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LOBO Advanced Platform System reduces labour cost by $\pm\,$ 3.5m and more at Pembroke Oil Refinery

Robert Bokros*

Robert Bokros at Lobo Systems, UK

Theme of Press Release

A British producer of a state-of-the-art-scaffolding system has won a contract to supply Valero Energy based in San Antonio, Texas, United States. Within the refinery, scaffolding is used to provide access for preventative and reactive maintenance, inspection and operational tasks. For the last 30 years this has been provided by an out sourced scaffolding company, and with rising labour costs continues to account for an ever increasing expense year on year for Valero. This has driven the site Refinery Services Department to completely review the scaffold and access requirements 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 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 and with an improvement in health and safety performance. The plan was to use the LOBO System for as many of the jobs on routine maintenance that require working at height as is possible; it was estimated that as much as 75% of works needed a platform height of 4 metres/15 Feet or below (Table 1).

LOBO Systems, Manager Director, Robert Bokros comments "The huge cost savings derived from the use of the LOBO System, has once again been proven beyond doubt and we advise any oil refineries who wish to reduce their labour costs to adopt our product." "LOBO was chosen due to its relative low cost in comparison to traditional scaffolding with regard to material and labour cost. The 'self erect' element of the LOBO System was a tremendous draw for the refinery and one that Valero is keen to explore further. Innovation is something Valero as a company encourage and LOBO, in particular Mr Robert Bokros, has worked with us to develop solutions for Access where other vendors have failed, current design in progress is the design of clamps to aid in the maintenance of fin fans to access the plenum chambers they reside in." 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 systems after the maintenance task has been completed, which can increase hire costs.

Monthly Scaffolding Spend 300,00	% Spend on LOBO	Total Annual Saving, money NOT spent on Scaffolding	Cumulative Annual Saving
2013 Savings	8%	£300,000 x 8% x 12 = £288,000	£288,000
2015 Savings	15%	£300,000 x 15% x 12 = £540,000	£828,000
2016 Expected Savings	20%	£300,000 x 25% x 12 = £900,000	£2,448,000
2017 Projection	25%	£300,000 x 25% x 12 = £900,000	£2,448,000
2018 Projection	30%	$£300,000 \times 30\% \times 12 = £1,080,000$	£3,528,000

Table 1: Official figures approved by Valero Energy, Pembroke UK, total spend on LOBO Systems around £200,000-00.

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Received January 20, 2016; Accepted January 23, 2016; Published January 25, 2016

Citation: Bokros R (2016) LOBO Advanced Platform System reduces labour cost by £ 3.5m and more at Pembroke Oil Refinery. Oil Gas Res 2: i101. doi:10.4172/2472-0518.1000i101

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