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# TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Parata acquires McKesson unit, to add 300 employees

Triangle Business Journal - 11:49 AM EDT Tuesday by [Daniel Johnson](#)

**Parata Systems** said Tuesday that it will acquire giant **McKesson Corp.**'s Automated Prescription Services business unit in a move that will more than double the size of the Durham company, which makes robotic drug dispensers used in pharmacies.

Under the agreement, Parata will take control of McKesson's automated prescription services operations, which also specializes in automated drug dispensing systems. The acquisition will more than double Parata Systems' head count from its current 250 employees to about 550.

Parata's chief operations officer, Doug Townsend, says the deal will diversify Parata's product lines to include partial-automation services, giving the company a foot in the door with McKesson's already-established roster of retail clients.

In return for the APS business unit, McKesson (NYSE: MCK) will become a minority investor in Parata Systems and will hold two of five seats on Parata's board of directors. Parata decided to shrink its board from seven to five members as part of the deal.

In addition, McKesson will receive third-party distribution rights for Parata's products in Canada and Mexico.

Other financial terms of the deal were not released. The transaction is expected to close in mid-to-late June.

San Francisco-based McKesson has a market capitalization of more than \$14.5 billion.

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