Ropelink
rope access international

# Industrial
## ROPE ACCESS SPECIALISTS

INNOVATIVE Access Solutions and
TECHNICAL Expertise, from one source

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## ROPE ACCESS SPECIALISTS

## INNOVATIVE Access Solutions and TECHNICAL Expertise, from one source

**Ropelink**
We are a speciality service company, providing highly trained personnel to carry out a comprehensive range of **inspection**, **maintenance** and **repairs** in difficult and high access locations for a variety of structures.

Our services are a cost effective alternative to traditional forms of inspection and contracting. In some cases, our access solutions are complementary to the conventional systems, providing a better service to our clients. Proven in nearly twenty years of successful application in Europe, Ropelink introduced their innovative and unique services to the United States in early 1990's.

Small, well organized and fully equipped teams of Ropelink's personnel constitute an efficient and highly productive team able to mobilize to any site as required. We combine our expertise in access with the multiple trades and professions of our technicians, thus providing a better solution to our clients. Because of the efficiency in our operation, projects can be completed at a fraction of time, and budgets can be more appropriately allocated to the core need of projects.

**Ropelink Services**

**Access**
- Safe access to all types of structures
- Industrial Rope Access training and support

**Inspection**
- Condition survey and documentation of existing conditions
- Non-destructive/destructive testing
- Material sampling

**Maintenance**
- Temporary repairs and emergency stabilizations

**Repairs**
- Geotechnical Contracting
- Speciality Services

ACCESS is our speciality.

SAFETY is our priority.

EFFICIENCY is a given!

With the various skills of our technicians, Ropelink can provide a professional cost effective solution to your projects.

Ropelink has an exemplary safety record and strict working code of practice that exceeds the OSHA standard on fall protection and in compliance with the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) requirements in the United Kingdom.

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## What is Rope Access?

Rope Access combines specialized technical skills and equipment originated in mountaineering and caving with further development for industrial use. It provides safe access to structures by descending and ascending as well as lateral movement by climbing on suspended or tensioned ropes.

## Rope Access Advantages

Access costs are a substantial portion of any project. Efficiency in performing the field work and the economics of the process are critical. Typical advantages to meet such challenges are:

### Ease of access

Industrial Rope Access provides fast and easy access to structures with minimal equipment requirements.

### Speed of setting up and vacating sites

Industrial Rope Access systems can be set up and dismantled quickly, maximizing production, while accommodating project constraints.

### Minimal disruption to adjacent work areas and building operations

Access to structures is independent of site conditions such as nearby excavations, adjacent buildings, alleyways, train tracks, bridges or bodies of water.

### Flexibility and versatility

Because of the speed and flexibility of this system, project mobilization and demobilization is minimized, thus reducing costs and lead times.

### Security

Most equipment can be removed at the end of each day, reducing the potential for unauthorized access, theft or vandalism.

### 'Hands on'

Industrial Rope Access allows close tactile inspections and greater coverage area than other forms of access during a given day.

### Building sensitive

Industrial Rope Access has the least visual impact on building structures, and does not damage the building fabric. This is specially valuable when working on historic buildings.

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# DOCUMENTATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

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**The different phases of evaluation and remediation of existing structures are: investigation, design development, contract award and construction.** During this process, engineers and architects, contractors, and clients each have their own priorities to accomplish their role successfully.

**For engineers and architects**, obtaining the necessary information to determine the extent, nature, and cause of distress is critical and a priority in evaluating and preparing design documents for the repair.
**For contractors**, detailed and clear design documents are necessary for submitting a competitive bid and implementing the repairs properly.
**For owners and clients**, controlling costs by minimizing change orders and schedules are the priority.

Close-up and hands-on inspections and exploratory openings are an essential part of the investigation phase. However, due to clients' budgetary constraints, engineers and architects often perform only representative observation drops on structures. This limited information is used to identify the cause and extent of distress, develop repair details and prepare design documents. Quantities from the representative observation drops are then extrapolated for a determination of total repair quantities.

Investigations based on inadequate documentation and assessment of existing conditions result in performance-based remedial design and specification, and inaccurate repair quantities. Bidding on such design documents leaves the ultimate cost of repairs unpredictable and encourages change orders during construction. The availability of detailed information and documentation is the key element, vital to each phase of the evaluation and remediation process, minimizing such problems.

Ropelink's solution, offering speed and ease of access, minimized site mobilization and demobilization costs, flexibility and versatility, and a secure access to structures accommodates the need for close-up and hands-on inspections and documentation of the existing condition of structures. Small and efficient Ropelink teams, in conjunction with architects or engineers, as needed, can provide detailed documentation for use in the evaluation and design development phases of projects.

**Providing detailed information ultimately minimizes the potential unforeseen conditions in the evaluation and remediation of structures.**

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# EVALUATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

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A comprehensive assessment of the existing condition of any structure includes **visual inspection, testing, and materials sampling** of the observed or anticipated distressed areas of such structure. The extent of the assessment will vary depending on the nature of the problem and the complexity of the structure. Testing and materials sampling are essential to any evaluation program in order to observe the concealed conditions of the structure, otherwise not detectable by visual inspection.

