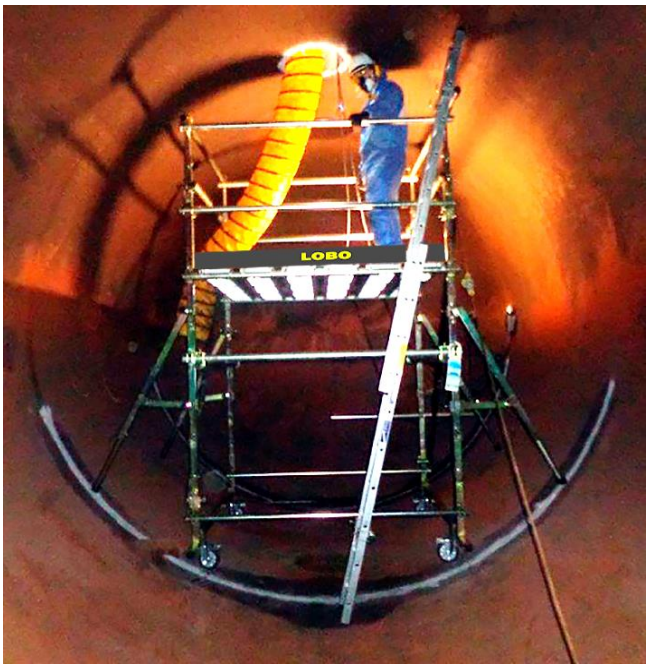
LOBO Systems Ltd - Valero Energy Oil Refinery

Within the refinery, scaffolding is used to provide preventative and reactive maintenance, inspection and operational tasks. For the last 30 years, this has been provided by an outsourced scaffolding company. However, rising labour costs continue to account for an ever-increasing expense year on year for Valero.



This has driven the site Refinery Services Department to review the scaffold and access requirements thoroughly to identify safe and suitable lower-cost alternative solutions to traditional scaffolding. During this research, the LOBO System was identified, and a sample order, together with the approved certified training package, was purchased.

Having received the LOBO System pilot order in 2013, a focus was placed to use it on all works, excluding the very high designed access applications.

The plan was to use the LOBO System for many of the jobs on routine maintenance that require working at height; Management estimated that as much as 75% of works needed a platform height of 6 meters or below.
Other products or scaffolding would be used for the high residual applications.

Conformities
EU: BS EN1004:2004 BS 1139 partes 3 & 4,
USA: Complies to OSHA CFR 29 1926 450-454 & sub part L & codified under 29 CFR 1910.27(a).
Canada: CSA Z797-09 and 269.2 (M87 and -16)
Australia: AS/NZS 1576.1:2010 and AS/NZS 1576.3:2015 Tower

Routine Maintenance Access

The LOBO System can be assembled without the use of any tools in minutes, safely, and to any shape or size and is not reliant on the scaffolding company to return and remove the system after the maintenance task has been completed, thereby reducing hire costs. Valero continues to use several different access systems for maintenance around the Pembroke Refinery site. Scaffolding costs alone at Pembroke are approximately £300k a month, and Valero has identified significant benefits in deploying the LOBO System since they first purchased in 2013.

Conclusion - Cost Saving

In 2014 the LOBO System was used for around 8% of Valero's applications; this increased to 15% by 2015 and more than 20% in 2016.

Official figures at Valero Energy, Pembroke UK, total spend on LOBO Systems around £600,000-00

Annual Scaffolding Spend £3,600,000	Percentage of Jobs Performed by LOBO	Annual Spend On LOBO	Annual Saving
2014 Actual	8%	£ 170,000	£ 288,000
2015 Actual	15%	£ 30,000	£ 540,000
2016 Actual	20%	£ 23,000	£ 720,000
2017 Actual	25%	£ 43,000	£ 900,000
2018 Actual	40%	£ 81,000	£ 1,440,000
2020 Actual	45%	£ 39,000	£ 1,620,000
2020 Actual	Refinery Outage	£ 214,000	£ 2.620,000
	TOTAL 7 YEAR SPEND / SAVING	£ 600,000	£ 8,128,000

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Significant cost savings have been made at the refinery in terms of labour cost and the reduction of maintenance downtime.

In house maintenance crews can assemble the system quickly and safely around, under or above the plant, even in restricted areas. As a result, maintenance tasks can be better controlled, and outsourced scaffolding labour costs can be significantly reduced without compromising safety.

What are the three key benefits of the LOBO System for Valero?

1. An alternative option, cost-saving & labour reduction.
2. Very easy structures to build & train others to use/create.
3. Safe, cost-effective alternative access solution.

Statement from Valero Energy Integrity coordinator civil, scaffolding, Insulations, coatings

If you could go back in time and talk to yourself before agreeing to work with LOBO, what would you say?

"You will not regret the long-term benefits of alternative access provision which can be constructed & used by a diverse group. "

Our goal is to have a similar impact on other Valero sites across the world.

www.lobosystems.com

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