

Intel's Efforts to Achieve a Responsibly Sourced Mineral Supply Chain

White Paper

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Intel products contain mined materials that are integral to many electronics industry technologies. While we do not procure these raw materials directly, our suppliers acquire and use minerals from multiple sources worldwide. As set forth in our Responsible Minerals Sourcing Policy, Intel is committed to the responsible sourcing of minerals – sourcing done in an ethical and sustainable manner that safeguards the human rights of everyone in our global supply chain. Intel was one of the first companies to address the issue of “conflict minerals”¹ originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and adjoining countries (referred to as the “Covered Countries”) in our supply chain. We have worked diligently to put the systems and processes in place to enable us to understand the sources of minerals such as tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold (3TG), as well as cobalt and others, in our supply chain and support legitimate mineral sourcing.

Intel was the first electronics company to publish goals related to manufacturing products from “conflict-free”² sources. Specifically, we met our published goals to manufacture microprocessors with tantalum sourced from conflict-free supply chains in 2012 and with tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold sourced from conflict-free supply chains in 2013. In 2018, we expanded our program beyond the scope of conflict minerals from the Covered Countries to also comprehend additional minerals, such as cobalt, and human rights abuses in conflict-affected and high-risk areas (CAHRAs) as outlined in the “OECD Guidance”³. Our policy, supplier requirements, and due diligence processes have been updated to reflect our expanded responsible minerals program. We have also updated the program goals and language, and therefore, no longer use the term “conflict-free”, but instead pursue a broader more inclusive result referred to as “responsibly sourced”⁴.

In May of 2020, we announced Intel's corporate RISE Strategy to create a more responsible, inclusive, and sustainable world, enabled through technology and our collective actions. As a key technology industry initiative within our RISE goals, Intel committed, by 2030, to significantly broaden our impact in responsible minerals and accelerate the creation of sourcing standards for a much wider set of minerals across CAHRAs globally. In 2021, we sent our first expanded minerals survey for aluminum, copper, nickel, and silver to suppliers who contribute these materials to our

¹ “Conflict minerals”, as defined by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules, is a broad term which means columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite, gold, wolframite, or their derivatives which are limited to tantalum, tin or tungsten, regardless of whether these minerals finance conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) or adjoining countries.

² “Conflict-free” refers to products, suppliers, supply chains, smelters, and refiners that, based on our due diligence, do not contain or source tantalum, tin, tungsten or gold (referred to as “conflict minerals” by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) that directly or indirectly finance or benefit armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or adjoining countries.

³ “OECD Guidance” refers to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, Third Edition, and related Supplements on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten and on Gold.

⁴ “Responsibly sourced” is defined in Intel's Responsible Minerals Sourcing Policy as sourcing done in an ethical and sustainable manner that safeguards the human rights of everyone in our global supply chain.

Intel manufactured microprocessors. This is an important step in our RISE strategy as we begin mapping our supply chains for our highest priority minerals. To contribute to standards and help define and engage in due diligence within the copper supply chain, Intel is an active partner member of The Copper Mark. Additionally, we continue to partner with industry associations to ensure standards are in place to enable our ultimate goal of responsible sourcing for all the minerals in our supply chain. We will continue to identify the highest priority minerals in pursuit of our 2030 RISE Goals.

Intel's mission is to maintain the positive progress we've made to date on 3TG and cobalt, and to address risks as they emerge from the expanding scope of minerals and geographies. We will continue to advance responsible sourcing across our product lines and materials as our business and the world landscape continues to evolve. Additionally, we will continue to identify the highest priority minerals to establish the next milestones to achieve our 2030 RISE goals and objectives.

