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Auto supplier to transfer its distribution to Midlink

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COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP — As it consolidates operations from South Bend, Ind., to its North American headquarters in Portage, automotive supplier Mann + Hummel USA Inc. is taking on a bunch of new space at the Midlink Business Park.

The maker of plastic intake-manifolds, air-filter housings and air-induction systems, announced Friday that it will lease 67,000 square feet of space in

the Midlink East Building on Sprinkle Road, just south of Interstate 94. The company has been transferring for the past two months its distribution and warehousing operation from its 6400 S. Sprinkle Road site, but Friday's announcement makes the transition official, a Midlink spokesman said.



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Mann + Hummel USA Inc. is transferring its distribution and warehousing operations from its longtime Portage location to the Midlink Business Park, shown here on Sprinkle Road, south of I-94 in Comstock Township.

Midlink is one of the few things between Mann + Hummel and I-94, so transferring its distribution to Midlink makes sense, said Midlink Business Park President David W. Smith. The company is about 1 mile from Midlink.

"We were outgrowing our Portage facility and realized that Midlink, with its flexible space and close proximity, was an affordable alternative to building," Mann + Hummel Inc. Chief Operating Officer Ronald Randall stated in a press release.

Mann + Hummel, whose parent company is located in Germany, already has 10 workers at Midlink and hopes to grow that. The company has about 100 workers at its 6400 S.

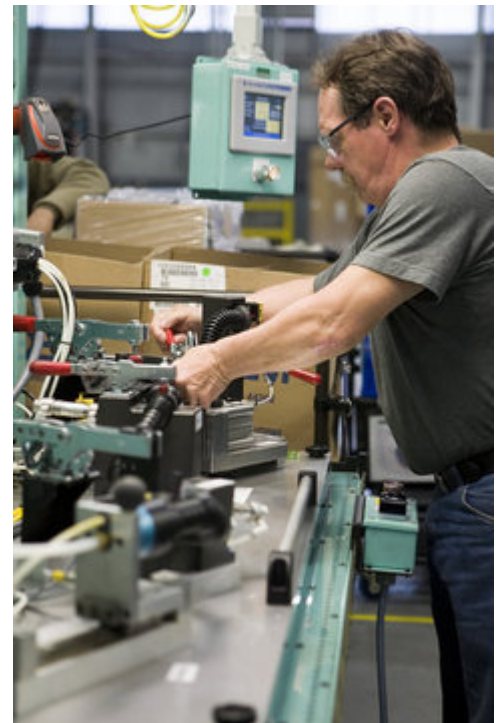
Sprinkle Road plant but has been working to integrate 71 others there as its closes a facility in South Bend. Of the 71 jobs, 52 are to be employees transferring from Indiana and 19 are to be new hires.

“For this environment and for everything that is going on,” Midlink President Smith said, speaking of the downturn in the state’s auto industry and the overall economic malaise, “we are just delighted to continue to be successful.”

He said obviously there are firms like Mann + Hummel finding opportunities in the dour economy and their expansion in Comstock Township is a success for the company, for the greater community, and for Midlink.

New work that Mann + Hummel has been contracted to do over the past year includes the production of air-induction systems for the Chevrolet Impala and battery frames for the Chevrolet Volt hybrid electric car. It has also announced plans to invest nearly \$20 million in its Sprinkle Road facility.

The use of space in Midlink, whose two large buildings area a total reconfiguration of a former General Motors metal stamping plant, puts all but about 200,000 square feet of the 849,000-square-foot Midlink East Building in use.



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Mann+Hummel USA Inc. employee Mike Maloney assembles a sound pipe that will be used in the new Ford Mustang GT in this April 20, 2009 file photo. Mann + Hummel is in the throes of consolidating work from its South Bend, Ind., plant to its Portage location.