

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Contributing to the sustainable management of deep sea mineral resources of the Area for the benefit of mankind.



FACT SHEET

- *Polymetallic Nodules*
- *Polymetallic Sulphides*
- *Cobalt-Rich Ferromanganese Crusts*
- *Exploration Area Maps*

CONTRACTORS FOR SEABED EXPLORATION

The International Seabed Authority has entered into 15-year contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts in the deep seabed with twenty-nine contractors. The signature of these exploration contracts gives practical and real effect to the single regime for the Area established by the 1982 United Nations Convention and the 1994 Agreement and as such represents a significant step forward for the international community.

Seventeen of these contracts are for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (16) and Central Indian Ocean Basin (1). There are seven contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides in the South West Indian Ridge, Central Indian Ridge and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and five contracts for exploration for cobalt-rich crusts in the Western Pacific Ocean.

In 2017, seven of the contracts for exploration for polymetallic nodules were granted 5-year extensions. The contractors were Interoceanmetal Joint Organization, Yuzhmorgeologiya, Government of the Republic of Korea, China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association, Deep Ocean Resources Development Co Ltd., Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer, and the Government of India.

The groundwork for the signing of contracts was laid out in 2000 with the adoption of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area followed by the adoption of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Area in 2010 and the adoption of the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Cobalt-Rich Ferromanganese Crusts in 2012.

The regulations set out the duties and obligations of the Authority and the contractors regarding their seabed activities and follows a standard formula that requires signatories to abide by the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention, as well as the Regulations.

Upon signature of the contracts, the contractors commit themselves to reporting annually to the Authority on their activities in the Area. These reports are monitored by the Authority through its Legal and Technical Commission and the evaluations cover exploration work, environmental studies, the development of mining technology, and legal and financial issues.

















As they explore their segment of the seabed, contractors are bound "to prevent, reduce and control pollution and other hazards to the marine environment" arising from their activities. This not only requires them to monitor activities as they progress but also to collect baseline data establishing the natural conditions of the local environment before any human intervention takes place.

Each contractor is required to propose a programme for the training of nationals of developing States. The training programme, as agreed with the Authority, is incorporated into the contract as schedule 3.


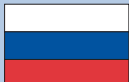





Prior to the commencement of its programme of activities under the contract, each contractor is also required to submit to the Secretary-General a contingency plan to respond effectively to incidents arising from its activities in the exploration area.

As all future applicants must also do, each of the contractors came to the Authority with the sponsorship of a State and provided information enabling the Council to determine that they are financially and technically capable of carrying out the activities they propose to undertake. These activities are set out in a plan of work covering the period of their contract, to be updated every five years.

Status of Contracts for Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules

	Contractor	Date of entry into force of contract	Sponsoring State	General location of the exploration area under contract	Area Size (sq km)	Date of expiry of contract
	Interoceanmetal Joint Organization	29 March 2001	Bulgaria, Cuba, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and Slovakia	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	28 March 2021
	Yuzhmorgeologiya	29 March 2001	Russian Federation	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	28 March 2021
	Government of the Republic of Korea	27 April 2001	Republic of Korea	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	26 April 2021
	China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association	22 May 2001	China	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	21 May 2021
	Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd.	20 June 2001	Japan	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	19 June 2021
	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	20 June 2001	France	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	19 June 2021
	Government of India	25 March 2002	India	Indian Ocean	75,000	24 March 2022
	Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany	19 July 2006	Germany	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	18 July 2021
	Nauru Ocean Resources Inc.	22 July 2011	Nauru	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	21 July 2026
	Tonga Offshore Mining Limited	11 January 2012	Tonga	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	10 January 2027
	Marawa Research and Exploration Ltd.	19 January 2015	Kiribati	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	18 January 2030
	UK Seabed Resources Ltd.	8 February 2013	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	58,620	7 February 2028
	Global Sea Mineral Resources NV	14 January 2013	Belgium	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	76,728	13 January 2028
	Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte Ltd	22 January 2015	Singapore	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	58,280	21 January 2030
	UK Seabed Resources Ltd	29 March 2016	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	74,919	28 March 2031
	Cook Islands Investment Corporation	15 July 2016	Cook Islands	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	75,000	14 July 2031
	China Minmetals Corporation	12 May 2017	China	Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone	72,745	11 May 2032

