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## Deal with Parata may affect some McKesson workers

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By Christopher Snowbeck, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

McKesson Corp.'s Automated Prescription Systems -- a business unit of the fast-growing California company that employs about 50 locally -- will be acquired by Durham, N.C.-based Parata Systems, the companies announced yesterday.

Terms of the acquisition, which is expected to close in June, were not disclosed.

The vast majority of McKesson's local employment of more than 600 in Cranberry and Pittsburgh won't be affected by the sale, said Kris Fortner, a company spokesman. It's also not clear whether jobs will be shifted to or from Pittsburgh as a result of the Parata acquisition, he said. "It's all on the table at this point."

Both companies make automated systems used by retail pharmacies. Parata's Robotic Dispensing System, for example, counts up to 30 tablets per second to accurately process up to 154 prescriptions per hour. The system selects and labels a vial, fills, caps and sorts by a patient's last name.

McKesson ranks No. 16 on the Fortune 500 list and competes in a variety of markets, including software used by hospitals and doctors. Many of the company's local employees work in this software unit, said Mr. Fortner.

The vast majority of McKesson's 600-plus local workers will not be affected by the sale.

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