

METAL FROM SPACE

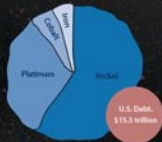


This metallic meteorite is part of "Campo del Cielo" ["Field of the Sky"], a 100+ ton Near Earth Asteroid ("NEA") that landed about 5,000 years ago in what is now Argentina. It is 92.9% iron, 6.7% nickel and 0.4% cobalt.

More than 10,000 NEA's are known. Some are made mainly of metal. In 1986 a 2km metallic NEA, "1986DA," was discovered. The value of the metal in this one asteroid has been estimated to be at least US \$87,200,000,000,000 (\$87.2 trillion) [CN元 533,770,000,000,000 (533.77 trillion.)] By comparison, the 2012 gross national product ("GNP") of the USA was US \$16 trillion and the 2012 GNP of China was CN元51 trillion. 1986DA is a relatively small asteroid. The biggest metallic asteroid yet discovered, Cleopatra 216, is $217 \times 94 \times 81$ km.; and has 200,000 times the mass of 1986DA.

Several private companies plan to mine these asteroids. Peacefully harvesting space mineral resources for the benefit of humanity will be an exciting and profitable challenge for the 21st century.

ASTEROID 1986DA \$87.2 TRILLION (2012 VALUE)



In 1994, William Hartman at the Planetary Science Institute estimated the Value of a 2-kilometre-wide metal rich asteroid.

Source: London Metal Exchange/Platinum Today



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