



PRESS RELEASE

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STAR CRUISES AND WHARF HOLDINGS SIGN TEN-YEAR FACILITY AGREEMENT

Star Cruises, "*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*", is pleased to announce that it had signed a **Ten-year Facility Agreement** with Wharf (Holdings) Ltd the terminal operator of Ocean Terminal, Hong Kong.

"The Facility Agreement marks Star Cruises' commitment to further invest in the cruise business and the long-term plans for the positioning of Star Cruises' ships in Hong Kong", says Mr Colin Au, President & Chief Executive of Star Cruises.

"Today also marks Star Cruises official announcement to position the HK\$2.8 billion, 2,800 passenger capacity, **SuperStar Leo** in Hong Kong in September this year. At 76,800 gross tonnes, **SuperStar Leo** is the biggest and most modern cruise ship to be custom-built for Asia " says Mr Colin Au.

Star Cruises made its first appearance in Hong Kong with **Star Pisces's** maiden call to Hong Kong dating back to April 1994. Over the last five years, Ocean Terminal has provided Star Cruises with excellent passenger terminal services.

Wharf (Holdings) Ltd had also unveiled a substantial updating programme to maintain the terminal as the leading regional and international cruise hub in Asia.

Said Mr Au, “We are appreciative of Wharf’s investment in the Ocean Terminal and our 10-year strategic relationship. The arrival of **SuperStar Leo** will further strengthen Hong Kong as the leading international cruise hub for North Asia and a sign of Star Cruises’ confidence in Hong Kong”.

With **SuperStar Leo** increased capacity which is almost double that of **Star Pisces**, Star Cruises will be able to develop the fly/cruise sector by marketing such packages internationally to attract overseas tourists and thereby contribute towards Hong Kong’s foreign exchange reserves.

“Eventually we will cruise north from Hong Kong to Tokyo and Beijing and from Hong Kong to south of Singapore with 7-night cruises”, added Mr. Au.

Star Cruises, *The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*” is one of the five largest cruise lines in the world. By 2002, Star Cruises will have a fleet of 10 vessels with lower berth capacity of about 12,000 with annual growth of 25% per year for the corresponding period.

Star Cruises has also one of the youngest cruise fleets in the world with ships based throughout Asia with Singapore, Port Klang, Phuket, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei, Okinawa and Osaka/Kobe as ports of embarkation by early 2000. Star Cruises has offices in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth), Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan

and Thailand), Europe (Austria, Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom) and the United States of America.

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