



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS**  
**Incident Information # 79**

*Date: 28 October 2009 1240 WST*

PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP) reports work is continuing today in preparation for a new pass to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara Field in the Timor Sea.

The drilling team aboard the *West Triton* rig has today commenced drilling a new sidetrack well aiming for a position approximately 10 metres further along from the target – a steel casing 25 centimetres in diameter, 2.6km below the sea bed.

To assist drilling a new sidetrack well, yesterday the drilling team plugged the previous drill hole with cement to a point 100m above the target position.

The drilling operation will continue this week, with the next pass to intercept the leaking well now scheduled for the weekend.

PTTEP spokesman José Martins said that as with earlier attempts to intercept the well, the drill operation remains challenging and highly complex but all necessary resources have been mobilised to support the operation.

Additional attempts may be required to intercept and stop the flow of oil, gas and water leaking from the well head platform.

“We are working with some of the best and most experienced people in the industry worldwide including the team from ALERT Well Control,” Mr Martins said.

ALERT Well Control Managing Director Mike Allcorn has 30 years’ experience in emergency response and risk management services involving oil well firefighting and blowout control.

Mr Allcorn has been aboard the *West Triton* rig since mid September, leading the intercept operation and providing technical advice to the PTTEP drilling team.

“The drilling team is doing an excellent job and confidence and morale on the *West Triton* remains high,” Mr Allcorn said.

“We are extremely positive in the success we have had to date. To come within 4.5 metres of the target casing in the first drilling operation and to redrill to .70 of a metre was exceptional ... to come within potentially 30 centimetres of the target was unheard of. The performance to date based on our background of 30 years in the well control operations globally has been world class.”

ALERT Well Control has successfully completed some 1,200 well control, marine and industrial firefighting and pressure control operations throughout the world.



“The personnel on board the installation, as a team for a group of men and women to come together and work in unison as we have for a unified objective, have been fantastic ... and their achievements have been equally exceptional.”

Mr Allcorn said the objective to stop the leak remains unchanged: “We remain extremely confident that we will successfully intersect and kill this well.”

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This media statement and all previous statements issued by the company can be viewed at [www.au.pttep.com](http://www.au.pttep.com).

**ATTENTION RADIO EDITORS:**

Audio grabs of Mike Allcorn of ALERT Well Control are attached; additional grabs are available on request.