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Novartis announces job cuts in Britain

The Basel-based pharmaceutical giant Novartis has announced plans to shed about 500 jobs in Britain over the course of the next two years.

The jobs will be lost at the Horsham site in southern England. Novartis said on Wednesday that it would end manufacturing there entirely, and relocate some of the research and development currently conducted at the site.

Novartis has 950 staff in Horsham, out of a total of more than 3,500 in Britain as a whole.

The move comes as the patents on some of Novartis' best selling medicines approach their expiry date, forcing the group to streamline its business.

The job cuts in Britain are part of worldwide cutbacks by the Novartis, which has a total workforce of about 119,000.

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