



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information # 82**

Date: 31 October 2009 1105 WST

Work is continuing on the *West Triton* rig in the Timor Sea in preparation for a new pass this weekend to set up for a possible intercept to stop the leaking well in the Montara field.

PTTEP Australasia (PTTEP) says the next phase of the drilling operation will in all likelihood facilitate a ranging by-pass.

This means that in drilling towards the target area, the new side track well would run close to – or by-pass – the existing leaking well.

The drilling team aboard the *West Triton* rig is 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.

ALERT Well Control Managing Director Mike Allcorn said a by-pass would allow electromagnetic ranging tools to be run down the hole to confirm distance and direction from the sidetrack well to the original leaking well.

“This narrows the cone of uncertainty, allowing greater accuracy and a higher probability of success with subsequent operations,” Mr Allcorn said.

“One or two more passes could possibly be required – the first of them would be later next week – before we make a successful intercept.”

The drill operation remains challenging and highly complex.

He said as drilling continues today, the team remains focused on the primary objective of intersecting the target casing and completing the required well control operations in a safe, professional and expedient manner.

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.