



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information #60**

Date: 9 October 2009 1200 WST

PTTEP Australasia said today drilling work to stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea had met with an unexpected delay.

A second pass to intercept the leaking well is now expected to take place on Monday (12 October).

“Establishing a sidetrack well in these conditions, where the deep rock formation is very hard, can be slow and unfortunately delays can occur,” PTTEP Australasia Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins said.

Overnight, an operation to establish the side track well from the 2,494m level back down to the target dept of 2.6km was not producing the necessary progress.

As a result, the rotary steerable drilling assembly will be replaced today by a downhole motor assembly to re-establish the side track. Once this been completed, a more aggressive drilling assembly will be used to drill to within approximately five metres of the existing well casing.

At this point, a milling assembly will be used to make the second pass to intercept with the leaking well.

“With every pass, the field of uncertainty is narrowed and this significantly increases the probability of a successful intercept,” Mr Martins said.

Replacing each drilling assembly requires a trip back up the full 2.7km length of the relief well to fit and test before restarting drilling, further pushing out the timelines.

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.

The team leader from leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialists ALERT Well Control is on board the *West Triton* directing the sophisticated electro magnetic ranging and intercepting equipment. In the complex operation they have to locate and intersect a 25cm diameter target on the steel casing of the existing well 2.6km beneath the seabed.

ALERT Well Control has successfully completed some 1,200 well control operations over the past 25 years. The electro magnetic ranging technology has 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.