



## Rare Earth Deposits and Challenges of World REE Demand for High-Tech and Green-Tech at the Beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The rapid development of environmentally-friendly and other innovative technologies in the past century have greatly increased the demand for rare earth elements (REE) and, most recently, neodymium (Nd), dysprosium (Dy), niobium (Nb) and other critical materials in particular. The need for new sources of these materials has been amplified by the current situation in their supply markets, with a growing public concern about unlawful, unethical (e.g., “conflict coltan” in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) or environmentally harmful extraction (REEs sourced from the “South China clays”) of some rare-metal resources. Critical materials are, and will likely remain, indispensable for the implementation and further advancement of low-carbon energy and transportation technologies, such as wind farms and electric vehicles.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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