

CASE STUDY

GLADSTONE LNG SHUTDOWN

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VERTECH

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, during a major operational shutdown of Train 1, the client engaged Vertech to deliver inspection services at the Gladstone LNG plant. Located on Curtis Island near Gladstone, Queensland, this facility—established in 2015—is a joint venture between Australia Pacific LNG, the client, and PETRONAS. It processes natural gas from the Surat and Bowen basins, converting it into liquefied form for easier storage and transportation, with an annual production capacity of 7.8 million tonnes.

PROCESS

Vertech deployed a combination of traditional and advanced inspection techniques, including NDT, ISI, and RDVI using robotic crawlers. Inspections were conducted on components with varying intervals of 2 to 8 years, covering a wide range of plant areas, including those that were difficult to access. Rope access methods were used to safely reach challenging locations. Thorough review and preparation of inspection work packs ensured accurate labour and equipment forecasting, allowing for efficient site mobilisation.

OUTCOME

Vertech successfully completed the inspections within the scheduled timeframe and budget. The scope expanded as additional requirements arose during the shutdown, which Vertech addressed promptly—covering pressure vessels, piping, and structural elements. The client commended the team for their adaptability, detailed execution, and the effectiveness of the inspection methods, reaffirming Vertech's reputation for quality service delivery in complex industrial environments.

