

Case study: Interim

The challenge

G Costa is a wholly owned subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc, the worldwide conglomerate with its roots in the British Sugar Corporation. It has a turnover of £60m from importing products under the Blue Dragon brand, and supplying supermarkets and foodservice outlets in the UK and abroad.

G Costa needed a Technical Manager for its two factories in Wales who would become part of a project team to assist in the factories' closure and eventual transfer of the business to Eastern Europe.

The solution

Steve Findley, a Hutchinson Interim Manager with twenty years experience in the Food Industry, was brought in to oversee the opening of the new factory. He dealt with operational technical issues, including BRC Accreditation and the introduction of new products and new customers. He was also the first point of contact for staff while settlement terms were resolved. Steve went on to recruit and build a team in Poland, provide input into the design and layout of the factory and oversee the development of the quality management system for the new site.

The feedback

Steve used his skills in problem solving and managing change. He had to hit the ground running to deal with a closely identified task and provide long term solutions to problems that arose when the project was underway.

Steve said: "Regular trips to the site and involvement with Polish local authorities and suppliers generated a lot of work. Nevertheless, the project ran on schedule and I completed the tasks set by the assignment."

