

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 130 JOBS IN DURHAM COUNTY**  
***\$100,000 One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Parata Systems Expand***

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Parata Systems, manufacturer of a robotic dispensing system for pharmacies, will expand its Durham County headquarters, creating 130 jobs and investing \$15 million.

“Parata Systems’ decision to expand in Durham reinforces North Carolina’s reputation as an international leader in the pharmaceutical industry,” Easley said. “We will continue to make the investments in education, infrastructure and workforce development to ensure companies continue to grow and succeed in our state.”

Parata Systems is the maker of the Parata Robotic Dispensing System, which mechanically counts pills, places them in bottles and sorts them by patient’s names. The company recently acquired San Francisco-based McKesson Automated Prescription Systems, including the company’s plants in Louisiana and Pennsylvania. The latest Durham expansion consolidates Parata’s corporate functions in North Carolina.

“Parata was founded in Durham, and we attribute the region’s robust talent and technical resources as integral to our success,” said company CEO Jess Eberdt. “The commitment of the governor to retaining growth businesses like Parata was critical to our decision to maintain our commitment here.”

The company currently employs 210 workers, including 145 at the Durham headquarters and a manufacturing operation in Youngsville. While wages will vary by job function, the average weekly wage for all of the new jobs will be \$1,300 plus benefits, which is significantly more than the Durham County average weekly wage of \$659, not including benefits.

The company decided to grow in Durham County, in part, because of a \$100,000 One North Carolina Fund grant. The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in industry recruitment and expansion by providing financial assistance to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs. The Fund has helped create more than 19,000 jobs and \$3 billion in investment since 2001. All grants are contingent upon local matches.

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the state Department of Commerce, N.C. Community College System and Durham County.

For more information about Parata Systems, please visit [www.parata.com](http://www.parata.com). For information about employment opportunities, please contact the Durham County area Employment Security Commission office at 919-560-6880.

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