



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information #57**

Date: 6 October 2009 1440 WST

PTTEP Australasia made its first attempt early today to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea at a target zone 2.6km below the seabed.

After drilling of the relief well began on 14 September to stop the flow of oil, gas and water from the Montara well head platform, the target depth was reached yesterday (Monday, 5 October).

Using surveys, the drilling team onboard the *West Triton* drilling rig had been aiming today to intersect a piece of steel casing about 25cm in diameter, 2,600m below the seabed but this was not achieved.

Using sophisticated electro magnetic ranging tools and proven processes, the relief well team will now narrow down the exact location of the leaking well casing and prepare to make another pass sequence and attempt an intersection. This is now expected to take place on Friday (9 October) or Saturday (10 October).

Setting up for each pass sequence takes about three days. Implementing the pass sequence must then be undertaken during daylight hours for safety reasons. This requirement can take each pass sequence operation into a fourth day.

A specialist vector magnetic tool emits a current to charge the steel casing of the leaking well. The casing then emits an electro magnetic field which is detected by tool sensors. A surface computer uses the readings to calculate the distance and direction of the casing from the current location.

Once the leaking well is successfully intercepted, heavy mud will be pumped from the platform down into the relief well, displacing the oil, gas and water and stopping the flow.

Some 24 hours after the flow has stopped, a specialist crew from leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialist ALERT Well Control will board the *West Atlas* drilling rig and the Montara well head platform from the support vessel *Nor Captain* to further secure the well by plugging the well bore. This phase of the operation is expected to take about another week.

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