The byproduct of living in a digital age means less demand for paper to hold the written word. On the other hand, evolving technology also creates an increase in the need for paper that can withstand shipping and handling. As a result, the successful manufacturer must be both diversified and specialized.

Operations must be diversified to seamlessly upgrade, re-tool, add, or change-out machine and multiple converting lines or even get a brand-new plant up and running.

The effective company is also one that has the specialized manpower in place to keep equipment efficiently converting raw material into end products such as pulp, paper, board or cellulose-based materials. Southern States Millwrights fill that diversified, specialized need.

The 11-state service area of the Southern States Millwright Regional Council (SSMRC) means pulp and paper plants have access to SSMRC contractors who have the power of mobility within the council. This gives contractors a deep pool of safe, productive, highly skilled professionals to pull from for any sized job in any location. It also allows them to respond to emergencies quickly with specialized talent.

“As trends emerge and standards evolve, we keep pace with customized training to meet changing industry demands. We have the ability to provide specific training needs — at the plant or at the training center — and deliver it in a timely, cost-effective way to keep productivity humming,” said Wayne Jennings, executive secretary-treasurer of the SSMRC. “We are trained to not only work according to specs to get systems up and running quickly but to also follow through with maintenance so that equipment works efficiently.”

“We take ownership in a project with our contractors, because when they succeed, we succeed.” — Wayne Jennings, SSMRC

Southern States Millwrights train on the most advanced equipment and tools in the industry, using a standardized curriculum. Regardless of location, they all possess the same elite skills in sawmill, mechanical and bearing maintenance, installation and replacement, precision alignment, troubleshooting and repair of product moving systems, new machine installations, rebuilds, refurbishing, modification of paper machines, pumps and motors, dust collectors, conveyors, rigging, fabrication, burning, welding, aerial lift, coupling install, forklift, machinery/optical/laser alignment, paper machines and power/mechanical transmission.

Southern States Millwrights are trained to stress a professional work ethic and provide leadership training to prevent late starts, early quits and long breaks. Daily deliverables include safe conduct, positive attitude, consistent communications, professional appearance, scheduling flexibility and outstanding customer service.

“We take ownership in a project with our contractors, because when they succeed, we succeed,” Jennings explained. “We understand the value of our contractor partnerships and successes, and we bring value to each and every job site.”

For more information, visit www.southernstatesmillwrights.org, follow the council online or subscribe to its news service by texting SSMRC to 24587.