



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information # 64**

Date: 13 October 2009 1205 WST

PTTEP Australasia reports that its second pass today to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea at a target zone 2.6km below the seabed did not succeed.

“We will now re-run the vector magnetics tools tonight to see how close we are to the target. Our drilling experts are hopeful that we will not need such a long side track to hit it on the next pass,” PTTEP Australasia Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins said.

In the technically and logistically complex operation, 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 target casing from the previous drill pass location.

By late yesterday, the team on board the *West Triton* had used a rotary steerable assembly to drill to 2,738m, calculated to be within a few metres of the target - a piece of steel casing 25cm in diameter at a depth of 2.6km.

“While not making an interception on today’s pass is disappointing, the probability of success given the plus or minus one metre accuracy on the target was not in our favour. The closer we get to the target with each pass, the more certain we become of its location,” Mr Martins said.

The drilling team expects to know tomorrow (14 October) when it should be able to make the next pass to intercept the leaking well. It is aiming to do this on the weekend.

After successfully intercepting the leaking well, the operation will enter two separate and sequential phases:

1. Stopping the flow: Almost immediately after intercept, heavy mud is pumped down the full length of the relief well from the *West Triton*, into the leaking well to stop the flow of oil, gas and water. It will 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 beneath the *West Atlas* rig. 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 approximate 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 inserting two plugs into the previously leaking well bore. This second operation to plug the well should take about another 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.