

## Zeledyne hope rests on sale rumor

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Zeledyne Tulsa employees hope a sale of the company could revive the glass factory and save some of the 210 jobs slated to be cut.

After the announcement last month that Zeledyne LLC would cut more than a third of its workers in southeast Tulsa, union officials say a buyer who could make multimillion-dollar investments may be the best way to save the plant.

Meanwhile, Zeledyne executives confirmed that they are reviewing the business now that it has left the architectural glass industry.

A Zeledyne spokeswoman, Della DiPietro, said in a statement: "As reported earlier, Zeledyne is exiting the commercial glass segment, due to a significant decline in architectural glass revenues. With such a decision, it is prudent to take a step back and look at our overall business and strategic options."

The company has had two rumored suitors. Zeledyne declined to comment on a sale.

Fred Dorrell, the president of Local 1895 of the United Auto Workers, said the workers want to keep making glass, regardless of who runs the company.

"I don't believe that we're in the wrong business," he said. "We have good workers here. We just need someone that is going to invest in Tulsa."

Dorrell estimates that the factory needs more than \$20 million in upgrades to be competitive.

Zeledyne also informed the union this week that it plans to keep workers three weeks past its March 28 layoff notice date and continue running one of its large glass-making furnaces during that time.

Zeledyne was created in 2008 by Robert Price from the former Ford Glass plant. Union documents show that employees agreed to wage and benefit concessions and, in turn, Price promised to try to keep the factory operating until 2015.


Zeledyne made a push into architectural glass, making windows for commercial buildings as the real estate market boomed. But a real estate slump eroded the demand for such glass, and Zeledyne decided last month to quit that business.

The remaining 320 workers focus on cutting glass made elsewhere.

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