

Detroit Free Press

General Motors plans to shutter Georgia IT center, eliminate 300 jobs

By Jackie Charniga (excerpt)
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General Motors is closing its Georgia IT Innovation Center as it eliminates 300 jobs, the Detroit automaker confirmed Oct. 27 to the Detroit Free Press.

Most of the 900 jobs in the facility were information technology support jobs that companies nationwide aim to reduce as technology advances. Some will be offered the opportunity to work remotely or at one of GM's other IT centers in Austin, Texas; Mountain View, California; Seattle; Toronto and Warren, Michigan.

The move comes just days after GM laid off more than 200 employees at its Warren Technical Center. The employees were let go Oct. 24. The automaker started its annual employee reviews this past week, which will continue through the rest of the year, the automaker said. ...

... The facility is slated to be listed for sale sometime next month, the company also confirmed Oct. 27.

GM has culled software jobs as technology advances through artificial intelligence. AI tools in recent years have been transformative for GM's workforce, according to the company, though it would not directly disclose how entry-level or more skilled roles were impacted.

GM last year eliminated more than 1,000 jobs in its software division globally to "streamline that division's operations to work faster and more efficiently."

Meanwhile, GM has garnered attention for its new evaluation program that looks to let go of poor-performing salaried workers.

Forced ranking of staff is not a new concept; the approach has been around for decades and was used in the past at GM for a while many years ago, said David Kudla, the CEO of Mainstay Capital Management.

"AI is another technological revolution that's going to enhance productivity, but inevitably will replace jobs," he said. "That's the secular trend, but with automotive companies in particular, it's a cyclical industry."

Kudla advises employees under risk of layoff to prepare financial plans that include the possibility of sudden job loss.

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