



Deep-Sea Minerals and Gas Hydrates

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The most promising mineral resources distributed out of the shelf zones are ferromanganese nodules and crusts, seafloor massive sulfides, phosphorites and gas hydrates. Marine minerals (nodules, crusts, sulphides and phosphorites) have different characteristics in their geological setting, grades of metals and genesis. They include such commodities as Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, P, Mo, rare earth elements, Au, Ag, Pt, Te, and others. Gas hydrates considered as giant potential hydrocarbons resource.

International activities directed towards deep-ocean mining are accelerating at an amazing pace and, to date, more than 2.5 million square kilometers of the seafloor are under contract for exploration and that number is increasing monthly. [...] Technology now exists for the mining of deep-ocean seafloor massive sulfides, manganese nodules, and phosphorite, and is in the final stages of development for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts. Within the next few years, the first deep-ocean mines will have begun operations and a new industry will have been born.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Minerals welcomes submissions that report basic and applied research in mineralogy. Research areas of traditional interest are mineral deposits, mining, mineral processing and environmental mineralogy. The journal footprint also includes novel uses of elemental and isotopic analyses of minerals for petrology, geochronology and thermochronology, thermobarometry, ore genesis and sedimentary provenance. Contributions are encouraged in emerging research areas such as applications of quantitative mineralogy to the oil and gas, manufacturing, forensic science, climate change, geohazard and health sectors.

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