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# Shell to cut thousands of IT jobs

OIL GIANT Royal Dutch Shell plans to shed thousands of jobs in the latest cost-cutting move by the industry.



COST-CUTTING: Plans were leaked in an email

It is in talks on an outsourcing deal that would transfer a large part of its information technology division to three separate companies.

The division has 3,600 staff, and it is thought Shell would keep 400 while the remaining 3,200 posts would be outsourced. Shell employs about 108,000 worldwide.

Consultations with affected workers are due to start early in the New Year, with the new arrangements due to begin on July 1.

Details of the plans were outlined in a leaked email from Shell's vice-president of IT infrastructure, Goh Swee-Chen.

Her message said the Anglo-Dutch giant had selected three companies, EDS, AT&T and T-Systems, to

take part in the outsourcing programme.

She told staff: "I acknowledge that there will still be uncertainty as we are working through the finalisation of contracts, open resourcing and transition preparations."

The message was passed to the campaigning website [royaldutchshell.com](http://www.royaldutchshell.com) (<http://www.royaldutchshell.com>), sometimes used by staff to air grievances.

A company spokeswoman refused to comment on the email but confirmed the outsourcing plans.

Shell's arch-rival BP last month announced plans to offload its US petrol stations, affecting 10,000 staff.