Merrick Abel is from Johannesburg, South Africa. He completed his BA(Hons) at the University of Natal and then an MBA at the University of Cape Town’s Graduate School of Business.

After graduation, he gained experience in property development and property finance. From 1988 to 1998, Merrick then developed the APW Group, which focused on the wholesale and retail distribution of specialized automotive components and on the engineering and remanufacturing of heavy duty automotive and industrial engines and engine components. This business operated throughout South Africa, and included agency agreements with original equipment manufacturers and suppliers of blue chip automotive brands in North America, Europe and the Far East.

In 1997 he founded the Privest Group (now Primeserv Group Limited) which was successfully listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 1998. Since then the Group has become a leading integrated Human Capital Services provider to major companies, multinationals and parastatals in Southern Africa. Merrick has served as CEO since 1997 and as Executive Chairman of the Group from 2000 to 2003.