Intel has worked extensively on responsible mineral sourcing for more than a dozen years. Below is a summary of some of our milestones and accomplishments:

- Conducted our first conflict minerals supply chain survey in 2009.
- Since 2009, visited 138 different 3TG and cobalt smelter and refiner facilities in 24 countries with the goal of providing education on conflict minerals, collecting country of origin information of the conflict minerals in our supply chain, and encouraging participation in the [Responsible Minerals Assurance Process \(RMAP\)](#); a responsible mineral sourcing validation program administered by the [Responsible Minerals Initiative \(RMI\)](#).
- Established and then co-chaired the EICC and GeSI Extractives Working Group through 2013, which led to the creation of the Conflict-Free Sourcing Initiative, later renamed the RMI.
- Conducted on the ground reviews of the minerals trade in the DRC in 2010 and 2013.
- Supported in-region mining efforts by participating in the "[Solutions for Hope](#)" project to obtain tantalum from conflict-free sources in the DRC, and being members of or providing support to [iTSCI](#), [Better Sourcing Program \(BSP\)](#), [Better Mining ASM Mine Monitoring Program](#), and the [Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade \(PPA\)](#).
- Demonstrated our commitment to continuing action on this issue by signing a multi-stakeholder statement called the "[Challenge to the Conflict Mineral Rule](#)" in 2012.
- In 2013 we met our published goal to manufacture microprocessors with tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold sourced from conflict-free supply chains.
- From 2004 through 2020, obtained an Independent Private Sector Audit (IPSA) of applicable sections of our conflict minerals SEC filing which concluded the design of our conflict minerals program is in conformity with the [OECD Guidance](#). It should be noted that after consultation with stakeholders, including external NGOs and internal management, we concluded that a reduced frequency of private sector audits would continue to meet stakeholder objectives while also enabling us to redeploy resources to upstream projects and program expansion.
- Since 2017, have conducted supplier surveys and due diligence on cobalt sourcing for our Intel manufactured IC products and reported results in our Corporate Social Responsibility Report.
- In 2019, conducted our first survey on cobalt sourcing for our outsourced components in addition to Intel manufactured integrated circuit products, and reported results in our conflict minerals SEC filing and website at www.intel.com/responsibleminerals.
- Along with the RMI, we helped develop the Cobalt Reporting Template (CRT) (now Extended Minerals Reporting Template – EMRT) and the Cobalt Refiner Supply Chain Due Diligence Standard, to be able to map out industry-wide cobalt supply chains and assess the management systems of cobalt refineries around the world.

- In 2019, we visited our first cobalt smelter and refiner facility with the goal of providing education on and encouraging participation in the newly established RMAP for cobalt processing facilities, as well as encouraging collaboration between the RMI and the Responsible Cobalt Initiative (RCI).
- Participated in a PPA-organized delegation visit to the DRC and Rwanda in 2019, which included meetings with government leaders and human rights advocates as well as visits to several mine sites.
- Provided mining community support through [City of Joy](#) (via the PPA), a group providing health care, education, and holistic rehabilitation to survivors of gender violence in Congolese mining communities; [Congo Power](#), an alliance providing mining areas with clean power; and the PACT-RMI Youth Vocational Training Program.
- Resourced the University of British Columbia library for the ongoing acquisition of materials to develop the first Democratic Republic of Congo-focused North American collection for Congolese-written material. Enabling access to material written by the Congolese gives the community a voice and opportunity to share their culture, history, and experiences from their own perspective. A wider understanding of issues affecting people in the DRC as told by the people themselves is one step in helping to empower marginalized communities that supply the critical minerals to Intel products.
- In 2020, we announced our 2030 RISE program including an industry initiative to expand our efforts beyond conflict minerals to cover all minerals used in semiconductor manufacturing and apply the learnings to lead our industry in creating new sourcing standards.
- In 2021, we sent our first survey to relevant suppliers inquiring on sourcing of aluminum, copper, nickel, and silver.
- In 2022, extended our survey to not just include aluminum, copper, nickel, and silver, but also lead and zinc.
- Reported annually on our supply chain due diligence activities in this white paper, our Corporate Social Responsibility Report, and our conflict minerals disclosures to the SEC, available on our company website at www.intel.com/responsibleminerals.

Driving Accountability in the Supply Chain

The electronics supply chain is deep and wide—with multiple layers of suppliers located in many different countries—making it extremely difficult to trace the source of minerals used in products.

In pursuit of understanding our complex supply chain, Intel first asked our suppliers in 2009 to complete a survey on the origin of minerals for the tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold used in their products and components supplied to Intel. The purpose of this survey was to understand three items: (1) whether our suppliers had implemented conflict mineral sourcing policies; (2) whether they had the ability to trace the minerals they used back to the source; and (3) whether they could identify the smelters and refiners that process the minerals in their own supply chain.

