



Rope inspection

Height Specialists was established in 1995. It is a specialist company that provides rope access inspection, maintenance and modifications for on and offshore inspection, maintenance services to clients, operating in various industrial sectors, as well as at promotions and public events.



The business started as a one-man venture but today operates as fully a qualified IRATA, ISO 9001 and VCA-P company with over 75 employees working worldwide.

'Height Specialists is an innovative and dynamic organisation that offers a quick and professional response to its clients' questions,' comments general manager, Henri Hoogenes. 'Safety is always our first priority and as such, each project will endure a risk analysis and methodical planning before execution. Height Specialists only works with fully certified technicians, tools and materials.'

Indeed throughout its history the company has managed to adapt itself quickly, notably by providing abseiling and zip wire

services at Rotterdam's Euromast and later by supporting various Dutch television productions.

During the early years it also turned its hand to work at height, using rope access and industrial climbing. Rope access is a method for working at heights utilising ropes, climbing harnesses and other materials to enable access to working locations in difficult and inaccessible situations.

It is a method of access that has been tried and tested for over 20 years. As an alternative or complementary use with conventional systems like scaffolding, suspension bridge constructions and lifting

platforms, the techniques and materials have been specifically developed for use in a number of industrial applications.

Today these applications include high-rise construction, bridges, shafts, masts and towers, atriums, monuments, construction halls and wind turbines.

Height Specialists used to focus mainly on operations within the Netherlands, however as it continues to grow the company increasingly targets global projects within the marine, offshore, process and petrochemical sectors. Within the wind energy and oil & gas market these include projects in Scandinavia and offshore in Dutch and UK waters.



'We kept on growing causing it to be one of the largest rope access companies in Europe,' Henri explains. 'During the beginning of 2014 we also started to operate in Nigeria and the Middle-East, in Dubai and our focus is to continue this growth and extend its range within the wind energy market.'

Height Specialists has continued to grow and diversify in new regions around the world. The company today operates offices located in the Netherlands and one in Dubai. Furthermore, as the company continues to attract new clients it has become increasingly active in Africa.

In Dubai we have a lot of contracts for window cleaning some of the skyscrapers in the region, but we are also looking to expand our services towards marine and offshore.

We also established Height Specialists Africa Limited (HSAL), in partnership with Deltalift Resources Nigeria Limited (DRNL), to provide international standard rope access services and training to clients in the West African region, through partnership with DRNL.

The employees of Height Specialists regularly undergo training at its official Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA) training centre and attend Master-class courses in the use of specific tools, project management and social skills.

The training courses are set up and delivered in accordance with international standards and each project is assigned its own supervisor to guarantee the security and quality of the operations. This market-leading level of expertise coupled with the company's ability to rapidly respond to the requests of its clients makes Height Specialists an attractive option in rope access solutions.

'Thanks to the long-term relationships with our clients and our high level of standards we continue to grow and maintain our strong position in the market,' Henri says. 'We have noticed that in this business it is important to rely on strong partners and to build on long-term relationships with our clients. We have noticed that every time we work for a new client, who has never used rope access before, they are pleasantly surprised - surprised about the company's

professional way of working and the flexibility that rope access provides.'

Latterly, Height Specialists has sent a few rope access teams to wind energy farms for maintenance work. The best example is Global Tech 1.

Last year, a team of technicians did a lot of maintenance on this transformer platform in the German North Sea. This year, a team returned to work on the boat landing. The team, consisting of 4 well-trained IRATA certified technicians, changed bolts and performed spot repairs on the paintwork during their 2 weeks aboard.

The technicians can easily reach the hard-to-reach places on platforms and the work is done quickly and safely - as they are independent of materials or services from other providers.

One experienced IRATA level 3 technician supervises his/her colleagues, makes checks and is their back-up in case of emergency. This is a service we execute efficiently, with safety at the forefront.

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