



Peter Ottjes, Plastics Dow Terneuzen Turnaround Leader:

## "Not finished in ten but in six days"

Peter Ottjes was responsible for the replacement of the pipes in the Flare at Dow. "We could not anchor on to the Flare and, therefore, erecting scaffolding was not an option. BIS suggested the Rope Access alternative. We decided to use Rope Access due to the confidence we have in BIS together with their many references in this area. These employees of BIS can perform various activities during a project and we have also made a lot of use of this. BIS does this safely, flexibly and quickly: mainly due to the efforts of BIS, the project was delivered in six days instead of the planned ten. I'm extremely satisfied about this."

A team of in-house contracts was working during this project. Peter Ottjes: "BIS ROB had a coordinating position. As the mechanical contractor, they are responsible for the pipework. Mammoet, as the contractor for heavy-duty transport and hoisting work, had the same coordinating position. These two contractors were given a central task because they actually formed the 'core business' for the project. BIS also played an important role with its many activities. They delivered an excellent team effort that ensured that

everything run extremely smoothly. A very important factor within this context is that I've already been working with BIS for 20 years. They know exactly what I need of them and they deliver time and time again. I think that this is the reason why we can complete this type of project so successfully."

Peter Ottjes is totally convinced of the advantages of Rope Access: "Delivering this project early is, of course, a great advantage for us together with the lower costs. In addition, the Rope Access employees can perform many activities and they are extremely flexible. Working with Rope Access based on the strict Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA) regulations takes place completely safely. A BIS safety supervisor was also present during the activities who kept a close eye on everything together with our safety colleagues. This also ensured that confidence was high."



## Time and cost savings with Rope Access at Dow



### Specifications

- Customer: Dow
- Period: 2010
- Location: Flare Stack FS 1081 at the Dowlex polyethylene factory, Terneuzen (the Netherlands) site
- Project: Ensuring accessibility. (Un)installing insulation. Assistance with hoisting out and in of 20" and 4" pipes. Installing 2 x 1" pipes and pulling cables into the Flare Stack.
- Solution: Execution in an integrated manner with Rope Access supplemented by mechanical activities. Enabling faster delivery and lower costs.

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**BIS has executed multiple professional disciplines in an integrated manner with its Rope Access employees when replacing pipework for a Flare Stack. This took place at Dow in Terneuzen. The project could be delivered more quickly and cheaply because Rope Access was used where the quality and safety were continuously safeguarded.**



Dow has a Flare in service at its Dowlex polyethylene factory in Terneuzen that has a length of 80 m, the FS 1081. It emerged during an inspection that two pipes with diameters of 4" and 20" and that are used over the full height of the Flare needed replacing. A team of in-house contractors at Dow was instructed to realise the replacement. BIS was given the instruction to take charge of the accessibility to the Flare, to uninstall the insulation and to reinstall it again after new pipes had been installed.

**Decision to use Rope Access**

BIS usually provides access at Dow by erecting scaffolding. Scaffolding was not an option when working on this Flare. Anchoring to the Flare was not possible and, therefore, the safety of the scaffolding erection could not be guaranteed.

After performing an analysis of the required time, costs and requirements for quality and safety, BIS recommended to solve this situation through Rope Access. The employees who master these rope techniques could be put to work quickly and safely and could execute multiple professional disciplines in an integrated manner. In addition, they managed to achieve a huge advantage in terms of time and money for Dow since scaffolding did not have to be erected and dismantled.

**Many activities**

The best possible focus on quality and safety was achieved by deciding to use BIS Rope Access. This has the highest priority when working in the industry. The activities are based on strict IRATA regulations. Built-in kick-off meetings, job safety analyses and work plans are linked to this.

BIS Rope Access employees were deployed during the project to execute multiple professional disciplines in an integrated manner. They formed the core of the activities because they were regularly asked for their support and assistance. In addition to the defined instruction for BIS, the scope for Rope Access was extended to include mechanical activities. All pipe supports, for example, were removed that had been installed around the pipes every 4 metres. The pipe sections and electricity cables were also removed. Next, BIS installed the new pipes (including supports) and the electricity cables. The pipes were again insulated after installation.

**Rope Access advantages with regard to this project**

- **Working safely:** based on strict IRATA regulations. Kick-off meetings are also held on a daily basis as well as job safety analyses and work plans being linked to the project. BIS safety supervisor continuously available on site.
- **Multiple professional disciplines executed in an integrated manner:** Insulation (un)instalment and assistance when hoisting in and out. Pipes and cables were removed and, next, new pipes and cables were installed. All pipe supports were removed and repositioned afterwards.
- **Delivered ahead of schedule and, therefore, huge saving in costs was made:** Not ready in ten days but in six.
- **Quality continuously safeguarded:** due to professional attitude of Rope Access employees.