Our initial survey results demonstrated great variance in the amount of information our suppliers knew about the minerals used in their supply chains. This finding convinced us that the most effective way to ensure that the tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold used in the electronics supply chain was from sources not funding conflict in the Covered Countries was to implement a validation process at the smelter and refiner level. This is where ore is converted to ingots, bullion and other mineral containing derivatives. The smelter or refiner is a key point in the supply chain for determining the source of minerals supplied to Intel. Partnering with the smelter and refiner facilities is important because once a mineral is processed into a metal, it's difficult to know what country or mine the metal originated from. As we expand our scope to include additional minerals, we plan to continue our focus on identifying and partnering with the smelters and refiners in our supply chain to pursue responsible sourcing.

Intel conducted its first on-site conflict minerals smelter review in 2009. This was the first review ever done in the electronics industry for conflict minerals and was the catalyst for development of the Conflict-Free Smelter Program (CFSP), now RMAP, an innovative industry audit program designed to validate smelters' and refiners' sourcing practices. We also sent representatives to the DRC in 2010, 2013, and 2019 as part of delegations from the U.S. We found that speaking with the various stakeholders involved in the minerals trade in the DRC was invaluable to our understanding of both the challenges and opportunities on this important issue. On-site visits were not conducted in 2020 or 2021 due to safety concerns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, as it was deemed safe again, Intel met with 21 smelters and refiners in Indonesia to encourage and assist their participation in a responsible minerals assurance program if they were not yet participating and provide capacity-building and CAP support for those undergoing their first audit.

Encouraging Industry-Wide Action

Many industries use tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold in their products including, e.g.: aerospace, automotive, jewelry, information technology, and consumer electronics. Intel and others in our industry quickly realized that we would need to work across many industries to tackle this complex problem. To support multi-industry collaboration, Intel has assisted in convening many well-attended industry meetings on conflict minerals. In 2009, we co-chaired the first electronics industry supply chain meeting for tin in Vancouver, Canada. Since then, we have sponsored or co-sponsored a “call to action meeting” in San Francisco; a meeting on tantalum at our facility in Chandler, Arizona; a meeting with the gold industry in Denver, Colorado; and a multi-stakeholder meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

We also co-chaired the EICC and GeSI Extractives Working Group through 2013, which led to the creation of the Conflict-Free Sourcing Initiative (CFSI), now RMI, a joint initiative of more than 350 companies from ten different industries. The RMI and its member companies collaborate and provide tools and resources that support responsible mineral sourcing, including the RMAP validation audit of smelters and refiners and the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (CMRT) and the Cobalt Reporting Template (CRT) (now EMRT), supply chain survey tools. Additionally, the RMI has hosted conflict minerals supply chain workshops to educate others on the responsible mineral sourcing topic. The RMI has grown into one of most respected industry resources for companies addressing the responsible sourcing of minerals. More information regarding the RMI is available at their website - <http://www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/>.

Traceability in the Supply Chain

Through our industry meetings and forums, we acquired a great deal of information and gained insight regarding traceability in our supply chain. Our on-site smelter and refiner reviews have enabled us to understand the unique operating characteristics of individual smelters and refiners, as well as determine the current gaps in their ability to trace the source of ore to countries and mines of origin. For example, some facilities had documentation indicating the country that mineral ore was shipped from, but not on the country where the ore was originally mined. This is a critical issue because minerals (especially gold) can be smuggled into other countries, making traceability even more challenging.

We also learned that the infrastructure needed to trace the source of materials in our supply chain did not exist and concluded that a process to audit and validate smelters and refiners would be necessary. The smelter and refiner reviews conducted by Intel laid the groundwork for the EICC and GeSI Extractives Working Group to develop and implement a process for independent third-party audits of smelters and refiners—the Conflict-Free Smelter Program (CFSP), now RMAP. Through the RMAP

validation process, an independent third party audits the management systems and processing activities of a smelter or refiner. The auditor utilizes the RMAP audit standard to determine if sufficient systems exist to ensure appropriate risk-based due diligence in the mineral supply chain.

