



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information # 81**

Date: 30 October 2009 1155 WST

PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP) is continuing work in preparation for a new pass this weekend to set up for an intercept to stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea.

The drilling team aboard the *West Triton* rig began drilling a new sidetrack well on Wednesday (28 October), 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.

Drilling will continue today.

While the next phase of the drilling operation will in all likelihood facilitate the required ranging by-pass, the team continues to remain focused on the primary objective of intersecting the target casing and completing the required well control operations in a safe, professional and expedient manner.

ALERT Well Control Managing Director Mike Allcorn said a by-pass would allow electro magnetic ranging tools to be run down the hole to help determine how close the sidetrack well is to the original leaking well.

This narrows the cone of uncertainty, allowing greater accuracy and a higher probability of success with subsequent operations. A following pass would be likely to occur next week.

The drill operation remains challenging and highly complex but all necessary resources have been mobilised to support the activities in the Timor Sea.

Mr Allcorn has 30 years' experience in emergency response and risk management services involving oil well firefighting, blowout control, well control and relief well engineering operations around the world.

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