## **Electrolux will shutter Memphis plant in 2020**

By Wayne Risher Updated: January 31, 2019 12:08 PM CT



The Electrolux plant in Memphis will be closed in 2020. The Swedish appliance maker announced Thursday it will invest \$250 million in a facility in Springfield, Tennessee. (Lance Murphey/Daily Memphian file)

Electrolux said Thursday it will shutter its relatively new Memphis plant in 2020 as part of a consolidation of U.S. manufacturing operations in Springfield, Tennessee.

The Swedish maker of kitchen appliances said it's "reinitiating" an investment of \$250 million in a Springfield facility.

It said production is expected to continue in Memphis through 2020.

The closing would reverse a major economic development success that saw huge public incentives poured into the plant and more than 1,000 jobs created.

The company won at least \$97 million from the state, among an estimated \$188 million in total government incentives, when it promised to create 1,240 jobs at a new Memphis facility within five years of opening.

The plant opened in Frank C. Pidgeon Industrial Park in southwest Memphis four years ago, after two years of construction.

The Memphis plant was organized during a multiyear campaign by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which won its first contract with the company in 2017.

But reports had circulated since last fall that the plant was ramping down and jobs could be affected.

Electrolux said in a statement that all U.S. production would be combined in Middle Tennessee.

"We are very committed to supporting our Memphis teammates and are announcing these changes two years in advance to provide transition time," said Alan Shaw, head of Electrolux Major Appliances North America.

The statement also said, "We are committed to investing in U.S. manufacturing and launching new Frigidaire kitchen products. By appropriately right sizing our business for a changing market, we can invest in the growth areas and drive profitability," Shaw said.

This story will be updated as it develops.