The International Marine Minerals Society (IMMS) presents David Heydon, with *The Moore Medal*, which is given in the name of Professor J. Robert (Robby) Moore for distinction in the development of marine minerals. Professor Moore conducted marine minerals research at Cardiff University in Wales, Great Britain and the Universities of Harvard, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Texas in the United States. He was committed to the intelligent integration of government, industry, and academia to address the development of marine minerals.

Robby founded the Underwater Mining Institute and IMMS, and he committed his research and many other considerable personal efforts to the multidisciplinary development of marine minerals. *The Moore Medal* is not awarded on any regular basis, but is reserved for those rare occasions when the career of an eminent figure in marine mining and minerals activities warrants such an honor.

*Robert W. Cooke earns a living designing and making monumental sculptures for many customers, mostly in the Northwest. Before becoming a full time artist, Bob was the Exploration Manager for the International Nickel deep seabed mining consortium. He attended many UMI's and became a good friend of the Institute and many of its participants. He designed and made the Moore medal when IMMS decided to initiate the award.*
Every now and then an exceptionally talented, intelligent, ambitious visionary comes along who makes a real difference. It doesn't hurt that the person is very outgoing and friendly. Such a person is this year's winner of the IMMS's Moore Medal, David Heydon.

David is a highly successful entrepreneur. We members of IMMS know him best for his role in establishing Nautilus Minerals as the world's leading company in the search for and soon-to-happen recovery of base and precious metal seafloor massive sulfides (SMS). Nautilus was not David’s first venture nor will it be his last. He has started several companies with his own money. He and his wife, Jan, once lived in a caravan because David had sold their home to raise venture capital. Since then David and Jan have done well with a fine house in Brisbane, another in Canberra with sweeping views of Lake Burley Griffin and a stunning new very modern holiday home on the New South Wales coast at Mollymook.

David didn’t start Nautilus. That honor goes to his college buddy, Julian Malnic, who at the time was an industry journalist writing a story about the SMS discovery that had been made by Ray Binns and Steve Scott off the east coast of Papua New Guinea. Julian was so impressed by what he was hearing that he applied for exploration rights from the PNG government, got them in 1997 and Nautilus Minerals was born. David joined the company a few years later as CEO and grew it into the world leading enterprise it is today.

Growing Nautilus wasn’t easy but David was just the man to pull it off. He travelled the globe tirelessly talking to anyone who would listen to his vision of mining the ocean floor. Skeptics abounded but so, too, did people who were excited by David’s visionary pitch. He raised more money for deep-sea mining than any individual in history totalling US$360 million that has been used to advance science, engineering, environmental and geological knowledge of deep-sea deposits. He got major land mining companies interested in deep-sea mining – Teck Cominco, Placer Dome, Barrick Gold, Anglo American and Metalloinvest. His successes have brought others into the field but Nautilus, now under the leadership of CEO Stephen Rogers, remains the top dog.

David brought in management, engineering and exploration teams of exceptionally talented people, most of whom are still with Nautilus. The teams, who were from land-based companies, had to learn new ways of exploring and recovering ores from the seafloor. A visitor could sense the palpable excitement within the company. On the technical side, David jointly conceived the ROV drill which has resulted in a step-change in deep-sea commercial resource drilling and evaluation. In addition, he supported the development of new
geophysical tools such as electromagnetics for commercial exploration. David was responsible for initiating bursary and training programs for nationals from developing States to assist in capacity building in this new industry. He gave academic researchers access to the company’s scientific data and opportunities to do their investigations of the seafloor during company cruises.

David’s latest venture since leaving Nautilus in 2008 that puts an enthusiastic smile on his face and gleam in his eye is manganese nodules. He has privately funded through his new company, DeepGreen Resources, development of a method to recover nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese from nodules, which has the potential of a breakthrough in the economics of their processing. He found the key to unlocking wealth from nodules for small island nations that the International Seabed Authority had been seeking. This key was to partner island nations with others as he did for Nauru Ocean Resources and Tonga Offshore Mining who are the first commercial enterprises to obtained exploration contracts from the ISA in July 2011 and January 2012, respectively. David is the CEO of Nauru Ocean Resources that is wholly owned by two Nauruan Foundations. The foundations’ objective is to advance education, training, health and environmental rehabilitation in Nauru using the funds from future polymetallic nodule production for these purposes. Tonga Offshore Mining is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nautilus Minerals.

What is next for David? Who knows and maybe not even he does but surely he will build on the monumental work he has already done as he continues to develop his interests and promote the deep-sea mining industry.

David Heydon is truly a visionary who has greatly advanced the objectives of the IMMS. It is most fitting that the IMMS bestows on him the Moore Medal given for distinction in the development of marine minerals.

Steven D. Scott*

An admirer and friend
IMMS Past President and Member
October 17, 2012
* with input from Robert Heydon

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Georgy Cherkashov, President      Charles L. Morgan, UMI Chair