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WILLIAM SMITH MEETING 2018

Mineral resources at the frontier

3 July 2018

The Geological Society, Burlington House



As ore grades decline and mineral deposit discovery rates slow down, future global demand for raw materials is likely to lead the exploration and mining industry into more extreme and technically-challenging environments. These frontier areas include the polar regions and ocean floors, as well as ultra-deep ore bodies in mature mineral provinces. Recent publications have even highlighted the mineral potential of extra-terrestrial bodies. In many respects these can just be considered new frontiers for an industry that has thrived on risk and continued expansion into new environments. Whilst the resource potential of these environments has long been discussed, new datasets, refined ore deposit models and advances in prospectivity modelling have improved our knowledge considerably. A broad array of technological developments have also brought mining in these environments closer to commercialization.

The 2018 William Smith Meeting will consider mineral resources in ultra-deep terrestrial environments, the deep-ocean (>200 m), the polar regions and extra-terrestrial settings. The Meeting provides a platform to discuss the key global drivers for mineral extraction in frontier environments, including security of supply concerns; to assess current understanding of the resource potential of these largely unexplored parts of the planet and beyond; to identify the geoscience knowledge gaps and science opportunities; hear about research and technology developments in exploration and extraction of these resources; and discuss the challenges for environmental protection and issues surrounding resource ownership, governance and the development of regulatory regimes.

Call for Abstracts

We invite oral and poster abstract submissions for the meeting, and these should be sent in a Word document to rhianna.mclean@geolsoc.org.uk by 11 May 2018. Abstracts should be approximately 250 words and include a title and acknowledgement of authors and their affiliations.

Convenors:

Paul Lusty (British Geological Survey)
Bramley Murton (National Oceanography Centre)
Teal Riley (British Antarctic Survey)

Further information

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