

CASE STUDY

CONDUCTOR INTEGRITY SCOPE

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VERTECH

INTRODUCTION

Vertech rope access technicians successfully installed 400 metres of cyclone-rated tension netting in just 10 days to enable strain measurements on well conductors—a critical integrity scope—on the North Rankin Alpha platform, located 140 km northwest of Karratha. The platform’s operational status and exposure to cyclonic activity, with wind gusts exceeding 172 km/h, made traditional access methods unsuitable. Vertech’s solution ensured this critical path project could proceed safely, even through multiple cyclones.

PROCESS

Vertech deployed engineered alternative access systems rated for Category 3 cyclones and beyond. Multi-disciplined technicians carried out not only the tension netting installation but also supplementary scaffolding to create a secondary escape route, as requested by the client’s HSE and operations team. A mock rescue trial was performed to validate the emergency escape plan based on IRATA methodology. Additional web decking was installed over the netting to ensure a stable and safe working surface for third-party contractors conducting ultra-high-pressure water blasting and strain stall measurements.

OUTCOME

The access system provided a robust and safe platform for high-risk activities while minimising man-hours and enhancing safety. Once the testing was completed, the system was safely removed within two days in preparation for an approaching cyclone. Vertech’s innovative approach, skilled team, and rapid deployment showcased the effectiveness of alternative access methods on live gas facilities operating under extreme environmental conditions.

