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Extended germano-gallate fiber drawing domain: from germanates to gallates optical fibers

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Abstract: Here we report on the production of crystal-free light guiding fibers using a preform-to-fiber approach in the germano-gallate glass system Ga2O3-GeO2-BaO-La2O3-Y2O3 for various contents of gallium to germanium. For glasses in the system Ga2O3-GeO2-BaO-K2O, where surface crystallization precludes fiber drawing from the preform, an open-crucible technique enables the drawing of fiber samples tens of meters long. Cut-back optical attenuation measurements show the extended transmission in the mid-infrared of the produced fibers, up to 2.8 μm with minimum losses of 3.1 dB/m at 1310 nm from unpurified glass. These results show that the germano-gallate glasses represent promising mid-infrared materials over an extended fiber drawing domain.

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1. Introduction

There is currently a critical need in designing new infrared (IR) optical materials for developing integrated IR optical fiber devices, for applications either as passive medium for telecommunication, remote sensing and detection, or as active fiber-laser medium upon doping with luminescent-active elements. Based on their extended transmission in the infrared and their tailorable thermo-mechanical properties, fluoride, tellurite and chalcogenide glasses have been extensively considered as optical components and devices [1]. However, despite their successful technological developments into fibers [2], they still suffer from limitations due to either low transmission in the visible range or relatively poor chemical and mechanical resistance, thus impeding their further effective integration into functional components.

In the meantime heavy metal germano-gallate oxide glasses offer wide optical transparency, extending from ~280 nm in the UV up to ~6 μm in the mid-IR, high glass transition temperature ($T_g \sim 700 \degree C$) and superior mechanical strength and laser damage threshold [3,4]. Gallium oxide insertion tends to increase the transmission into the infrared range and the refractive index of the host matrix [5,6]. Wen et al. reported on the fabrication of fibers containing up to 19 mol.% of Ga2O3 in the Tm3+-doped BaO-Ga2O3-GeO2 system [6,7]. Yet, to the best of our knowledge, no optical fiber fabrication has been reported for rich Ga2O3-based glass compositions, a result explained by their larger tendency to crystallization preventing their synthesis and shaping in large amounts.

Recently the authors have explored properties of germano-gallate glasses in the systems Ga2O3-GeO2-Na2O [5], Ga2O3-La2O3-K2O [8] and Ga2O3-GeO2-BaO-K2O [9]. Extending this work, we describe here a strategy to manufacture single-index glass fibers of optical quality in the germano-gallate systems Ga2O3-GeO2-BaO-La2O3-Y2O3 and Ga2O3-GeO2-BaO-K2O. First, we...
present experimental results obtained by the standard preform-to-fiber method. The introduction of lanthanide oxides $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ instead of alkali oxide $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ circumvents the detrimental glass surface crystallization observed previously [9].

In a second approach, we investigate the open-crucible technique for potassium-containing glasses. As it relies on the whole melting of the glass, this method, already largely employed in fluoro-phosphate and chalcogenide glass fiber manufacturing [10,11], eliminates crystallization issues during fiber drawing process. Using this technique, fabrication method for the production of optical fibers in the $\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$-$\text{GeO}_2$-$\text{BaO}$-$\text{K}_2\text{O}$ glass system is detailed and fiber losses are presented.

2. Experimental details

Glass samples were prepared by the conventional melt-quenching technique from high purity reagents ($\text{Ga}_2\text{O}_3$: 99.998%, Strem Chemical, $\text{GeO}_2$: 99.999%, Strem Chemical, $\text{BaCO}_3$: 99%, ACS Merck, $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$: 99%, Sigma Aldrich, $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$: 99.9%, Sigma Aldrich, $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$: 99.9%, Alfa Aesar). The powders were mixed in a platinum crucible and heated up to 1500 °C for 2 hours. Glass chunks devoted to drawing experiments by crucible technique were obtained by quenching the melt on a stainless steel plate. Preform-to-fiber drawing experiments require cylindrical glass rods of 40 grams, 10 mm in diameter and approximately 10 cm in length. To that end the glass was melted again and quenched in a stainless steel mold with appropriate sizes, the resulting glass rod being annealed at $T_g$-40 °C for 4 hours and slowly cooled down to room temperature to remove residual mechanical stress. The thermal drawing ability of the preforms was assessed using dedicated optical fiber drawing towers as further detailed below.

