

QuikDeck® makes Middle East debut

Safway® Group

Demonstrating its global appeal, Safway's QuikDeck® was recently put to work on a large oil rig off the Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East. A patented and proprietary suspended access system, QuikDeck provides factory-floor-like working conditions under areas where scaffold can't be built up from below.

In this case, a global marine and industrial services company was hired to do work on a massive oil rig that rents for more than \$100,000 a day — that is, when it's not laid up. For the job, the rig's owner had towed it to a remote town on the northeast shore of the Red Sea. The rig needed a range of refurbishment, including nearly 30 tons of steel replacement, and complete access to the underside of the platform was required.

"We knew we wanted Safway's QuikDeck as soon as we got the purchase order," said the contractor's project manager, noting his team had to scramble when the owner moved up the start date by a month.

Timing critical

"It was all about time on this job. There

was no leeway; the rig had to go out on schedule," the project manager said, noting the rig actually left port before all the work was completed and his crew had to finish some of the painting at sea.

A key feature — and a big part of the reason the contractor decided to use QuikDeck — is it can be "built in the air." Once an initial platform is in place, subsequent sections can be safely built out, even with no support from below.

"It's just a great way to do scaffolding. It's just brilliant, really," the project manager said.

The 26-million-ton platform is a jack-up rig, meaning its legs move up and down: up so the rig floats and can be towed into position, and down so it can sit solidly on the sea floor. During the lay-up, the legs needed to move for inspection. So while the legs could be used temporarily to get the QuikDeck platform started, the suspended access system needed to be free of the legs during the bulk of the lay-up. This made QuikDeck ideal for the job.

QuikDeck can handle up to 75 pounds

per square foot. Another advantage of the solid, unobstructed surface is the 130 people working on the project were safe at all times, and because they felt secure they were more productive. Additionally,

the large, continuous, factory-floor-like surface makes it easy to move equipment and contain materials.

The team began work in late 2014, just three days after being mobilized. Crews worked around the clock, 24 hours a day. And the entire job — including surface prep, painting, adding pipes and reinforcing the helideck with additional steel — was completed with no safety incidents just 35 days later.

The rig's owner was highly impressed with what the contractor was able to do with QuikDeck. The contractor is keeping the QuikDeck equipment in the region in anticipation of "quite a bit more work



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there," in part because, in bidding on jobs, QuikDeck gives them a considerable time advantage. "When working on marine assets that rent for tens of thousands of dollars a day, it's all about speed and safety," he said.

Safway's QuikDeck Division Manager Jerry Dolly noted this was the first use of QuikDeck in the Middle East. He said Safway is looking forward to supporting future projects with QuikDeck and other innovative Safway access products in the future.

For more information, visit www.SafwayGroup.com or call (262) 523-6500.

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