Testing can be **destructive** or **nondestructive** in nature. Destructive testing is essential to observe and evaluate the underlying condition and source of a problem. However, destructive testing throughout the structure is generally unpractical and very expensive. **Nondestructive testing, coupled with "controlled" destructive testing, is a cost effective and efficient alternative solution.**

Materials sampling is performed in undisturbed sections of the structure, but can also be accomplished during "controlled" destructive testing. Testing and materials sampling programs should be developed by a design professional or consultant, and are typically spread out throughout a structure to evaluate the conditions thoroughly.

An essential part of any evaluation program is access to the structure. The cost implications of access for testing and materials sampling can significantly impact the scope of testing and materials sampling program. Ropelink's Access Solution, offering speed and ease of access, minimized mobilization and demobilization, as well as flexibility and versatility, can efficiently accommodate such needs. Additionally, Ropelink's technicians are qualified in many of the nondestructive testing techniques and can conduct materials sampling.

**Some of the nondestructive testing services offered by Ropelink are:**

- Dye Penetrant Inspection
- Magnetic Particle Inspection
- Radiographic Inspection
- Ultrasonic Inspection
- Eddy Current Inspection
- Paint/Coating Inspection
- Half Cell & Linear Polarization Testing
- Boroscope Inspection
- Cover-meter Survey

**On your next evaluation project, consider Ropelink for Access, Testing and Materials Sampling needs.**

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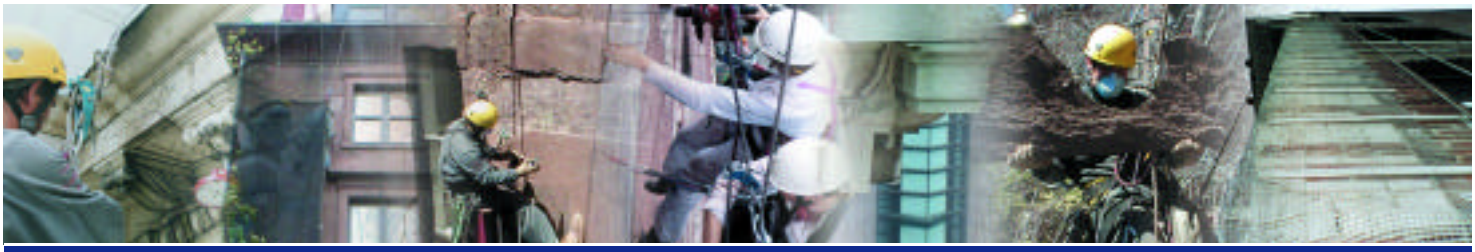

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# EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND TEMPORARY REPAIRS

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Maintenance and repair of exterior facades of buildings are required to extend the useful life and minimize the rate of deterioration and avoid unsafe conditions. Exterior facades are exposed to the elements, but proper maintenance of many buildings is often deferred. The potential threat to public safety brought about by this trend has caused several major cities to enact laws requiring periodic inspection, maintenance and repair of building facades. This potential threat has also prompted national organizations to develop and propose a unified standard for the inspection and maintenance of building facades.

Ropelink provides access, support for documentation, and condition assessment service of building facades for engineers, architects, buildings owners, and contractors. On many occasions, especially in older and historic buildings, the threat of deteriorated, distressed or unsafe conditions may require immediate attention.

Ropelink provides economical solutions to its clients by minimizing mobilization costs, setting up and vacating sites quickly, and reducing disruption to adjacent work areas and building operations, which are some of the many advantages of the Industrial Rope Access.

Small, well organized and fully equipped teams of Ropelink personnel constitute an efficient and highly productive team, which can be mobilized to any site to attend to the emergency stabilization and temporary repair of building facades.

**Some of the stabilization and temporary repair services provided by Ropelink are:**

- **Spall removal/selective demolition**
- **Installation of containment netting**
- **Pinning and strapping**
- **Installation of monitoring controls**
- **Temporary repairs**

Implementation of emergency and temporary repairs provided by Ropelink mitigate immediate safety concerns, reduce the rate of future damage caused by further deterioration, preserve capital, and to “buy time” so the client can make informed and prudent decisions on the long term repair of their building facade.

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# CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL ROPE ACCESS

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The use of Industrial Rope Access in construction is very cost effective especially when compared to traditional access methods, where access costs maybe disproportionate to the work required. This is particularly true in situation where there is difficult access, higher work position, or frequent number of setups for positioning of the work.

A basic Industrial Rope Access training course is all that is required for engineers, architects or contractors to access the work area, under the supervision and guidance of Ropelink staff, to observe or participate in the project. Alternatively, live closed cable TV link, digital photography, and other appropriate means can be used to document and monitor the work progress.

**Most types of Construction can be undertaken using Industrial Rope Access:**

- Selective demolition
- Containment netting and pinning
- Concrete/masonry/waterproofing repairs
- In-situ concrete casting
- Brick and block laying
- Wall openings and closures
- Curtain wall, cladding and glazing
- Stripping and painting
- General maintenance and repairs
- Welding and cutting
- Geotechnical, rock anchors etc.

