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Durham-based Parata to send pill-dispensing robots, support to Haiti



Parata's robot drug dispensing machines are prepared for transportation to Haiti. (Parata photo)

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DURHAM, N.C. – Relief workers in Haiti will soon have robotic help when dispensing drugs to victims of the destructive earthquake.

Parata Systems said Tuesday it is working with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian and charity organization to send two of its robot drug dispensing machines to Haiti. The company also is dispatching staff to install and support the machines that will be set up at a pharmacy near Port au Prince.

The machines are valued by Parata at \$150,000.

"When natural disaster strikes, the demand on caregivers is relentless. Our technology will immediately begin counting medication and filling prescription vials, so healthcare workers can focus more on patients," Tom Rhoads, executive vice president of Parata, said in a statement.

Parata employees also are donating medical supplies, clothing and water, the company said.

Parata, launched in 2001, sells robotic dispensing machines as well as drug packaging.

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