



PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS

**Information Release Statement
Incident Information # 37**

Date: 16 September 2009 1530 WST

Drilling continues today on a relief well to stop the leak of oil, gas and water from the Montara well head platform.

Work has begun on drilling a 17.5 inch diameter hole to a depth of 1622m.

It is expected that this phase will be completed over the weekend.

An initial 26-inch diameter hole was successfully drilled to a depth of 149m and a 20-inch conductor pipe run through and cemented into position on Tuesday (15 September 2009).

Work began on Monday evening to drill to a depth of 2.6km to intersect the existing well and allow for the injection of heavy mud directly into the existing well bore to stop the flow. This operation is expected to take about three-and-a-half weeks to complete.

As the Australian Maritime Safety Authority stated today, its clean-up operation continues to be centred around the Montara well head platform. AMSA's observations have found that there is still a decreased amount of fresh oil on the water and a minimal amount of dispersant is being used, while the closest patch of oil to the mainland remains 150 kilometres offshore.

Media Contact Lauren Tindale – 0431 365 550

NOTE: This media statement and all previous statements issued by the company can be viewed at www.au.pttep.com.