ZF Lenksysteme provides completely different steering systems to the M version of the BMW Z4 and regular Z4s. BMW uses the letter M on low-volume, high-powered versions of its production cars. The increased requirement for steering feel and feedback on the Z4 M meant that ZF Lenksysteme was asked to deliver hydraulic power steering for the coupe

and convertible versions of the new car. ZF Lenksysteme, which is a joint venture between Germany's ZF Friedrichshafen and Robert Bosch, delivers electric power steering to all other Z4 cars. ZF Friedrichshafen makes five-speed automatic and six-speed manual transmissions for non-M versions of the Z4. The Z4 M only gets the six-speed manual transmission,

which is mated to BMW's 3.2-liter, I-6 gasoline engine. BMW makes the engine in Munich. All Z4s are built at BMW's US plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina. BMW made 19,830 units of the Z4 at the plant last year, according to the Automotive News Europe Global Market Data Book.

- Alex Graham