Due to the unique characteristics and complexities associated with each of the four conflict minerals, the working group determined that it would be most feasible to address one mineral at a time. In 2010, the working group created the first tantalum smelter audit protocol, and then selected three independent auditing firms to conduct the tantalum smelter validation audits. In 2011, under the leadership of Intel and with the cooperation of many within the EICC and GeSI industry groups, the then CFSP released the audit protocols for smelters and refiners that process gold, tin, and tungsten. These audit protocols are now in place and serve as a core component of the RMAP validation audit for smelters and refiners. To increase the accuracy and efficiency of the RMAP audit procedures, Intel collaborated with metal-specific industry associations, such as the [Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center \(TIC\)](#), [International Tin Research Institute \(ITRI\)](#), [London Bullion Market Association \(LMBA\)](#), [Responsible Jewelry Council \(RJC\)](#), [International Tungsten Industry Association \(ITIA\)](#) and the [Tungsten Industry Conflict Minerals Council \(TI-CMC\)](#).

Since 2010, smelters and refiners that successfully comply with the audit requirements are listed on the publicly available [RMAP Conformant Smelters & Refiners](#). As of May 2022, the RMI website listed 262 conformant smelters and refiners across five different mineral categories (99 gold, 36 tantalum, 54 tin, 42 tungsten, and 31 cobalt). More facilities are being added as facilities complete the rigorous auditing process. Beginning in 2019, the RMAP audit standard was updated to address not only conflict in the Covered Countries, but also a wider range of human rights abuses by including OECD Guidance's Annex II risks in CAHRAs globally. The goals of making this information public is to be transparent, to recognize smelters and refiners which process responsibly sourced minerals, and to provide new options for companies that want to obtain responsibly sourced minerals for their products and customers.

In 2017, Intel developed and deployed a survey to direct suppliers that provide materials that contribute cobalt to Intel's manufactured products. This allowed us to identify cobalt smelters and refiners reported by our suppliers and conduct due diligence on the sourcing. In 2019, the RMI released an industry-standard survey, referred to as the Cobalt Reporting Template (CRT). In 2019, we used the CRT to survey all Intel suppliers contributing cobalt to our products. As of 2022, the CRT has been updated to include mica and is now referred to as the Extended Minerals Template (EMRT). The RMI released the Cobalt Refiner Supply Chain Due Diligence Standard in 2018 and Intel has been actively educating the refiners in our supply chain to encourage their participation in RMAP as we continue to conduct our own due diligence in the supply chain.

In 2020, Intel announced our 2030 RISE initiatives, which included a goal to work with the greater industry toward responsible sourcing of all key minerals in semiconductor manufacturing. In support of this pursuit, in 2021, we began surveying our supply chain for aluminum, copper, nickel, and silver (and in 2022 added lead and zinc) based on our relative usage, salient supply chain risks, and customer requirements. Intel worked diligently with the RMI on creating an industry standard all mineral template leading to the release of the Pilot Reporting Template (PRT) in Q4 of 2022. In early 2021, the Joint Due Diligence Standard for Copper, Lead, Nickel and Zinc was released by [the Copper Mark](#), the [International Lead Association](#), the [International Zinc Association](#), the [Nickel Institute](#), and the Responsible Minerals Initiative. Such standards are vital to drive a consistent message, mitigate risks, and to enable implementation of the OECD Guidance across our expanding scope of minerals. We plan to incorporate the use of the Joint Due Diligence Standard into our supply chain due diligence program.

Our Due Diligence Program

As part of our efforts to achieve a responsibly sourced mineral supply chain, we have an established due diligence program that focuses in two primary areas:

- (1) **Risk Identification:** Each year we conduct a supply chain survey to identify the smelters and refiners that process the metal contained in the products supplied to Intel, and the country of origin and trade of minerals used. We then compare those smelters and refiners to the list of facilities that conform to a responsible mineral sourcing validation program such as the RMI's RMAP. We use the information to identify potential mineral supply-chain risks.
- (2) **Risk Mitigation:** When we identify potential risks, we conduct further due diligence, which may include on-site smelter or refiner visits. Since 2009, we have visited 138 different 3TG and cobalt smelter and refiner facilities in 24 different countries. Such visits help identify risks, encourage smelters and refiners to participate in an audit program to validate their sourcing practices, and drive risk mitigation for human rights impacts. We will disengage from mineral supply chains that cannot uphold our responsible mineral sourcing standards.

