



News Release

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Parata Prepares to Fill the Gap in Retail Pharmacy Automation Next-Generation Robotic Dispensing Solution Delivers Technology Pharmacies Have Waited for

Durham, N.C. (July 31, 2003) – Just 2 percent of U.S. pharmacies presently rely on robotic dispensing solutions; this despite a pharmacist shortage and prescription volumes topping three billion that show no signs of slowing. Parata Systems is making the case with its Parata RDS (Robotic Dispensing System) that current solutions do not fit retail pharmacy requirements, a gap it is prepared to fill.

Parata officially launches its Parata RDS at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Pharmacy and Technology Conference, to be held in Philadelphia, Aug. 23-27.

"Parata means 'to prepare, make ready' in Latin, a name that aptly describes our company and our premier system, which automates up to half of a pharmacy's prescription volume, while responding to retail needs for compactness, speed, accuracy, and ease of implementation, use and maintenance," Jess Eberdt, president and CEO, says. "As a company, we come to market prepared with a production-ready solution, built from extensive industry expertise, refined over two years of development, and successfully market-tested in both chain and independent retail environments. We are positioned to scale quickly in response to industry demand."

Parata RDS establishes new industry benchmarks for size and performance in a compact machine, whose 12 square-foot footprint counts up to 25 tablets a second to process more than 150 prescriptions an hour, or one prescription every 18-25 seconds. It relies on a bar-coded maintenance system to ensure accuracy and eliminate the potential for operator error.

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Parata RDS enhances performance in retail pharmacy settings, with features that replenish drugs without interrupting operation, cap completed prescriptions and place them in alphabetical order by patient last name, and flag exceptions requiring pharmacist attention.

The Parata RDS accommodates 252 medications, in half the space of other machines. At 12-square feet (26" w X 78" h x 72" l) it replaces just a standard-sized set of static shelving in most pharmacies. Parata RDS rolls into pharmacies on integrated casters, requires less than an hour to install and plugs into a standard electrical outlet.

Parata Prepared to Deliver

Founded in October 2001, Parata Systems rapidly developed and deployed a *prototype* system, which it tested and refined. It then developed several *beta* units for extensive in-store testing in the high-volume chain setting. One pharmacy that deployed Parata was able to postpone the difficult and expensive hiring of an additional pharmacist and two technicians as a direct result of Parata's performance. The latest *production* model is ready to rollout to Parata's existing customer base.

Parata's leadership leveraged more than three decades of pharmacy automation expertise to define the design criteria and ensure engineering excellence and reliability. Parata's core competency and focus are squarely on understanding and responding to retail pharmacy needs. It enlisted powerful partners to ensure excellence in production, sales and service as it scales to meet market demand.

Flextronics, the world's leading electronics manufacturing services provider for technology companies, produces the Parata RDS, delivering significant scalability and production efficiency for Parata customers.

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D&K Healthcare Resources, Inc. is the exclusive distributor of Parata RDS for independent and regional pharmacies in a 23-state region and Puerto Rico. D&K is a full-service wholesale distributor of branded and generic pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter health and beauty aid products.

Kodak Service and Support, which supports Kodak's Consumer Imaging Division, and already has a strong presence with many leading retail chains, provides on-site service and support to Parata customers, telephone-based customer care and rollout planning. Kodak Service and Support maintains approximately 4,000 technicians worldwide, whose expertise aligns with Parata's technology.

Innovation Drives Performance

Parata RDS is built on world-class research and technology, with robotic capabilities from Parker Hannifin Corporation, the world's leading diversified manufacturer of motion and control technologies and systems. Parata couples the power of robotics with its innovative dispensing cell, which uses patented technology to quickly and precisely count any size pill.

About Parata Systems

Parata Systems, whose name means "to prepare or make ready," is ready to fill the gap in retail pharmacy automation with Parata RDS, a production-ready robotic dispensing solution, built to retail pharmacy requirements. Parata RDS automates up to half of a retail pharmacy's prescription volume, with a compact, 12-square foot machine that sets new industry benchmarks for space, speed, accuracy and efficiency, and is implemented successfully in retail environments. Founded in 2001, Parata Systems delivers the next-generation robotic dispensing technology that pharmacies have been waiting for. Parata is based in Durham, N.C. Additional product information and photos will be available on Parata's Web site on Aug. 24 at www.paratasystems.com. For more information, Email info@paratasystems.com or call 919-544-8383.

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