Cash buyer attacks green scrap champs

US-based cash buyer Global Marketing Systems (GMS) is using the scrap sale of an Overseas Shipholding Group tanker to China as an opportunity to lash out at the public perception of the demolition industry.

Apparently, the US-listed owner would only accept offers from China when it ditched its 92,000-dwt, US-flag Overseas Chicago (built 1977). The ship was reported sold "as is" in Hong Kong for $280 per ldt or $4.5m sharply lower than what it would have fetched in Bangladesh.

Brokers say the ship has gone to a dismantling plant approved by Greenpeace.

GMS suggests that China has done "a darn good job" in establishing the perception that it has a green recycling industry. The cash buyer complains that most of what one reads in the media comes from people who do not work within the industry and who know almost nothing about it. "These self-proclaimed bastions of green recycling have done this industry, shipowners, ship recyclers, workers and regular, honest, working citizens a monumental disservice by flagrantly abusing facts and portraying a very negative and biased image of this industry," the company said.

GMS adds that if the recycling industry does not take part in the struggle against such views, demolition prices could drop some $10 per ldt to $20 per ldt.

Top prices are currently paid by scrappers in Bangladesh now beyond $400 per ldt.

Meanwhile, Tsakos has sold the 65,000-dwt tanker Porthos (built 1981) for $401 per ldt or $5.3m, while Project Shipping has sold the 33,000-dwt tanker Nikos (built 1976) for $400 per ldt or $2.9m. The company bought the ship as Fay Star in 2002 for in excess of $2m.

Elsewhere, the 15,300-dwt tanker Da Qing (built 1974) has been sold to China for $1.65m.

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