



Press Release: February 2011

OCEANEERING – VARIABLE HEIGHT STEPS FOR SAFE ACCESS TO CABLE WINDING DRUMS



Falls from height continue to be one of the most common causes of major and fatal injuries to workers; with over 2,000 fall and trip injuries reported to HSE each year by the construction industry alone. Therefore managing the risks of working at height continues to be an important issue. As well as the other essential working at height practices such as the correct and efficient

selections of personal protection equipment (PPE), safe access platforms play a significant part in keeping persons safe at work and should be carefully considered and implemented effectively into workplace procedures.

Situation: A global oilfield provider of engineered services and products to the offshore oil and gas industry and a world leader in the design and manufacture of subsea control umbilicals for offshore applications, Oceaneering Umbilical Solutions, was keen to ensure it was providing the safest and most reliable working environment for its workers. Accessing and working with giant cable winding drums is awkward and can be a dangerous occupation, especially with the wrong or inadequate equipment.

The Work at Height Regulations, which consolidated previous UK and European legislation on work at height, came into force in April 2005 (revised 2007) and specify to work through the hierarchy of controls considering the most safe access methods, which provide protection against a fall, such as starting with work platforms and variable height steps that offer a stable base and guardrails to enable a person to work with both hands within a safe environment without risk of falling.

Solution: Semmco Ltd (Semmco) worked with Oceaneering Umbilical Solutions to assess the requirements and develop a bespoke solution for the problem. With in depth experience, knowledge and an established background in the design, supply and maintenance of

specialist Access Equipment Semmco engineered two sets of variable height steps specifically designed so that workers can access the cable winding drums on site safely. The steps have been manufactured with towable chassis made with lightweight aluminium and adjustable height steps making them easily manoeuvrable and height adjustable by one person. The steps have been fitted with hand rails for added stability and are compliant with European standards and legislation. As well as providing a range of multi-height working platforms the systems also provide safer access and peace of mind for employee and employer alike.

For more information on bespoke access platforms from Semmco, please contact +44 (0)1483 757200

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Founded in 1992 and operating across the UK and internationally, Semmco is a design, manufacturing and engineering company offering a range of specialist services for access solutions, ground support equipment, respiratory protection systems for all areas of industry and military and specific applications for the emergency services. Providing engineering design and consultancy for special projects and bespoke customer requirements, Semmco is committed to quality, safety and reliability throughout innovative designs, manufacturing safe and cost effective engineered solutions.

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This press release and an image are also available on The McOnie Agency website.

If you need any help or would like a high res image emailed to you, please contact Hannah Vernon hannah@mconieagency.com.

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