

D. International Seabed Authority

The Authority came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of the Convention, although it did not become fully operational as an autonomous organization until 1996, with the election of the first Secretary-General. 16 November 2014 therefore marks the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Authority. A special commemorative event will be held during the twentieth session to mark the twentieth year of the Authority's existence.

As of 11 June 2014 the International Seabed Authority has approved nineteen (19) Plan of Work and has entered into 15-year contracts for exploration for marine mineral resources in the deep seabed in the Area with sixteen (16) Contractors. Twelve (12) of these contracts are for exploration for polymetallic nodules, two (2) contracts for exploration for polymetallic sulphides and two (2) contracts for exploration for cobalt-rich crusts. Three (3) contracts remains to be signed – two (2) for Sulphides and one (1) for Nodules.