



## Price of decontaminating Norway was 'too high' for Star Cruises

By Shirish Nadkarni in Mumbai and Marcus Hand in Singapore

Tuesday January 17 2006

[Print Article](#)

THE likely cost of removing the estimated 2,000 tonnes of asbestos aboard the iconic cruiseship Norway apparently put paid to a deal to remove the substance before it was sold for scrapping on the demolition beaches of Alang.

According to [Global Ship Recycling Solutions](#), an affiliate company of [GMS](#), based in Maryland, US, decontamination contract talks between it and owner Star Cruises foundered on the projected price.

"We negotiated the cost of cleaning the ship and making it environment-friendly and it worked out to less than 4% of the estimated scrap value," [GSR](#) president Dr Anil Sharma said.

"Star Cruises felt it was too high and they refused."

Star Cruises is yet to respond to repeated efforts by Lloyd's List to obtain a comment.

A recently formed company, [GSR](#) specialises in ship-recycling services.

Discussions on possible decontamination before demolition of the 1961 French-built, Bahamas-registered, 45,112 ldt cruiseship, formerly the France, began two months ago.

It was then that [GMS](#) as a buyer started negotiating the sale and sent out a circular to all demolition brokers, according to Dr Sharma.

"But I wanted to see the ship for myself because I felt it had significant amounts of asbestos on board," Dr Sharma said. "So I flew down and presented the [GSR](#) decontamination programme."

The cost of removing the Norway's asbestos proved an obstacle to a new life for the ship last year.

Last February, French holiday group Pierre & Vacances decided not to proceed with plans to convert it into a floating tourist resort.

The group estimated that the project would have cost it at least €200m (\$264m) and indicated that the figure could have gone higher, taking into account regulatory, technical and financial uncertainties.

One of the reasons given for the high cost of the project was asbestos removal.

[close](#)