



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information # 63**

Date: 12 October 2009 1100 WST

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

A drilling operation to establish a side track and make a second intercept of the leaking well is progressing slowly through very hard, deep rock formation.

As a result, a second pass to intercept the leaking well is expected to occur tomorrow (Tuesday 13 October).

“Drilling the side track well through deep hard rock formations has been very difficult and slow going. It has been frustrating for everyone,” PTTEP Australasia Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins said.

“We have some of the best drillers in Australia working on this operation alongside members of the leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialists ALERT Well Control. Their proven electro magnetic ranging technology has been successful in similar operations around the world. We remain confident of success.”

Today, the drilling team on board the *West Triton* will use a rotary steerable assembly to drill to 2,738m within several metres of the calculated target, before attempting the second pass to intercept the leaking well. They are aiming to intersect a piece of steel casing 25 centimetres in diameter, 2.6 kilometres below the seabed.

For safety reasons, the intercept can only take place during daylight, requiring a minimum of eight hours from the time of intercepting the leaking well.

After a successfully intercepting the leaking well the operation enters two phases.

1. Stopping the flow: Almost immediately after intercept, heavy mud is pumped down the full length of the relief well, into the leaking well to stop the flow of oil, gas and water. About 900 barrels of heavy mud would take approximately two hours to fill the total of 6.3km down the full length of the relief well and back up the existing well to the surface at the well head platform. This will displace the oil, gas and water and stop the flow.
2. Plugging the well bore: After the flow has been stopped, there will be an approximately a 24-hour safety stand off period. A team from ALERT Well Control will then reboard the well head platform and the *West Atlas* rig to further secure the well by plugging the well bore. This should take about a week to complete.

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