



Case Study

Tank Repair for Interserve's Ascension Island airhead

Ascension Island, South Atlantic Ocean



The Project

For Interserve, which manages and maintains the infrastructure on Ascension Island's Wideawake Airfield, ensuring safe operations, while preventing downtime at this military and freight airhead, is vital.

After identifying damage and corrosion to access gantries and fuel storage tanks at the base, Interserve contracted Adler & Allan to provide essential repairs. Subject to daily use in a punishing environment, Interserve wanted an experienced and dependable company to undertake the work; experienced in both the practical tasks and the challenging environment of the South Atlantic.



Expert team

Adler & Allan sent in a five-man expert team to undertake the work, chosen because of their specialist knowledge of the island. Summer day-time temperatures in the South Atlantic were hitting levels above 44 +°C during the project - conditions which required careful monitoring to ensure that heat stress and dehydration didn't cause any Health & Safety issues.

Off-site planning

Being some four and a half thousand miles away, a survey trip to Ascension Island was not practical, particularly as Interserve was keen to get the project up and running as soon as possible. With no on-site preview, all the planning and procurement had to take place from the UK. Thanks to its extensive knowledge of this type of work, Adler & Allan was able to fulfill the brief's requirements accurately.

Assembled at Marchwood, Adler & Allan's Southampton base, the equipment for the project was shipped out to Ascension Island, utilising the Falkland Island Resupply Vessel

to get everything there on time.

Contingency planning

Travel delays to flights at the start of the project, meant the team arrived later than expected. Such an eventuality had been anticipated; the allowance of a couple of days before proper commencement of work meant repairs began on time and finished as predicted, four weeks later.

Essential repairs

Although repairing the gantries was the main focus, Adler & Allan also carried out inspections of all the tanks and associated remedial work. The tanks had to be emptied to ensure safe working conditions, filters were cleaned and areas of corrosion repaired and re-painted. The gantries were isolated, treated with corrosion inhibitor and re-painted. Corroded railings and gratings were replaced and new extension platforms designed and fabricated on site.

Once the project was complete, the whole site was inspected once again and the appropriate hazard labeling was applied to the tanks. Dates for future inspection were applied and full inspection reports were prepared and given to the PO.

Outcome

Due to its remote position, Ascension Island is an invaluable link for the South Atlantic, especially the Falkland Islands and St Helena. Keeping the airhead operational is a priority for Interserve, which has a commitment to the organisations and individuals relying on this essential facility.

Thanks to experience and a specialist team, Adler & Allan was able to overcome geographical and environmental challenges to ensure that the tanks and gantries were once more safe and fit for purpose, ready to support Interserve in carrying out its duties in what are clearly often challenging conditions.