The glass transition ($T_g$) and onset of crystallization ($T_x$) temperatures were determined by DSC using a Netzsch Pegasus 404F3 apparatus with glass chunks inserted in a Pt pan at a heating rate of 10 °C/min with a precision of ± 2°C. The density $\rho$ was measured by immersing a glass chunk in diethyl phthalate at room temperature on a Precisa XT 220A weighing scale (estimated error of ± 0.005 g.cm$^{-3}$). The refractive index was measured by prism coupling on a M-line Metricon 2010/M at 532nm with an estimated error of ± 0.005. The optical transmission spectra in the UV-Visible-IR range were obtained from an Agilent Cary 5000 (UV-Visible) and a Bruker spectro-photometers. Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) was performed on a PANaltical X’pert PRO MPD diffractometer in Bragg-Brentano $\theta$-$\theta$ geometry equipped with a secondary monochromator and X’Celerator multi-strip detector. The Cu-Kα radiation was generated at 45kV and 40 mA ($\lambda = 0.15418$ nm). Micro-Raman spectra were recorded in backscattering mode on a confocal micro-Raman spectrometer HR (Horiba/Jobin Yvon) equipped with a Synapse CCD detector. A continuous wave laser operating at 532 nm was used for excitation. Typical resolution used for Raman spectrum acquisition is 2.5 cm$^{-1}$.

Optical fiber attenuation was recorded using the cut-back method. Measurements were performed in two steps: (i) using a halogen lamp (power of ~30 mW measured at the fiber input) as broadband source (350-1700nm) and an optical spectrum analyzer (Ando AQ-6315A OSA) for detection in the Vis-NIR range (400-1600 nm) and (ii) using a fiber supercontinuum source (Le Verre Fluoré, Targazh Irguide, emission range from 0.8 to 4.2 μm), a monochromator (Brucker) and a PbSe detector sensitive in the infrared range (1500-4800 nm). Quality of cleaving was systematically inspected with microscope objective and special attention was paid to limit the fiber curvature during measurement.

3. Results and discussion

First, we investigate the ability of germano-gallate oxide glasses to be drawn from the preform. The investigated glass materials (acronyms, nominal compositions in molar and cationic percent) are summarized in Table 1. Their physicochemical properties are displayed in Table 2. The difference $\Delta T$ between the two characteristic temperatures $T_g$ and $T_x$ is most of the time regarded
as a reliable criterion for evaluating the glass thermal stability vs crystallization, in particular for its shaping by thermal process like glass fiber drawing, with targeted values of $\Delta T \geq 100-120 \, ^\circ\text{C}$. In our previous work [9], we identified the glass of composition 28Ga$_2$O$_3$–37GeO$_2$–23BaO–12K$_2$O (mol.%) (hereafter Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K) as prone to support preform-to-fiber drawing conditions on the basis of its thermal properties ($T_g = 671 \, ^\circ\text{C}, \Delta T = 191 \, ^\circ\text{C}$). The Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K glass was further modified by replacing potassium oxide with the rare earth elements lanthanum and yttrium oxides in equimolar ratios, following a work by Wen et al. on the fabrication of fiber optics [7]. It is worth noting that in the latter work, GeO$_2$ content was 65 mol.%, i.e. the main glass constituent. Here the three selected glasses were 28Ga$_2$O$_3$–37GeO$_2$–23BaO–6La$_2$O$_3$–6Y$_2$O$_3$ (hereafter Ga$_{21}$Ge$_{43}$Ba$_{24}$LaY) and 15Ga$_2$O$_3$–60GeO$_2$–13BaO–6La$_2$O$_3$–6Y$_2$O$_3$ (hereafter Ga$_{15}$Ge$_{60}$Ba$_{13}$LaY).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Ga$_2$O$_3$</th>
<th>GeO$_2$</th>
<th>BaO</th>
<th>K$_2$O</th>
<th>La$_2$O$_3$</th>
<th>Y$_2$O$_3$</th>
<th>GaO$_{1/2}$</th>
<th>GeO$_{3/2}$</th>
<th>BaO$_{1/2}$</th>
<th>K$_{1/2}$</th>
<th>LaO$_{1/2}$</th>
<th>YO$_{3/2}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{28}$Ge$</em>{37}$Ba$_{23}$LaY</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{21}$Ge$</em>{43}$Ba$_{24}$LaY</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{15}$Ge$</em>{60}$Ba$_{13}$LaY</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{28}$Ge$</em>{37}$Ba$_{23}$K</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Investigated glasses (acronyms, nominal compositions in molar and cationic percent)

