



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS  
Incident Information # 61**

***Date: 10 October 2009 1115 WST***

PTTEP Australasia said today drilling work to stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea would continue today.

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

An operation to establish a side track well through a very hard deep rock formation from the 2,494m level was progressing. Drilling through this type of formation at these depths can be slow.

A rotary steerable drilling assembly was replaced yesterday with a downhole motor assembly to establish the side track. A more aggressive drilling assembly will then be used to drill to within approximately five metres of the existing well casing. At that point, a milling assembly will be used to make the second pass to intercept with the leaking well.

Replacing each drilling assembly requires a trip back up the full length of the relief well to fit and test before restarting drilling.

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

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.

Members of the leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialists ALERT Well Control boarding team are on standby at Truscott air base in the Kimberley while a Perth-based boarding team is on standby and ready for travel to the site when the intercept is successful.

The team leader from ALERT Well Control is on board the *West Triton* directing the sophisticated electro magnetic ranging and intercepting equipment. This technology has been used successfully in similar operations around the world.

ALERT Well Control has successfully completed some 1,200 well control operations over the past 25 years.

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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).