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Thursday March 27 2003

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THE vulnerability of cruise operators to terrorist attack came into sharp focus yesterday, as one of the consultants charged with modelling explosion hazards aboard passengerships presented latest developments to the Passenger Ship Safety conference hosted by the Royal Institute of Naval Architects, writes Hugh O'Mahony.

Jonathan Strachan, of ABS Consulting, said the same type of complex explosion modelling used for two decades by the world's navies to analyse the consequences of attack was now being used to assess the impact of terrorist acts against commercial ships.

ABS had assembled a modelling tool to assess the consequences of explosion damage sustained by a ship's sideshell. Shipowners wishing to know the effect of such attacks on vessel structures and systems were demanding blastwave analysis, he said.

Mr Strachan declined to name the owners involved and was also reluctant to spread alarm.

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