States. It is based in San Francisco.

As part of the deal, which is expected to close within 30 days, McKesson will help Parata with sales leads in the United States. In Canada and Mexico, McKesson will be Parata's distributor.

Parata sells robots that dispense, cap, label and alphabetically sort prescriptions. It employs about 250, including 170 in Durham.

Financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

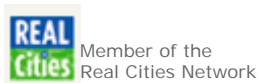
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