



## PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS Incident Information #58

**Date:** 7 October 2009 1330 WST

PTTEP Australasia currently expects to make a second attempt to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea on the weekend.

Using sophisticated electro magnetic ranging tools, the relief well team is now narrowing down the exact location of the leaking well casing and preparing to make another pass sequence and attempt the intersection.

Overnight, a specialist electro magnetic tool was run down the relief well to locate the target well with more accuracy.

The 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.

The drilling team on board the *West Triton* drilling rig is aiming to intersect a piece of steel casing in the leaking well about 25cm in diameter, 2.6km below the seabed.

Setting up for each pass sequence takes between three and four days. Implementing the pass sequence must then be undertaken during daylight hours for safety reasons.

PTTEP Australasia Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins said today's vector magnetics data had given a preliminary reading indicating the intercept point was 5m to the right of the location targeted in the first pass yesterday.

"This is a complex operation. It is a slow process because it requires the well to be steered with a great deal of accuracy through the geological sub-strata to improve the likelihood of an intercept. The rock at that depth is also very hard and makes for slow drilling," he said.

"With every pass, the field of uncertainty is narrowed significantly increasing the probability of a successful intercept."

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

A team from leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialists ALERT Well Control ([www.alertdisastercontrol.com](http://www.alertdisastercontrol.com)) has been providing PTTEP's technical group with technical planning advice on the relief well drilling program.

The ALERT Well Control team leader is onboard the *West Triton*, directing the electro magnetic ranging and intercept drilling operation.

ALERT Well Control has successfully completed some 1,200 well control operations over the past 25 years. The electro magnetic ranging technology had been used successfully in similar operations around the world. There has never been a situation where this has not been achieved.

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**NOTE:** This media statement and all previous statements issued by the company can be viewed at [www.au.pttep.com](http://www.au.pttep.com).