



AssetCare Counts #17

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► Rope Access and SLOFEC delivers an efficient, cost effective inspection project

Inspection of plant process piping is an important part of asset integrity management. In most cases, access to perform these inspections is difficult and requires extensive and costly scaffold erection. Traditionally these inspections are performed using conventional manual ultrasonic thickness techniques to measure remaining wall thickness, as well as defect assessments such as MIC / SRB corrosion surveys. Such inspections are slow, taking many weeks to complete, while working from scaffolding that must be erected and kept in place for the duration. This can result in significant costs for the inspection.

Recently ALS were approached to provide an alternative, reliable and cost effective inspection strategy that delivers results with an equal to, or better, POD (Probability of Detection) when compared to the traditional inspection methods. ALS suggested using a SLOFEC pipe scanning system as a reliable screening tool, supported by focused manual ultrasonic scanning. ALS also suggested that access to the piping could be provided through an in-house specialist rope access team. The ALS Rope Access Team has both Level II and Level III certified and experienced personnel performing these services.



Rope Access Technician using a SLOFEC scanner



Rope Access Technicians pulling a SLOFEC scanner along a pipe

Safe execution of the task was a priority for both ALS and the client. A comprehensive Job Safety and Environmental Analysis (JSEA) was developed by the inspection team, which was presented to the client for approval prior to the inspection taking place. ALS also addressed the technical requirements relating to the inspection by combining a reliable pipe screening strategy with targeted ultrasonic measurements to achieve the required inspection objective.



SLOFEC equipment secured with a safety lanyard

ALS was able to complete the project in a timely manner without any incidents, deliver the required technical outcome, all in a cost effective manner. A win for all.

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