

LOBO Systems Ltd - Valero Energy Oil Refinery



Valero acquired the Pembroke refinery in South West Wales in 2011, marking Valero's entry into the European refining market. Opened in 1964, the refinery is one of Western Europe's largest, most complex refineries. It makes products including gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and petrochemical feedstocks.

Scaffolding provides access to preventative and reactive maintenance, inspection and operational tasks within the refinery. For the last 30 years, this has been provided by an outsourced scaffolding company, and 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 completely to identify safe and suitable lower-cost alternative solutions to traditional scaffolding. The LOBO System was identified during this research, and a sample order and the approved training package

were purchased.

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

www.lobosystems.com

Conformities

EU: BS EN1004-1:2020 & EU: BS EN1004-2:2021 (BS 1139)

USA: OSHA CFR 29 1926 450-454 & subpart L & codified under 29 CFR 1910.27(a).

Canada: CSA Z797-18 and 269.2 -M87

Australia: AS/NZS 1576.1:2010 and AS/NZS 1576.3:2015 Tower

ISO 9001 : 2015
CERTIFIED 213858



Vessel Internal Work

The plan was to use the LOBO System for many of the jobs on routine maintenance that require working at height; it was 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.

Routine Maintenance Access

The LOBO System can be assembled without using any tools in minutes, safely and in 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 in the region of \$300k a month, and Valero has identified



significant benefits in deploying the LOBO System since they first purchased it 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 approved by 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 YEARS SPEND / SAVING	\$ 600,000	\$ 8,128,000

www.lobosystems.com

Conformities

EU: BS EN1004-1:2020 & EU: BS EN1004-2:2021 (BS 1139)

USA: OSHA CFR 29 1926 450-454 & subpart L & codified under 29 CFR 1910.27(a).

Canada: CSA Z797-18 and 269.2 -M87

Australia: AS/NZS 1576.1:2010 and AS/NZS 1576.3:2015 Tower

ISO 9001 : 2015
CERTIFIED 213858

As can be seen, by the figures, well over \$1,500,000 of scaffolding costs were saved in the initial 3-year period from 2014 to 2016, with over \$8,100,000 saved in the 7 years to the end of 2020.

Significant cost savings have been made at the refinery regarding labour costs 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. Maintenance tasks can be better controlled, and outsourced scaffolding labour costs can be significantly reduced without compromising safety.



Online product demonstration available
Full certified worldwide onsite training.
Technical support and assessments.

www.lobosystems.com

Conformities

EU: BS EN1004-1:2020 & EU: BS EN1004-2:2021 (BS 1139)

USA: OSHA CFR 29 1926 450-454 & subpart L & codified under 29 CFR 1910.27(a).

Canada: CSA Z797-18 and 269.2 -M87

Australia: AS/NZS 1576.1:2010 and AS/NZS 1576.3:2015 Tower

ISO 9001 : 2015
CERTIFIED 213858