

Kodak to lay off 50 in Rochester



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Eastman Kodak Co. is laying off upwards of 60 employees in research and development, 50 of those in Rochester, a company spokeswoman confirmed Wednesday. Notice went out this week but it was not immediately clear when the layoffs would take effect.

"We made a decision to focus research on material clients," spokeswoman Louise Kehoe said, which involves print products, touchscreens and the like.

Companywide, Kodak employs about 500 in R&D, she said. Those activities are centered in Rochester.

Word of the layoffs tempered an otherwise positive day for the company, which showcased a prototype of a revamped classic, [the Super 8 film camera](#) at the [Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas](#). Though it is not yet decided where the camera will be manufactured, Kehoe said production should get underway in 2016, and the initiative should increase demand for 8mm film, which is made in Rochester.

That initiative includes a "range of cameras," she said. Initially, Kodak would process the film and send people either a private YouTube link to their video, or a digital version of the film on CD or memory stick. The second phase of production would send them back the developed film she said. Ultimately, there will be a need for projectors, likely for film schools or clubs, she said.

As for the response thus far? "I'm getting emails from all over the world, inquiring whether they can get ahold of the camera," Kehoe said. "Honestly, I have been surprised."

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