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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**INTERNATIONAL MARINE MINERALS SOCIETY (IMMS)  
And SOCIETY FOR MINING, METALLURGY, and EXPLORATION (SME)  
ANNOUNCE MERGER**

The International Marine Minerals Society and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration are pleased to announce the merger of their organizations. IMMS will be known as International Marine Minerals Society of SME (IMMS of SME). The merger is effective as of May, 2011. The combined organizations will operate out of SME headquarters, 12999 E Adam Aircraft Cir. Englewood, CO 80112, [www.smenet.org](http://www.smenet.org).

“The merger of IMMS with SME is very exciting for members of both organizations. It will provide a larger platform to promote the technologies of marine minerals while adding breadth to SME products and services for members of both. We welcome them enthusiastically to our community.” said John Murphy, 2011 SME President.

IMMS President Georgy Cherkashov adds, “IMMS is a truly international organization with the vast majority of its members from outside the US. It focuses on the 71% of the planet, the ocean, which will be our future source of minerals. IMMS gives the mining industry access to the wealth of knowledge and expertise accumulated from years of working in the marine environment. Through our merger with SME, we will now be able to share the opportunities offered by ocean mining in the greater mining community.

The International Marine Minerals Society (IMMS) is a professional society (nonprofit 501(c) (6) corporation) whose members share a common interest in marine minerals as a resource for study and sound application to meet world demands for strategic minerals. Founded in 1987, IMMS includes a worldwide membership of individuals from industry, government agencies, and academic institutions. The primary objectives of IMMS are:

- To promote and improve the understanding of marine mineral deposits within the province of the global ocean;
- To aid in the interchange of information among members through networking and formal symposia;
- To encourage the prudent development of marine mineral resources, including concern for the environment; and
- To encourage research in all aspects of marine minerals development

SME advances the worldwide minerals community through information exchange and professional development. With more than 13,000 members around the world, SME is the world's largest professional association of mineral professionals. Through its professional development programs SME is the resource for the successful professional.

2010 SME President Nikhil Trivedi summarizes, “I am excited about the long term possibilities for both IMMS and SME as we combine the activities, products and services of the two groups. This will prove to be truly a mutually beneficial association. The ultimate beneficiaries of this alliance are the worldwide members of IMMS and SME.”

*SME exists to be THE resource and advocate for the mining community.  
For further details see: [www.immsoc.org](http://www.immsoc.org) and [www.smenet.org](http://www.smenet.org).*