

Astrapak

Manley Diedloff, Group Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer

Astrapak Limited and its subsidiaries are manufacturers and distributors of an extensive range of rigid and flexible plastic packaging products. The group has manufacturing facilities in all the main centres of South Africa and employs more than 3000 people.

Our group went through a phase of extensive restructuring and during that time, at the beginning of 2014, our FD resigned. I was able to continue with the role myself as I've put a strong finance team in place, but we also have extensive project work on the go and that created a need for additional capacity. One example of project work is the closure of a plant – we have to break up the plant and incorporate some of the assets into other parts of the business, and this creates a lot of financial modelling and related work.

I can't get bogged down in that level of administrative work because I need to be running the actual project. The FD Centre assisted us with placements who understand finance and business modelling and who can operate at a level that didn't require me to give continuous input and guidance. Dave Kelly came to us initially as a temporary placement and is now permanent, and Zane von Wildernath was contracted to us for five months to put some new systems in place.

Deciding whether to bring in a part-time or a full-time resource is driven by internal requirements and the decision will vary from case to case. In our business when there is extensive ad hoc project work it works really well to bring in highly skilled resources from the FD Centre on a contract basis who can get on with the job without extensive input.