### Table 2. Physicochemical properties of the investigated glasses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>$T_g$ (± 2°C)</th>
<th>$T_x$ (± 2°C)</th>
<th>$\Delta T$ (± 4°C)</th>
<th>$\rho$ (±0.005 g/cm$^3$)</th>
<th>$n_{532\text{nm}}$ (±0.005)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{28}$Ge$</em>{37}$Ba$_{23}$LaY</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>5.13</td>
<td>1.780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{21}$Ge$</em>{43}$Ba$_{24}$LaY</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>1.805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{15}$Ge$</em>{60}$Ba$_{13}$LaY</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.97</td>
<td>1.796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga$<em>{28}$Ge$</em>{37}$Ba$_{23}$K</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>1.701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The measured characteristic temperatures of the glasses are reported in Table 2. The $T_g$ of the La/Y-containing glasses are ~60 °C higher than the potassium-containing glass, suggesting a significant change of the glass network with the introduction of the rare earth. As compared with the Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K glass, the stability criterion $\Delta T$ of the Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$LaY glass decreases while it remains stable for the Ga$_{21}$Ge$_{43}$Ba$_{24}$LaY glass and even cancels for the germanate Ga$_{15}$Ge$_{60}$Ba$_{13}$LaY glass (no crystallization phenomena detected). The density of the rare earth containing glass ranges from $\rho = 4.97 \, \text{g.cm}^{-3}$ up to 5.13 g.cm$^{-3}$, while for the potassium-containing composition the value is 4.34 g.cm$^{-3}$. One can also note a larger refractive index for the rare earth containing glass as compared to the glass Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K ($\Delta n = 0.08$).
Polarized Raman spectroscopy was carried out on the investigated germano-gallate oxide glasses in bulk samples. The polarized vibrational spectrum for each studied glass is shown in Fig. 1.

For all glass compositions, two main contributions can be observed with maximum at around 525 cm$^{-1}$ and 800 cm$^{-1}$. For the germanate glass (Fig. 1(d)), addition vibrations are observed above 900 cm$^{-1}$. The band located between 400 cm$^{-1}$ to 600 cm$^{-1}$ is attributed to bending modes involving mainly T–O–T bridges (T used for Ge or Ga in tetrahedral coordination), while the bands between 700 cm$^{-1}$ to 900 cm$^{-1}$ are assigned to localized symmetric and antisymmetric stretching modes of tetrahedral units Ge–O or Ga–O bonds [5]. One can notice for all samples a shoulder at around 760 cm$^{-1}$.

Previous investigation on sodium germano-gallate glasses [5] has ascribed the bands at 760 cm$^{-1}$ and 860 cm$^{-1}$ to ring structure of germanium and gallium tetrahedral sites in which the sodium ions act as charge compensators. An increase of the sodium concentration, giving rise to a more intense band in relative intensity at around 830 cm$^{-1}$, was assigned to non-bridging oxygens (NBOs) on the germanium tetrahedral units. Here, for the GeO$_2$-rich composition Ga$_{15}$Ge$_{60}$Ba$_{13}$LaY, the band located at 830 cm$^{-1}$ could be attributed to such NBOs with barium or rare earth ions. The spectrum corresponding to the Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K (Fig. 1(c)) glass shows also a maximum around 830 cm$^{-1}$ while this vibration is shifted to 805 cm$^{-1}$ for the Ga$_{23}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$LaY and Ga$_{21}$Ge$_{43}$Ba$_{24}$LaY glasses. Furthermore, the Raman signal of the Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$LaY and Ga$_{31}$Ge$_{44}$Ba$_{24}$LaY glasses increases significantly between 620 cm$^{-1}$ and 730 cm$^{-1}$. Such occurrence appearing for larger amount of gallium oxide could be related to the vibration in this wavenumber range of [GaO$_4$]$^-$ and GaO$_6$ polyhedral units, as suggested in glasses in the Ga$_2$O$_3$-La$_2$O$_3$ system or in gallium oxide based garnets [12,13]. At this stage of investigation, one cannot exclude the presence of gallium in octahedral sites as also suggested in the Ga$_2$O$_3$-La$_2$O$_3$ glasses.

