People have been digging in the ground for useful minerals for thousands of years. Mineral materials are the foundation of modern industrial society. As the global population grows and standards of living in emerging and developing countries rises, the demand for mineral products is increasing. Mining ensures that we have an adequate supply of the raw materials to produce all the components of modern life, and at competitive prices. Innovation is central to meeting the diverse challenges faced by the mining industry. It is critical for developing techniques for finding new deposits of minerals, enabling us to recover increasing amounts of minerals from the ground in a cost-effective manner, and ensuring it this is done in a way that is environmentally responsible. This book provides the first in-depth global analysis of the innovation ecosystem in the mining sector. This book is Open Access.

Alicia Daly is an experienced IP professional, currently working as a Senior Policy Officer in the Division of Artificial Intelligence Policy of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Prior to her time at WIPO, she spent ten years working at IP Australia. Her most recent position there was as its first Head of Patent Analytics. During this time, she was responsible for co-authoring a number of reports published by the Patent Analytics Hub.

David Humphreys is an Honorary Lecturer at the University of Dundee, Scotland, and former Chief Economist at Norilsk Nickel and Rio Tinto. David has written and lectured extensively on the economics of the mining industry, authoring over 200 articles and papers on subjects ranging from commodity markets, trends in the mining sector, resource availability, sustainable development, Russian mining and the impact of China on mining, to national minerals policy.

Julio D. Raffo is Head of the Innovation Economics Section at the Department for Economics and Data Analytics of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). His research interests include the economics and metrics of innovation and intellectual property, with a particular focus on their intersection with socio-economic development.

Giulia Valacchi is based in the Department for Economics and Data Analytics of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Before joining WIPO, she worked for the Centre of International Environmental Studies as a Research Assistant in the Sinergia Project. Her research interests include innovation, technology diffusion, climate change and environmental economics.
Intellectual property is at the heart of modern economic life. In many countries, investment in intangible assets is growing faster than investment in tangible assets. Policy makers – whether in rich or poor economies – seek to promote an intellectual property framework that is conducive to innovation and economic growth.

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Edited by

ALICA DALY
World Intellectual Property Organization

DAVID HUMPHREYS
University of Dundee

JULIO D. RAFFO
World Intellectual Property Organization

GIULIA VALACCHI
World Intellectual Property Organization

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