

Alternative Access by Rope



Client	Drax Power
Project	Term Maintenance – 2011-2016
Location	East – Selby
Size of Contract	Significant
Duration	5 Years
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high level of rope access activity – continuously • Additional services being added regularly • Rescue service provided on site in addition to the normal activities

THE CHALLENGE

Being prepared to challenge the norm and consider cost effective alternative ways of working is an essential requisite of the criteria for “continuous improvement”. Examples of using Rope Access techniques to deliver time and cost savings are shown below:

This Service has continued grow since commencement on site with new challenges being faced every week for the Rope Access team to provide a solution to. The service has grown on site from 3 rope access personnel in 2011 to 22 currently consisting of:

- 8 level 3 Rope Access Technicians
- 6 level 2 Rope Access Technicians
- 8 level 1 Rope Access Technicians

ALTRAD SERVICES' SOLUTION

One specific and innovative use of rope access services was the 350 NDT inspections inside of one of the unit absorbers, which resulted in a direct cost saving to Drax of circa £43,000 on previous methodologies (large birdcage scaffold). But more importantly the return of the unit to safe operation, which was achieved in 6 days, 8 days sooner than would have previously been expected.

This resulted in 192 hours (8 days) of additional generation capability which on a 660, Megawatt Unit and at £50 per megawatt hour provided £6.3m of additional revenue for Drax Power.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

When Altrad were awarded the term contract at Drax Power one of the key deliverable expectations was for the introduction of more cost-effective access methods – to reduce the high levels of conventional tube and clip scaffolding which had historically been utilised.

Rope had been utilised on site but not to any great extent and there were many opportunities where significant height works were planned that Rope could make a significant difference in both time, effort and cost.

The list below presents the range of access methods being utilised on the power plant which is in stark contrast to the utilization in October 2011 when the contract started:

	Current utilization	Utilization at contract start date
Conventional tube and clip scaffold	24%	99%
System scaffold	28%	1%
Rope access	32%	
Razor Decks/MEWPS	16%	

ABOUT ALTRAD SERVICES

Altrad Services is an international leader in the provision of critical industrial services principally to the energy and natural resources sectors.

Our multi-disciplinary service offering includes access systems, insulation, specialist coatings, passive fire protection, refractory linings, environmental services, oil and gas storage tanks and heat exchanger replacement and refurbishment.