

SYLVANIA AXES SHIPLEY, MOVES PRODUCTION TO INDIA

# End of era as England's last lamp plant closes

Lamp production will come to an end in England after 128 years this summer following Havells Sylvania's decision to close its CFL factory in Shipley, Yorkshire with the loss of 200 jobs.

Production is gradually being transferred to India, where Havells has extensive light source-manufacturing operations. There have already been 140 compulsory redundancies at the site, and more jobs will be lost over the next few months. Some sales positions are being transferred to Havells' luminaire factory at Newhaven, home of Concord Lighting.

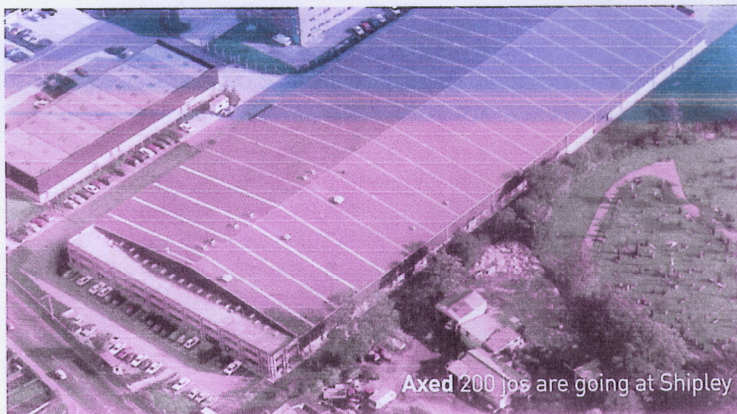
## Sign of the times Job losses hit lighting industry

**GE Lighting** has confirmed that it will phase in a shorter working week for thousands of Hungarian workers across about 40 per cent of its assembly line employees and eight factories.

**Thorn Lighting** is to cut up to 85 jobs in Spennymoor. It is believed that 20 of the posts will come from the shop floor, with the remainder from administration departments.

**ACDC** has laid off some workers on temporary or short-term contracts at Barrowford according to local reports. A consultation on workforce requirements is ongoing.

**Zumtobel** said when announcing its third quarter (November to January) results that sales were down 13.6 per cent and that its global workforce had dropped from 7,921 to 7,575 in the period. CEO Andreas Ludwig predicted: "We will have to let people go at most of our locations."



Most of the lamp-making equipment is being shipped to Havells' site at Neemrana in Rajasthan, about 70 miles from Delhi.

A Havells Sylvania spokesman said redundancies would be gradual as production is moved abroad in phases. "They are going to be staggered over a period of time because we are trying to keep production running as long as possible."

Darren Spencer, a 44-year-old machine setter at the factory, told his local newspaper, the *Telegraph & Argus*, that it was the end of an era. He said: "There is a mood of sadness more than anything else. A lot of people have been here for a long time."

The Shipley factory was established in 1980 and was on the site of a older plant that belonged to Endura, an independent company that supplied fluorescent tubes to all the big lamp brands. Under Sylvania, it became the home of the Lynx, an acclaimed compact fluorescent brand. As sales soared and prices fell, CFLs became commodity products and margins dropped.

The only lamp factory of any size in Britain is Philips' site in Hamilton, Scotland, which makes both high pressure and low pressure sodium lamps.

Delhi-based Havells bought Sylvania for £155 million in March 2007.



Boost India's lamp-making industry will benefit from the switch