

Taking the Quantum LeapSM in Alaska

When one Anchorage facilities manager sought out better ways to address waste disposal, he decided to call a colleague at a nearby pipeline company to investigate alternative options. Thus was the first step in what became the company's Quantum LeapSM from conventional to automated tank cleaning methods.

Another Success in Alaska

Cinatra has completed a tank cleaning project for a second company doing business in Alaska. The exploration and production (E&P) company's facilities manager was seeking a less expensive method of waste disposal, so he called a colleague at a nearby pipeline company to see how that organization handled the problem. That's when he first heard about Cinatra and its automated method of tank cleaning.

After using traditional methods in previous years, the E&P company was intrigued by the possibilities of a solution that combined automated, non-man entry cleaning with oil recovery—thus reducing the amount of waste to be discarded in trucks at the end of the job. But would it be economically viable given the relatively small size of the tank (90 feet) and the higher costs of mobilizing in to Alaska?

Turns out, absolutely. Even factoring in the high costs of doing business in Alaska, the project still produced impressive benefits. The dramatically reduced amount of waste to be disposed — along with the saleable oil recovered from the tank bottoms — more than paid for the additional upfront tank cleaning costs.

And when Cinatra finished cleaning the tank at the E&P company, the crew moved down the road to the pipeline company, helping to share efficiencies that make the results better for all three companies.

Case History

A private exploration and production company doing business in Alaska wanted to clean a small, fixed-roof, crude oil tank containing approximately 2,000 barrels of sludge. Like other tank owners in the area, the high cost of waste disposal only added to the many challenges of doing business in our 49th state, where weather, transportation and environmental issues are a constant concern.

So when a colleague from a nearby pipeline terminal suggested Cinatra's automated cleaning method, the facilities manager wanted to learn more. Would the automated solution work as advertised? And would the higher total cleaning costs be justified, even for a smaller tank and even given the higher costs of bringing a Gulf Coast vendor to Alaska? The answer was a resounding yes.

Project savings were directly attributed to the amount of waste requiring disposal at the end of the project. The previous year's project with traditional cleaning methods resulted in 2,000 barrels of waste, all of which was hauled off in trucks at a substantial cost. This year, with the automated method, the customer only ended up with 200 barrels of waste, with the other 1,800 being sold as product. At approximately \$90 per barrel of oil, the recovered oil more than covered any extra costs of cleaning.

Project Facts

Tank size	90 feet
Tank content	Crude oil
Roof	Fixed roof
Sludge content	2,000 barrels
Total active process time	11 days
Mobilization and installation	5 days
Demobilization	5 days
Recovered oil from sludge	1,800 barrels/90%