

Deep-Sea Mineral Resources: Mining's Newest Frontier

Historically, mining, and mineral exploration has been a land-based activity. However, with increasing demand for new resources to fuel the transition to a green economy, mineral resources on the deep ocean floor are increasingly being considered as targets for future exploitation. Deep-sea mineral resources include polymetallic nodules (rich in cobalt, nickel, and copper), cobalt-rich crusts (also rich in cobalt, nickel, and copper), and seafloor massive sulfide deposits (rich in copper, zinc, gold, and silver). In this talk I will discuss how and where these different types of mineral resources occur, and the techniques and approaches applied to exploring for these resources on the seafloor.