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Rare-Earth Metal Compounds

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Message from the Guest Editor

The group of rare-earth metals covers 14+3 elements that range in atomic number from 58 (cerium) to 71 (lutetium) on the high end of the periodic table, officially referred to as the 14 lanthanoids, since they all very much resemble their numerical forerunner lanthanum. Owing to the unusual physical and chemical properties of the rare-earth metals and their compounds, they have gained diverse applications touching many aspects of modern life and culture. Specific rare-earth elements are used individually or combined with others to generate phosphors in light-emitting devices, but still the glass industry is the largest consumer of raw materials containing rare-earth elements, using them for polishing and as additives providing colour or special optical properties. In order to understand these exploitable properties, a sound knowledge of the underlying crystal structures is indispensable, so this special issue of Crystals might provide a first glance at new materials for the future.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to *Crystals*, the journal dedicated to the fascinating world of crystallographic research! Crystals are more than mere decorative elements; they hold the key to understanding the fundamental structure of matter. Our mission is to explore the crucial significance of this research across various fields. From medicine to technology, chemistry to geology, crystals play a vital role. Their structure provides insights into new advanced materials, innovative drugs, and groundbreaking technologies. Through *Crystals*, we delve into the microscopic world to discover solutions that will shape the future. Join us on a journey through the *Crystals*, where science merges with beauty and innovation.

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