CASE STUDY

UAV CARGO TANK INSPECTION

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VERTECH

INTRODUCTION

Inspecting hard-to-reach areas within cargo tanks can be time-consuming and pose significant safety risks. Vertech was engaged to address such challenges on an FPSO, focusing on innovative methods to inspect inaccessible sections of the hull safely and efficiently.

PROCESS

The inspection targeted the 6 Centre Cargo Oil Tank (6CCOT) under the supervision of Lloyd's Register. Due to high heat and humidity, traditional access posed serious health and safety risks. In response, Vertech deployed the Elios 2 UAV—marking its first use on-site—to navigate the tank's confined spaces. Despite initial concerns about stability aboard a moving vessel, the UAV's sensor system allowed it to self-adjust and maintain control, while enhanced lighting delivered clear, detailed visuals.

OUTCOME

The UAV successfully completed the full visual inspection of 6CCOT, observed by a Lloyd's surveyor and crew members, who praised its performance. The approach significantly reduced inspection time, cut costs, and eliminated the need for Confined Space Entry (CSE), greatly improving safety. The success of the Elios 2 UAV has set a new standard for future tank inspections, backed by strong stakeholder endorsement.