



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information # 68**

Date: 17 October 2009 0945 WST

PTTEP Australasia reports that its third 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.

The relief well team onboard the *West Triton* drilling rig will run the vector magnetics tools tonight to see how close it came to the target. It expects to know tomorrow (Sunday, 18 October) when the next pass to intercept the leaking well can be made.

PTTEP has experienced drillers working on the operation alongside members of the leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialists ALERT Well Control.

This team 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 – which is just 25cm in diameter – from the previous drill pass location.

Setting up for each pass sequence takes between three and four days. Implementing the pass sequence must then be undertaken during daylight hours for safety reasons.

Once the leaking well is successfully intercepted, heavy mud will be pumped from the *West Triton* down into the relief well, displacing the oil, gas and water and stopping the flow.

After a 24-hour safety stand off period, a team from ALERT Well Control will then reboard the Montara well head platform and the *West Atlas* rig to further secure the well by inserting two plugs into the previously leaking well bore. This phase of the operation is expected to take about another week.

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