

Potential evaluation of the fourth deep-sea mineral resource

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A new deep-sea mineral resource, especially enriched in rare earth elements (REE), has been reported from the Pacific Ocean (Kato, 2008). The total REE contents (SREE + Y) are up to 1,500 ppm, which are comparable to those (especially HREE) of ion-adsorbed REE ore deposits in China. Here we present geochemical characteristics of the fourth mineral resource and evaluated its potential as a new REE resource.