Status of Contracts for Exploration for Polymetallic Sulphides

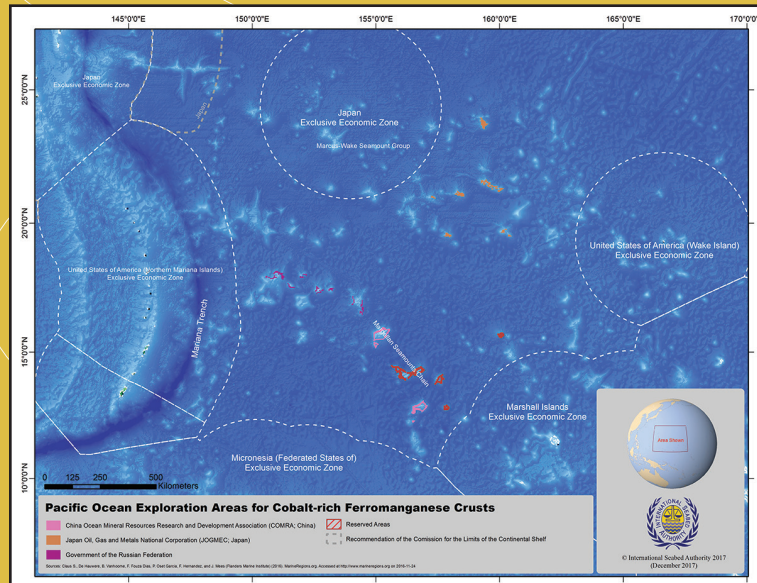
	Contractor	Date of entry into force of contract	Sponsoring State	General location of the exploration area under contract	Area Size (sq km)	Date of expiry of contract
	China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association	18 November 2011	China	Southwest Indian Ridge	10,000	17 November 2026
	Government of the Russian Federation	29 October 2012	Russian Federation	Mid-Atlantic Ridge	10,000	28 October 2027
	Government of the Republic of Korea	24 June 2014	Republic of Korea	Indian Ocean	10,000	23 June 2029
	Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	18 November 2014	France	Mid-Atlantic Ridge	10,000	17 November 2029
	Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of the Federal Republic of Germany	6 May 2015	Germany	Central Indian Ocean	10,000	5 May 2030
	The Government of India	26 September 2016	India	Central Indian Ocean	10,000	25 September 2031
	The Government of Poland	12 February 2018	Republic of Poland	Mid Atlantic Ridge	10,000	11 February 2033

Status of Contracts for Exploration for Cobalt-Rich Ferromanganese Crusts

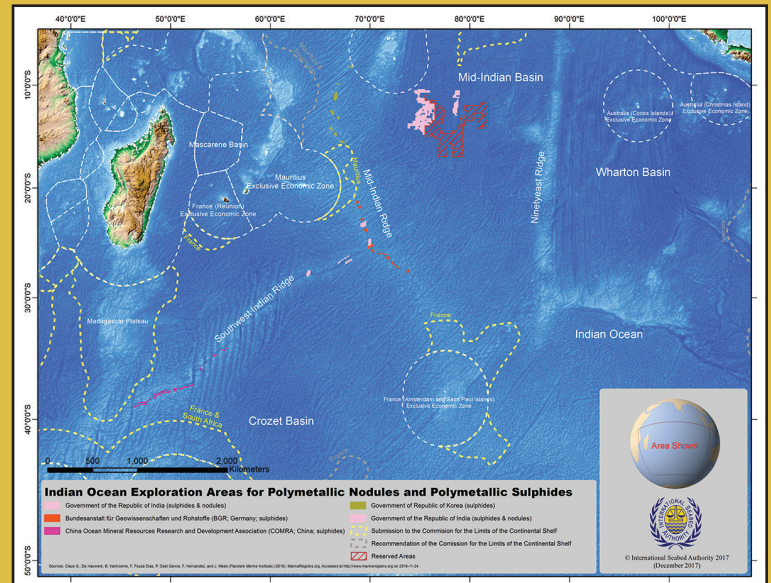
	Contractor	Date of entry into force of contract	Sponsoring State	General location of the exploration area under contract	Area Size (sq km)	Date of expiry of contract
	Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation	27 January 2014	Japan	Western Pacific Ocean	3,000	26 January 2029
	China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association	29 April 2014	China	Western Pacific Ocean	3,000	28 April 2029
	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation	10 March 2015	Russia	Pacific Ocean	3,000	9 March 2030
	Companhia De Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais	9 November 2015	Brazil	South Atlantic Ocean	3,000	8 November 2030
	Republic of Korea	27 March 2018	Republic of Korea	Western Pacific Ocean	3,000	26 March 2033