We are building upon these due diligence principles as we pursue our expanded goals, focusing on more holistic responsible mineral sourcing across additional minerals and geographies.

Supplier Due Diligence Summary

Since conducting our first supply chain survey in 2009, Intel has consistently engaged our direct suppliers on the issue of responsible mineral sourcing. Currently, our annual supply chain surveys request suppliers to identify the smelters and refiners and countries of origin of the tantalum, tin, tungsten, gold, and cobalt in products they supply to us using the RMI's Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (CMRT) and Extended Minerals Reporting Template (EMRT). Additionally, in 2021, we began surveying a key subset of our suppliers for aluminum, copper, nickel, and silver (lead and zinc added in 2022) to begin mapping the smelters and refiners in our supply chain processing those minerals using an internal template, referred to as the Intel Minerals Reporting Template (IMRT). Our use of the IMRT will shift to the industry standard PRT in 2023. We continue to develop our due diligence program for these additional minerals.

For the industry standard CMRT/EMRT we evaluate the accuracy and completeness of the surveys our suppliers provide using third party software and through review by members of our internal responsible minerals team. When incomplete or potentially inaccurate information is identified, we contact the supplier and request the supplier to investigate the information and provide an updated CMRT/EMRT. We also evaluate whether a supplier meets our Responsible Minerals Sourcing Policy or contractual requirements based on information included in the CMRT/EMRT. These requirements include that our suppliers must maintain a publicly available responsible minerals sourcing policy, provide a CMRT and/or EMRT upon our request, and, for minerals that have a mature responsible mineral sourcing validation program (such as tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold), use smelters and refiners that are either conformant to a responsible mineral sourcing validation program or have begun participating in such a program. As a result of these supplier due diligence activities, Intel determined that 100% of the surveyed suppliers were, as of March 20, 2023, in compliance with our Responsible Minerals Sourcing Policy or contractual requirements. After January 1, 2023, nine smelters, reported by 41 of the 87 suppliers surveyed, were removed from the RMAP conformant list. We are working to remove these newly not conformant smelters and have set expectations with all 41 suppliers that they remove these smelters from their supply chain.

Smelter and Refiner Due Diligence Summary

We further conduct due diligence on the smelters and refiners identified through our supply chain survey. For minerals where there is a mature responsible mineral sourcing validation program, such as 3TG and cobalt, we continually compare the smelters and refiners identified in the survey against the lists of facilities which are participating in responsible mineral sourcing validation programs that carry-out independent third party audits of smelter and refiner facilities, such as the RMAP. For those smelters and refiners which are “Not Active” in an independent third party audit program, we attempt to contact and visit those facilities to request country of origin and chain of custody information and request their participation in a responsible mineral sourcing validation program such as the RMAP. There are typically many layers in the supply chain between Intel and a smelter or refiner, so it is often difficult to establish contact with these facilities. Once contact has been established, some smelters and refiners are reluctant to allow us to visit their facility to conduct an on-site review of country of origin or chain of custody information. If we are unable to establish contact with smelter and refiner facilities, we seek source and chain of custody information from publicly available sources including smelters and refiner websites. In some cases, both through our direct contact with a facility or public records search, we determine the source and chain of custody information to be reliable and complete and therefore we use the information to make reasonable conclusions about the mineral sourcing from that facility.

As of May 2023, Intel has visited and conducted reviews at 138 different smelter and refiner facilities in 24 countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Rwanda, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, United States, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam). Smelters and refiners are continuing to seek validation from an independent, third-party audit program to meet the growing supply chain expectation for responsibly sourced minerals. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns associated with travel, in 2020 and 2021, Intel virtually conducted all direct outreach to smelters and refiners to encourage and assist their participation in a third-party audit program. Additionally, we increased the breadth of our virtual outreach activity to smelters and refiners already participating in a third-party audit program to ensure participation continuity, minimize disruption, and provide additional support throughout the pandemic.

