



## PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS Incident Information # 70

***Date: 19 October 2009 1400 WST***

PTTEP Australasia reports the drilling team aboard the *West Triton* drilling rig is preparing to drill a third side track well to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea currently estimated to be on Thursday (22 October 2009).

In drilling operations overnight, the original side track well has been cemented back to a depth of 2,600 metres to enable the new side track well to be established.

Vector magnetics following the second pass last week indicated the intercept point was within 0.7m of the target location.

Today, the drilling team will assemble a downhole motor drilling assembly in preparation to establish the new sidetrack through deep, hard rock formations.

As with earlier intercept operations, once the side track is established, a motor assembly will be replaced by a rotary steerable assembly to drill to within two metres of the target well. This assembly provides enhanced surveying sensors to navigate, using coordinates provided by magnetic ranging tools, to identify the position of the target well.

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

The ALERT Well Control team currently based on the *West Triton* rig has boarded the *Nor Captain* to undergo safety and equipment checks to ensure all processes and activities are undertaken in line with standard industry safety protocols.

This is part of the preparations for the reboarding of the Montara well head platform and *West Atlas* rig by ALERT Well Control to further secure the well by inserting two plugs into the previously leaking well bore. After the flow has been stopped by the injection of the heavy mud, there will be a 24-hour stand-off and observe safety period before the reboarding team goes in. This follow up phase of the operation would take about another week.

In response to a number of statements reported in the media in recent days, PTTEP Australasia reiterates that immediately after the incident on 21 August it received offers of support from across the oil and gas industry. All options were considered and fully evaluated at that time. Unfortunately, other rigs were not suitable for operational reasons. The *West Triton* was the safest and quickest option available.

**Media Contact:** Mike Groves – 0411 828 073

**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).