

Press-Release
Hamburg, 06.05.2015



Participation of the “DeepSea Mining Alliance” (DSMA) in the course of the signing ceremony of the German licence-contract on the exploration of polymetallic sulphides in the Indian Ocean.

On May 6th 2015 the German licence-contract on the exploration of polymetallic sulphides in the Indian Ocean was signed at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi). The signing was carried out by the Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority, Nii Odunton and the President of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Kämpel in the presence of Mathias Machnig State Secretary at Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology.

After signing the first exploration contract on polymetallic nodules in 2006, Germany now signed a second contract to explore seafloor massive sulphides. This new exploration contract is agreed expressly by the DSMA. On the occasion of the signing ceremony, Leonhard Weixler, president of the DSMA, declared:

“In addition to the polymetallic nodules the massive sulphides will play an important role in the future. This applies for the long-term supply on raw materials for the German economy as well as for the international marketing of German technologies and services. According to the current state of knowledge the future deep-sea mining will start with massive sulphides. Also our member companies are preparing themselves intensely regarding joint R&D-projects. An important focus of our technological developments will be the thorough mitigation of environmental impacts. Especially in this field of activity German companies take internationally a leading position. Due to this fact the DSMA appreciates explicitly the second German exploration license on seafloor massive sulphides“.

Marine Mineral Resources (MMR) are an essential asset regarding the additional option to improve the supply security of strategic mineral resources for the German economy. Furthermore the deep-sea mining business presents a major future market for the German marine technology, which stands for highest international standards and environmental requirements. Member companies of the DSMA, which has now been established internationally, therefore open up early chances to develop and market innovative and environmental friendly products for deep-sea mining.

The DeepSea Mining Alliance, founded in April 2014, serves as a joint platform regarding the representation of interests concerning politics, industry and society. Currently the association comprises 25 members, which mainly have an industrial background.

Further Information:

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