As of March 20, 2023, 229 of the 238 3TG smelters and refiners in our supply chain (96%) were either conformant to a responsible mineral sourcing validation program or have begun participating in such a program. The remaining nine facilities decided not to or were deemed ineligible to continue participating in a responsible mineral sourcing program after the 2022 reporting year. Intel has informed all suppliers to cease sourcing from these smelters and refiners and is therefore in the process of removing these smelters from our supply chain.

In 2019, we began to survey all Intel suppliers contributing cobalt to our products. As of March 20, 2023, 42 out of 69 (61%) of the cobalt smelters and refiners identified by our suppliers were either conformant to a responsible mineral sourcing validation program or have begun participating in such a program. Intel continues to work with the smelters and refiners identified by our suppliers to encourage their participation in RMAP.

Additional details regarding our due diligence efforts are explained in our most current conflict minerals disclosures provided to the SEC available at our website, www.intel.com/conflictfree.

Unintended Consequences

Companies working to undertake due diligence in their supply chain may unintentionally drive down demand for all minerals coming from the Great Lakes Region in Central Africa by working to secure sources outside the region. This well-intended action can inadvertently hurt the economic opportunities for artisanal and other legitimate miners operating in that region.

Intel is working to help mitigate such unintended consequences. In late 2011, Intel, in partnership with the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other companies, announced the establishment of the [Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade](#) (PPA). The PPA provides funding and coordination support to organizations working within the region to develop verifiable responsible supply chains; align chain-of-custody programs and practices; encourage responsible sourcing from the region; promote transparency; and bolster in-region civil society and governmental capacity. Additionally, Intel supports the PPA further by having representation on their Governance Committee.

To enable responsible in-region minerals trade from the DRC and adjoining countries, we continue to support programs such as the PPA and EPRM. These programs assist in the creation and implementation of due diligence programs consistent with the OECD Guidance. Intel recognizes the local socio-economic importance of the artisanal and small-scale (ASM) sector and is also a supporter of the Better Mining ASM Mine Monitoring Program in partnership with RMI and RCS Global. This program continuously monitors and supports the improvement of conditions on and around ASM. We support the creation of other in-region validation programs such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Regional Certification Mechanism.

In late 2019, Intel participated in a delegation organized by the PPA with NGOs, U.S. Government representatives, and other technology companies to visit the DRC and neighboring Rwanda to observe and discuss challenges faced in the mining industry. A key takeaway from this experience was the need for companies to increase upstream program support to ensure the sustainability and improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities tied to our supply chain. Following this approach, Intel has developed a more comprehensive program to partner with our peers and vetted NGOs to increase mining community support as a complement to our due diligence program. A few examples of projects supported by Intel since 2020 are (1) Congo Power, an alliance providing mining areas with clean power, specifically funding the power needs for community training in addition to the educational programming at the Dr. Mukwege School and (2) PACT-RMI Youth Vocational Training Program, a program aimed at providing mining alternatives to Congolese youths; and (3) the development of the world's first Congo-focused collection and a repository for Congolese-written documents on the DRC in North America at the University of British Columbia (UBC) library. We believe that empowering marginalized workers in our supply chain is a crucial step in promoting human rights. Intel also recognizes the local socio-economic importance of the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector in CAHRAs and seeks to assist ASM sites in meeting downstream compliance requirements through the Better Mining ASM Mine Monitoring Program in partnership with Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) and RCS Global. Intel also supported a digital suite designed specifically for the ASM that will create new pathways to track, access, and share data about practices in mining communities. Maintaining a connection and providing support to the communities that we depend on in our vast global supply chain is a crucial component to our responsible minerals program.

Our [Responsible Minerals Sourcing Policy](#) summarizes our quest to safeguard the human rights of everyone in our supply chain.

Government Participation

Intel believes that an effective solution to the complex issue of responsible mineral sourcing will require coordinated efforts by governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and industry. Intel has met with representatives from the U.S. government, the European Commission and EU member states and other international governments on the topic and to share the industry's approach of auditing smelters and refiners. Intel supports the OECD Guidance and participates in the Joint Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains organized by the OECD, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and United Nations Group of Experts.

