



EDDY MONTVILLE/Rockford Register Star

CEO Robert Schroeder (from left), machinist Ly Neuyen and co-owner Ray Harrington examine a bearing at Pacific Bearing, 6402 Rockton Road, Roscoe.

Pacific Bearing expands into former Coltec building

■ **In Roscoe:** The company is leasing 100,000 square feet for six years with plans to buy the facility eventually.

By **GEORGETTE BRAUN**

Rockford Register Star

ROSCOE — Pacific Bearing has moved from Rockford into the nearly empty home of the former Coltec Industries — an expansion that will allow the company to double its staff to 300 people in two years.

Pacific Bearing is leasing 100,000 square feet of the 150,000-square-foot facility for six years with plans eventually to buy the building from Coltec, said Robert Schroeder, the company's chief executive officer. He owns the business with his wife, Donna Schroeder, who is vice president.

Daley Inc. also leases 50,000 square feet of the building, mak-

ing automated assembly equipment with 60 workers.

The Roscoe facility had housed Coltec's FMD ignition systems and its Delavan controls business. Some of the operations were consolidated with operations in Kentucky.

Pacific Bearing, a 15-year-old business that started in Rockford with three employees, had been leasing 55,000 square feet of space at 200 Quaker Road.

Pacific Bearing makes self-lubricated bearings in sizes from a quarter of an inch to 12 inches that are used to support turning or sliding motions in packaging machines. It also imports wheels and tracks that accommodate such motions.

Schroeder said he expects the company's annual sales to also double in two years to \$30 million.

The reason for the growth, he said, is that more companies are having more machines do production work because it's hard to

find qualified workers when the jobless rate is low.

"With the labor market being tight, people are automating factories," he said.

To get a job

What: Pacific Bearing will add 150 jobs in two years.

Job types: Openings will include spots for machinists, secretaries, engineers and managers, among others.

To apply: Send resume to Pacific Bearing, P.O. Box 6980, Rockford, IL 61125

Athletic field

Pacific Bearing co-owner Robert Schroeder said he will help develop some of the 50 acres on the company's new Roscoe plant property for use as public soccer fields and a baseball diamond. More information will be available as plans develop, he said.