Then, we conducted drawing experiments on the rare earth containing glass preforms Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$LaY, Ga$_{21}$Ge$_{43}$Ba$_{24}$LaY and Ga$_{15}$Ge$_{60}$Ba$_{13}$LaY (Fig. 2). The preforms were drawn using dedicated optical fiber drawing towers, both at the COPL/University Laval and at the ICMCB/University of Bordeaux. The towers are equipped with furnaces having a sharp temperature profile, a diameter and tension controllers, a UV coating unit (optional) and a
collecting drum (Fig. 2). The heating chamber is kept under continuous dry nitrogen gas flow (0.5 L.min⁻¹). Preforms are fed into the furnace and the temperature is gradually increased up to ~940 °C. The bottom-section of the preform is locally softened until forming a drop, which falls down by gravity until being hooked to the collecting drum system (drum velocity: ~4 m.mn⁻¹, preform feed rate: ~1 mm.mn⁻¹). When required, a UV-cureable polymer coating (Desolite) was applied on-line during fiber drawing.

![Image](image_url)

Fig. 2. Preform-based optical fibers manufacturing for GaGeBaLaY glass compositions (a) Scheme of the fiber drawing process and photograph of Ga₂₈Ge₃⁷Ba₂₃La₂₃K glass preform, drop and cane (b) XRD pattern of Ga₂₈Ge₃⁷Ba₂₃La₂₃K fiber along with a photograph of the fiber on drum, and (c) Loss measurements (inset: fiber cross-sectional view)

Preforms were successfully drawn into tens of meters long fibers with diameters ranging $\phi = 200 \mu m$, down to $100 \mu m$. Figure 2(a) depicts a photograph of Ga₂₈Ge₃⁷Ba₂₃La₂₃Y fiber preform prior to drawing, a glass drop and a few centimeters long cane. XRD analyses of the Ga₂₈Ge₃⁷Ba₂₃La₂₃Y fiber (Fig. 2(b)) shows that the resistance toward devitrification of the selected materials effectively prevents the nucleation and growth of parasitic crystallite centers during the drawing process.

In order to confirm the optical transparency of the fibers, attenuation measurements were performed by the cut-back method at the wavelengths of 1310 nm on initial sections of ~3.0 meters. (Figure 2(c)). We measured optical attenuations of 6.2 dB.m⁻¹, 5.9 dB.m⁻¹ and 3.7 dB.m⁻¹ for the glasses Ga₂₈Ge₃⁷Ba₂₃La₂₃Y, Ga₂₁Ge₄₁Ba₂₃La₂₃Y and Ga₁₅Ge₆₀Ba₁₃La₂₃Y respectively.

Experimental results on the Ga₂₈Ge₃⁷Ba₂₃K glass are depicted in Fig. 3. The main difficulty to overcome over the process is avoiding crystallization in the softening temperature regime, namely when the glass viscosity is close to $10^7$ Pa.s. While the macroscopic Ga₂₈Ge₃⁷Ba₂₃K preform prior to drawing shows no signs of heterogeneities or inclusions (Fig. 3(a)), the preform
neck-down and cane show detrimental surface crystallization preventing the drawing of fibers of optical quality (Fig. 3(b)). This result, which is irrespective of the drawing parameters, is confirmed by XRD analysis of the Ga28Ge37Ba23K cane (Fig. 3(c)). The XRD pattern presents mixed crystalline peaks indexed by the isostructural phases KGaGeO4 (JCPDS 052-1595) or BaGa2O4 (JCPDS 046-0415).

