

Delving deeper into the reasons for the Hynix plant closure

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Hynix officials said on Wednesday that they decided to close the Korean company's only plant in the United States because of plunging computer memory chip prices and the industry's rapid move away from the dimension of silicon wafers used at the Eugene plant to make computer and consumer-product chips. To upgrade the Eugene facility to the new industry standard would be too costly, up to \$4 billion, company officials told state economic development officials.

That isn't just a corporate line, industry and economic development officials say.

"I think it's as straight up as Hynix explained it," said Bob Merritt, a memory market analyst with Semico Research, based in Phoenix, Ariz. "It was an older facility. It would be expensive to bring it up to par with what they needed."

Read more in Sunday's Register-Guard.

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