In fewer than 20 years, BE&K, Incorporated, of Birmingham, Alabama, has soared to the top of its field, under the guidance of C. Peter Bolvig, William F. Edmonds, and Theodore C. Kennedy. Rated 32nd among the nation's 400,000 industrial engineering firms, BE&K established itself as the premier shutdown contractor in the pulp and paper industry, with a 103-day replacement of a newsprint machine at Southland Paper in Lufkin, Texas, in 1975.

Formed in 1972, this Alabama-based company currently has 1,000 full-time employees and 10,000 field employees. The firm was a pioneer in the merit shop movement, which has been implemented in more than 70 percent of the industry.

Known for innovative ideas and new engineering methods, BE&K introduced the tube conveyor to the paper industry in 1978; the device has already become commonplace in the pulp and paper industry. Component staging, also pioneered by BE&K, earned a Marksman Award in 1982 for its value to the construction industry. BE&K has been cited for excellence by Forbes, Specifying Engineers, and Design and Construction Magazine. In 1989, the company joined Engineering News-Record's Billion Dollar Club with a ranking as the 19th largest contractor in the U.S.

The purchase in 1982 of Brazos Construction Company and in 1983 of Danco Construction Company brought further growth to the company. BE&K Communications in Atlanta, Georgia, was formed to handle fiber optics, cable television, and other communications projects, and in 1985, BE&K went international through a joint venture with Polar Construction Company of Helsinki, Finland, now called Polar-BEK. BE&K also has offices in Mobile, Alabama, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and an industrial maintenance division.

BE&K has been responsible for a number of record projects, including the largest grassroots recycled newsprint mill, at Southeast Paper Manufacturing Company in Dublin, Georgia; the largest coated-paper machine, at Covington, Virginia; the largest kraft recovery boiler, at ITT Rayonier in Jesup, Georgia; and the $423,000,000 "Project Gamecock," at Bowater Carolina Company's Catawba, South Carolina mill. Other projects have included a state-of-the-art steel mill expansion for USS/Posco Industries and a major paper mill expansion for Weyerhaeuser Corporation in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada.

In 1989, Boise Cascade named BE&K as general contractor for its paper mill expansion at International Falls, Minnesota, the largest BE&K project to date and the largest single industrial investment in Minnesota's history.

Since 1972, BE&K, Incorporated, has brought recognition and significant economic development to the city of Birmingham and to the state of Alabama. It is widely recognized as an innovator and leader in the engineering and construction industry throughout the world today.