

# Securing raw Materials and technological Development – sustainable and innovative

Dr. Martin Wedig, CEO of the German Federation of International Mining and Mineral Resources (FAB) in the VRB, Berlin, Germany

The safeguarding of future raw materials also turns the focus on international mining and collaboration quite apart from relevant services. The FAB with its members represents the raw materials project at the bauma.

**Raw materials • Globalisation • Sustainability • International Mining • Services • Mining 4.0**

**M**achinery and plant engineering has been instrumental in making Germany great and stands like no other branch of industry for the two attributes, which depict Germany to the world at large, “solidity” and “prosperity”. German machinery and plant engineering is closely linked with mining. In the interim, both benefit from their internationality. For decades now, the bauma has been the shop window of German machinery and plant manufacturing for the construction and mining industries. Consequently, it has become one of the most important events for mining. In the course of the years, the number of visitors has increased constantly, thus underlining the esteem accorded the **bauma**.

## Need for Future raw Materials

The need for raw materials with a view to so-called future technologies is increasing. This applies in particular to metallic raw materials, such as iron ore, tungsten, REE and lithium, whose consumption will at least double over the next decade. Owing to eco-political interests for regenerative energies, there is for instance, an annual growth in the demand for lithium of 9 % at present.

## International Mining

Given increasing prices for raw materials, currently great interest on the part of companies involved on the raw materials sector can again be observed. This interest also prevails for mining abroad, which has received new motivation thanks to a series of start-ups. The, in some cases, poor availability of raw materials, high prices and the dominance of a handful of companies on international raw materials markets, invite German companies to undertake fresh investments and establish their own raw materials bases in other countries. Service providers on the raw materials sector are also profiting increasingly from this development.

## Communications Platform bauma

The German Federation of International Mining and Mineral Resources (FAB) would like to act as a contact

point and partner for institutions in Germany, foreign mining delegations and companies in order to establish contacts between various fair visitors and FAB members quite apart from promoting an exchange of views and cooperation at an international level for raw materials projects and international mining.

## Digitalisation and Mining 4.0

The technological aspect in particular will be addressed at the 2019 bauma. In this connection, digitalisation or its subfield, Industry 4.0 also plays a major role. For the raw materials sector, Mining 4.0 signifies the further development of automation, mining, transport and preparation. In future, economic mining of raw materials will only be achieved through automation, in other words: providing highly productive, mechanised mining operations. Automation and extracting raw materials in a manner that conserves resources and is sustainable with a very high degree of selective production allow cost savings for transport, preparation and the recycling of waste. Towards this end, emphasis must be placed on environmental protection and safety. All efforts on the part of German mining companies are geared to making mining more efficient, economic and of course, more environmentally-friendly. The exhibitors – especially mining machinery manufacturers – will present the international trade visitors at the bauma innovative developments for solving the challenges that have been cited.

We should like to wish you all a successful sojourn in Munich and look forward to enjoying a conversation with you.

All the best and Glückauf  
Yours,  
Martin Wedig

### Dr. Martin Wedig

can be located at Booth C2.214 in Hall C2 during the bauma.

**Contact:** martin.wedig@v-r-b.de

