



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS  
Incident Information # 65**

***Date: 14 October 2009 1400 WST***

PTTEP Australasia expects to make its third pass to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea this Saturday (17 October).

Today's vector magnetics data gave a preliminary reading indicating the intercept point was within 0.7m of the location targeted in the second pass yesterday.

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.

A cement plug will be set today that will allow a side track well to be established tomorrow (15 October).

“Our drilling experts have indicated that we have quite a good chance of making the intercept this weekend, given that the accuracy on the target is now plus or minus 0.2m,” PTTEP Australasia Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins said.

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 will be 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 leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialists 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.

ALERT Well Control has successfully completed some 1,200 well control operations around the world over the past 25 years using the electro magnetic ranging technology. Members of the ALERT reboarding team are on stand-by at the Truscott air base in the Kimberley while a boarding team is also on stand-by in Perth, ready to travel to the site if the intercept is successful.

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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).