Kolbenschmidt Pierburg will expand its US operations.

The company is in the process of expanding its plant in Düsseldorf, Germany, which will increase its size of its factory in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. Themland Pierburg will move into the expanded plant, which will be fully operational by early 2003.

The supplier’s Pierburg division will take over a building that is currently shared with K.S. Bearings.

The Pierburg unit makes emission control parts, throttle bodies and oil, coolant and secondary air pumps. The unit employs 120 people.

The KS Bearings division makes engine bearings. It will employ 60 people once the expansion is complete.

Tenneco supplies Toyota with filters.

Tenneco will supply retrofit diesel particulate filters for Toyota Motor Europe’s diesel cars.

The US supplier said production started in May at its plant in Ryton, Poland, after six months of engineering and product development on behalf of Toyota.

Tenneco produces emissions control and ride-control systems.

Schefenacker buys Engellmann.

German supplier Schefenacker has bought the insolvent Engellmann Group.

Engellmann’s main products are exterior and interior mirror systems, fuel caps and exterior and interior door handle systems. Its customers include Volkswagen and Opel.

Schefenacker acquired all Engellmann’s automotive assets including factories in Germany, Spain and Mexico.

“With the Engellmann acquisition we will strengthen our global position in our core mirrors business,” said Hans-Joachim Lange, Schefenacker CEO, in a statement.

Schefenacker produces rear vision systems, sound systems and rear and interior lighting. Its 2005 sales were €130 million.

Z4 M has hydraulic instead of electric power steering

ZF Lenksysteme provides completely different steering systems to the Z4 M version of the BMW Z4 and regular Z4L. BMW uses the letter M on line-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 regular versions of the Z4. The Z4 M only gets the six-speed manual transmission, which is mated to BMW’s 3.2-liter 16-valve 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