## SEA WALL REPAIRS

**Site:** 36 ft high sea wall

**Scope of Work:** Removal of existing brick and re-placement with matching sandstone block.

**Specific Challenges:** Contend with changes in tides of up to 27 ft. (most of the work site was under water at high tide); ability to work with the tide rising and falling, quickly moving from lower to higher locations, and resuming work.

**Safety:** All equipment and materials had to be re-moved from site and contained in secure storage between shifts.

## URN REPLACEMENT

**Site:** 250 ft. Victorian sandstone tower

**Scope of Work:** Removal of existing urn and demolition of concrete support structure. Placement of cast-in-place concrete base and installation of new stainless steel support for the new urn.

**Specific Challenges:** Contain and remove urn and debris from top of tower; erect cableway and shear-legs to enable the hoisting of materials, such as one and one-half cubic yards of concrete and the support ‘pin’ weighing 400 lbs.

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# DIFFICULT ACCESS GEOTECHNICAL CONTRACTING

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Ropelink Rock Solutions is a service formed specifically to address the needs of the difficult access geotechnical contracting in North America. We provide the most experienced team of personnel and resources to meet the challenges of difficult access and the needs of rigorous environments. **We provide cost effective Rock Solutions for your projects.**

The experiences of our Ropelink Rock Solutions service spans over 15 years beginning with the inception of industrial rope access in Europe. The coordinator of our geotechnical contracting is the pioneer in application of systems of work in difficult access geotechnical situations.

We have adapted cliff face drilling rigs and access platforms to undertake many challenging projects. In Europe, these techniques are recognized as one of the most effective procedures and are approved by transportation authorities, governing bodies, and geotechnical engineering firms.

## Benefits of Industrial Rope Access include:

**Safety** Rope access is significantly safer than other forms of access.

**Site Sensitivity** Visual impact of rope access is minimal; this is most critical for ecologically sensitive project sites.

**Minimal disruption to adjacent work areas**
Due to minimal impact of rope access on project sites, other trades on the project critical path can work on the same site with minimal disruption.

**Speed of setting up and vacating sites**
Reduced mobilization and demobilization time results in project cost savings.

**Innovation** Projects considered to be nonviable due to access costs and site constraints can be undertaken economically and safely.

## ROPELINK ROCK SOLUTIONS services include:

- Rock scaling
- Installation and testing of rock and soil anchors
- Installation of rock fall catchments, mesh & gabions
- Gunite application and grouting
- Rock removal and blasting
- Geotechnical survey and assessment
- Rope access training

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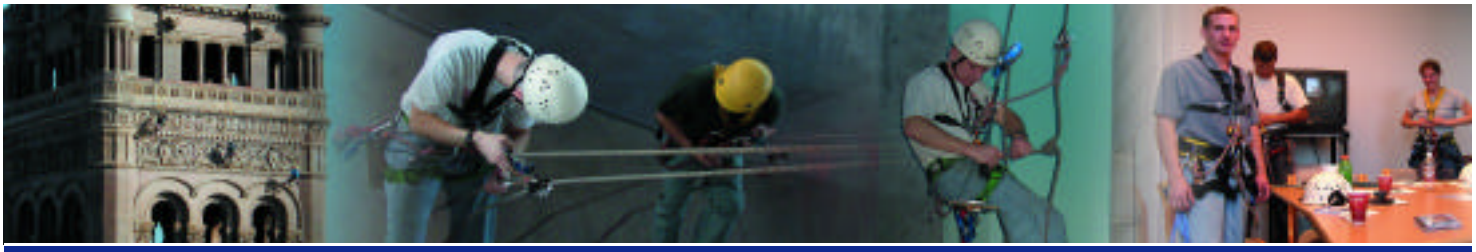

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# INDUSTRIAL ROPE ACCESS TRAINING

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Ropelink offers training designed for engineers, architects, technicians, and contractors who would like to access structures more efficiently and effectively.

Ropelink instructors have extensive teaching and rope access experience. Many are International Mountain Guides and most hold the highest level of Industrial Rope Access qualifications.

Candidates for rope access training should have an appropriate attitude and aptitude for such work. They should be physically fit and free from any disability that may prevent them from working safely at heights.

## Program Description

- The duration of a basic rope access training course (level 1) is five days.
- Training includes two days of class work and three days of practice and familiarization with the rope access equipment and techniques.
- Training courses can be organized in any location as long as suitable facilities are available.

During the training, there are two instructors per maximum of six students. After the completion of a basic training course and alongside Ropelink personnel, clients would be able to:

- Participate in documentation of structures conditions.
- Perform “hands-on” inspections when an expert opinion is required.
- Monitor and supervise the work of Ropelink personnel during material sampling and/or testing.
- Monitor ongoing remedial work performed by Ropelink staff.

On any project site, a minimum of two rope access technicians are required because of the safety requirements. Depending on the scope of each project, the recommended number of rope access technicians is increased as required.

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