Exploration Areas under ISA Contract

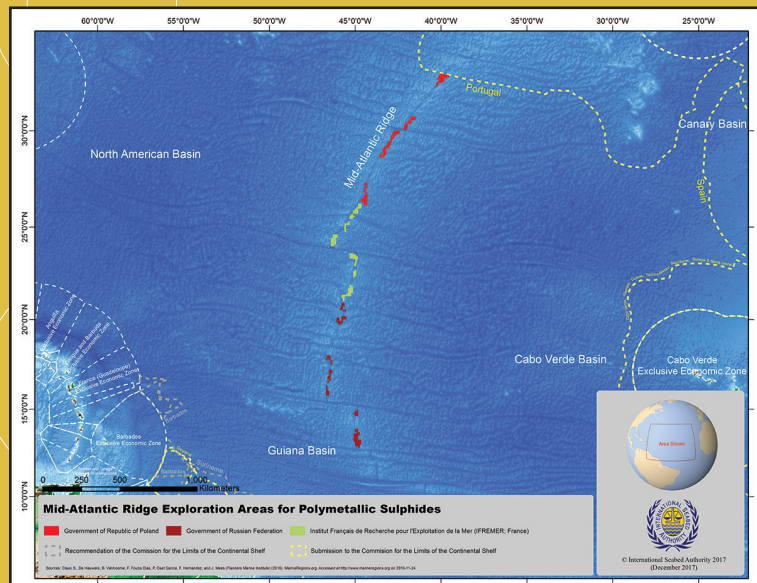
Pacific Ocean



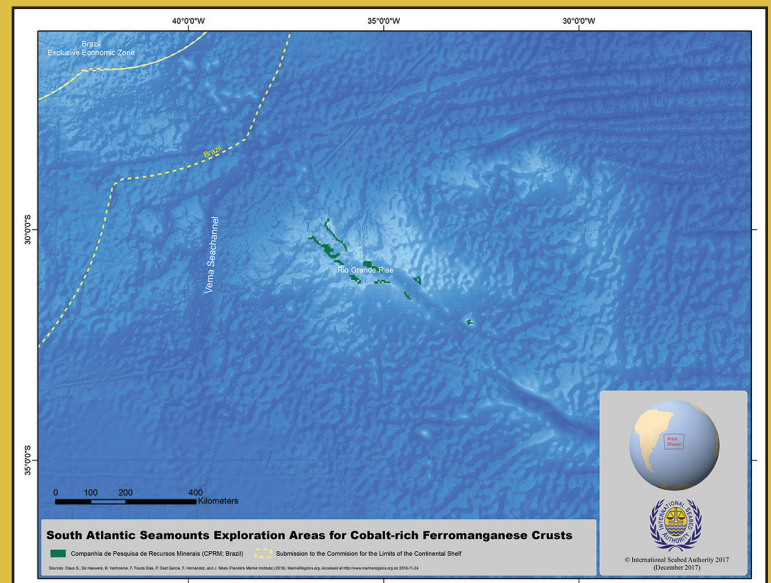
Indian Ocean



Mid Atlantic Ridge



South Atlantic Ocean



Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone

