



OFFSHORE SPECIALISTS

SCAFFOLD & RIGGING – MAARI PLATFORM
FREE FALL LIFEBOAT INSTALLATION





The Opportunity

In 2013 Fitzroy Engineering were awarded the contract to fabricate and install a new free fall life boat system on board the existing wellhead platform (WHP) at the Maari Oilfield offshore in the Taranaki Basin, and operated by OMV.

The Maari WHP is situated in 100m of water at the edge of the region of strong westerly winds (the Roaring Forties) and is configured to remain serviceable in 20m high waves and wind gusts to 160km/h. The work was timed for June, in the middle of the winter conditions.

Access to work was always going to be very difficult due to the size of the work area and required compliance to OMV's strict rules regarding working over water and at height in daylight hours only.

The Solution

Transfield Worley were engineers for this project and they recognised Fitzroy Engineering as the company able to provide the expertise and resources to work within the constraints. Transfield and the Fitzroy Scaffolding & Rigging division worked co-operatively to establish an access concept, phased to align with the various stages of the structural installation onto the WHP hull.

The concept allowed for constructing two 9m high towers and one 12m high tower on the WHP deck, from where they were

lifted with the WHP crane into position onto the six fingers which protruded from the wind wall of the hull. With this concept, working over water was kept to a minimum and was only required during the landing of the towers onto the fingers and making the bolted connections.

Once the three towers were installed access to the work area was down through the 12m tower which was fitted with hatches and ladders accordingly. Landings were installed between the two 9m towers which were set apart to match the Layher component landings. Two levels of truss were installed where the span exceeded 6m and working platforms built on top of these.

During the installation of the project steelwork the scaffold was modified as the team rigged structural sections into position, built habitats and welded components to the hull. The project recorded very little lost time because the scaffold phased easily due to its design.

On completion of the installation of the steelwork the scaffold was removed in reverse order with the scaffold strip taking very little time.

The free fall life boat structure was successfully installed and commissioned safely and on time with the major contributing factors being the innovative and efficient access scaffolding provided and the easy interface between the Fitzroy Scaffolding and Mechanical teams.



Scaffold almost complete



Life Boat & Access Stairs in place

FITZROY ENGINEERING GROUP LIMITED

Head Office and Workshops

Devon Road
Private Bag 2053
New Plymouth 4342, New Zealand
Ph +64 6 759 5252
Fax +64 6 759 5253

Auckland Office

139 Cryers Road East Tamaki
PO Box 58-096 Greenmount
Auckland, New Zealand
Ph +64 9 272 8460
Fax +64 9 272 8470

Taupo Office

579 Rakaunui Road
Taupo
New Zealand
Ph: +64 9 272 8460
Fax: +64 9 272 8470

Brisbane Office

1294 Lytton Road
Hemmant, Brisbane
QLD 4174, Australia
Ph: +61 7 3900 4500
Fax: +61 7 3393 9232