

CASE STUDY

ROV BALLAST TANK INSPECTION

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INTRODUCTION

Vertech undertook a pioneering project to conduct unmanned ROV ballast tank inspections on an offshore FPSO. Traditionally, such inspections would require significant human entry, extensive ballasting, and months of effort. Through an innovative approach, Vertech successfully completed inspections across all 14 ballast tanks in just three weeks—meeting all class society and client requirements.

PROCESS

Vertech's affiliated company, Geo Oceans, utilised their advanced asset-deployed ROV technology to carry out the inspections. This approach eliminated the need for divers and work-class ROVs, offering a safer and more efficient solution. The inspections included close visual inspection (CVI) techniques, ultrasonic thickness measurements (UTM), and automated calculations to assess wastage allowances—all aligned with the standards of major classification societies such as ABS, DNV, BV, and LR. Detailed digital records and location sketches were also provided.

OUTCOME

The asset-deployed ROV system offered significant advantages, including the removal of confined space entries and dive support vessels, improved safety, faster deployment, and lower emissions. High-definition video and inspection data were captured and stored within the Digital Edge system, enabling accurate, traceable reporting and supporting a more sustainable and future-ready inspection model.

