



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information #59**

Date: 8 October 2009 1200 WST

PTTEP Australasia is currently on track to make a second pass to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea this Saturday (10 October).

Work is continuing today to narrow down the exact location of the leaking well casing, 2.6km below the seabed.

The relief well team onboard the *West Triton* drilling rig is using sophisticated electro magnetic ranging tools which emit 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.

PTTEP Australasia Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins said today's vector magnetics data had indicated the intercept point was 4.5m from the location targeted in the first pass on Tuesday (6 October).

"This is a complex and slow operation because the rock formation is very hard and makes for slow drilling," he said.

"With every pass, the field of uncertainty is narrowed and this significantly increases 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.

In the latest work at the site to prepare for the well plugging operation, floats have been installed on the hydraulic hoses which will supply all power to the well head platform from the *Nor Captain* after the re-boarding takes place. Power cannot be generated on the well head platform due to safety considerations.

Members of the ALERT reboarding team are on stand-by at the Truscott air base in the Kimberley while a Perth-based boarding team is on stand-by and will be ready for travel to the site this Saturday, if the intercept is successful.

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 reboard 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.

Completion of the well plugging phase of the operation is expected to take a further week, following the reboarding.

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