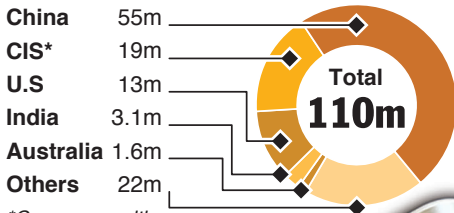


# Huge rare earth deposits found in Pacific

Japanese geologists have located vast deposits of rare earth minerals, crucial in making high-tech electronics, on the Pacific Ocean floor. The deposits, thought to be around 1,000 times those on land, could challenge China's global monopoly over production

## RARE EARTH RESERVES ON LAND

(tonnes)



\*Commonwealth of Independent States

## RARE EARTH PRODUCERS

Total production:

**130,000 tonnes –**  
**97% from**  
**China**

## New deposits

Found in international waters in sites close to Hawaii and Tahiti, and lying in sea mud at 3,500-6,000m below ocean surface



NEWLY DISCOVERED

**80-100bn**  
**tonnes**

## Miniaturization

Rare earths allow for smaller, lighter batteries and motors, and are now key to making handheld devices such as smartphones