The U.S. Congress included provisions to address conflict minerals in the Dodd-Frank Act, and the SEC followed with disclosure regulations for public companies in the U.S.; however, Intel's efforts on this issue pre-date this action. In late 2012, the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Roundtable filed a petition for judicial review of the SEC conflict minerals disclosure regulations. Intel is a member of these trade associations; however, the positions of these trade organizations do not always align with Intel's positions. Consequently, Intel signed onto a multi-stakeholder statement regarding the "[Challenge to the Conflict Mineral Rule](#)," to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to this issue. The statement urged stakeholders to continue the important work underway to address the critical issue of transparency in the minerals supply chains.

We believe that legislation, including the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission conflict mineral disclosure requirements and most recently, the European Union's (EU) minerals regulation, has been helpful in bringing others to the table and maintaining broad momentum on this issue. For the past several years, Intel engaged with our industry to discuss proposed EU legislation addressing responsible sourcing of tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold from conflicted affected and high risk areas. Now finalized, the EU legislation, alongside the [European Partnership on Responsible Minerals \(EPRM\)](#) and in unison with existing initiatives including the RMI, properly focuses resources on supporting further development, implementation, harmonization and improvement to existing initiatives in relevant economies at key points in the supply chain. Efforts to continue development and scaling of systems to validate responsible sources should be supported as a priority. Smelters and refiners are recognized as the pinch point in the minerals supply chain and therefore the EU legislation will complement existing initiatives to mitigate supply chain risks by applying OECD-conformant due diligence processes to establish responsibly sourced mineral supply chains.

We will continue to focus our energy and efforts as we always have—on putting in place systems and due diligence measures that will enable us to reasonably assure that products and components supplied to us contain responsibly sourced minerals. Such actions support Intel's goal to use minerals in our products that do not contribute to human rights abuses in CAHRAs, while continuing to support responsible mineral sourcing from these regions. We have made substantial progress towards our goal and will continue our pursuit of responsible sourcing, while our engagement with business partners, governments, and NGOs continues and evolves.

Summary

From the time we became aware of the potential for conflict-linked minerals from the DRC to enter our supply chain, we have responded with a sense of urgency and resolve. We have approached this issue in the same manner as we address other significant business challenges at Intel. We first collected as much information about the situation as we could, not relying solely on our own knowledge, but also seeking insight and experience from other stakeholders and organizations with expertise in this area.

We communicated with our suppliers and expressed our sense of urgency on this issue and our expectations. We met with industry peers and governmental officials and traveled hundreds of thousands of miles around the globe to visit numerous smelters and refiners in our relentless pursuit of a responsibly sourced supply chain.

We determined that the most effective and efficient method for reducing mineral risk our supply chain was to focus on the smelter and refiner facilities where the ore is processed. Intel and other industry partners developed a smelter and refiner validation process, now called RMAP. RMAP audits are ongoing, and as of 2019, the audit standard has been updated to address a broader range of risks and geographies as described in the OECD Guidance. Additionally, Intel has participated in the development of industry-wide standards to better align the collective approach to responsible cobalt sourcing. We are actively focused on outreach to the cobalt smelters and refiners identified by our suppliers to encourage RMI and RMAP participation, as well as mapping our supply chain for the next wave of minerals. We believe this process will be instrumental in enabling the industry to source tantalum, tin, tungsten, gold, cobalt, as well as additional minerals responsibly.

As a result of our efforts, in January 2014 we announced an important industry milestone: Intel accomplished its goal to manufacture microprocessors that are conflict-free for tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold. We now build upon the strong foundation of our conflict minerals program as we continue pursuing responsible sourcing in other regions and minerals. We will continue to validate the supply chain for compliance to our Responsible Minerals Sourcing Policy and to address emerging supply chain risks to help establish responsibly sourced mineral supply chains for our company as well as our industry. The responsible sourcing of minerals will take ongoing vigilance.

We welcome your feedback on our approach and disclosure at:
www.intel.com/about/corporateresponsibility/contactus.

For more information, visit www.intel.com/responsibleminerals

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