![Ga28Ge37Ba23K preform prior to drawing](image1)

![Cristallites on Ga28Ge37Ba23K cane](image2)

**Fig. 3.** Preform-based optical fibers manufacturing for Ga28Ge37Ba23K glass (a) Photograph of macroscopic Ga28Ge37Ba23K glass preform prior to drawing (b) Ga28Ge37Ba23K cane and (c) XRD pattern of the Ga28Ge37Ba23K cane

Surface roughness’ at the surface of the Ga28Ge37Ba23K preforms was considered as a potential issue. Yet, despite polishing treatments to eliminate surface flaws, no noticeable improvement could be achieved. Finally, no loss measurement could be performed on fiber samples drawn from the Ga28Ge37Ba23K preforms as output signal was undetectable. In fact, the microcrystal formation from the fiber surface produces scattering centers and then parasitic optical losses. This is in good agreement with our previous work [9] showing that the nucleation and growth phenomena in Ga28Ge37Ba23K glass strongly overlapped and that crystallization of zeolite-type crystalline phases mainly occurs on the surface of the samples as compared to its volume.

The alternative approach explored to produce Ga28Ge37Ba23K optical glass fibers relies on the open-crucible technique. Here the glass is heated at a much higher temperature than for preform drawing, to reach a sufficiently low viscosity (typically 10^3-10^4 P.a.s) to enable the glass flowing through a pinhole located at the bottom of the crucible. Scheme of the method is detailed in Fig. 4(a). After loading in a specifically designed platinum crucible, the Ga28Ge37Ba23K glass chunks are first heated up to 1200-1300 °C to ensure their complete melting and the absence of any crystallites. Then the temperature is slowly decreased to adjust the glass viscosity until allowing its drawing throughout the hole. Using this method, tens of meters of crystal-free Ga28Ge37Ba23K glass fiber was obtained with a diameter in the range 180-200 μm (Fig. 4(b)). An acrylic coating was also applied on the fibers during the process. The absorption coefficient spectrum recorded on a Ga28Ge37Ba23K glass polished slice (t = 5 mm) is depicted in Fig. 4(c) (blue line) along with the optical attenuation of the drawn glass fiber (black line). The optical transmission of the bulk Ga28Ge37Ba23K glass extends from ~280 nm to ~6.0 μm. The broad absorption near 3.0 μm corresponds to the stretching vibration of free OH− groups. Loss measurements show that the transmission of the produced fibers extends up to 2.8 μm in the mid-IR, with minimum losses of 3.1 dB/m at 1310 nm. No purification protocol was introduced at this stage, which explains the high loss observed.

In summary, we proposed here two methods for the fabrication of germano-gallate optical fibers. This is to the best of our knowledge the first report on the production of crystal-free, light guiding fibers from a glass composition having gallium oxide as main constituent. While for the
Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K glass composition, no fiber could be obtained by preform technology, introduction of lanthanum and yttrium oxides enables to implement preform drawing technology for various content of gallium to germanium. Accordingly to the Raman spectroscopy investigation, the Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K glass structure presents a germano-gallate network formed of ring structure of [GaO$_4$]$^-$ and GeO$_4$, with limited amount of NBOs expected. The introduction of lanthanum and yttrium oxides for the Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$LaY and Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{43}$Ba$_{24}$LaY glasses tends to promote the formation of NBOs with the depolymerization of the [GaO$_4$]$^-$ and GeO$_4$ polyhedral based glass network. This structural change is probably at the origin of the disappearance of the surface crystallization of zeolite-type crystalline structures. The relatively high $T_g$ value of the La/Y-containing glasses, as compared to the Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K glass composition suggests that the glass structure may be strongly affected by the introduction of the rare earth ions. In the Ga$_2$O$_3$-La$_2$O$_3$ glass system [12], Yoshimoto et al. have observed that the gallium can occupy tetrahedral and octahedral sites with the presence of NBOs on gallium ions. In GeO$_2$-Ga$_2$O$_3$-Na$_2$O for Ga/Ge ratio around 1, our previous investigation did not evidenced any NBOs on gallium ions using combined NMR and vibrational spectrosopies [5]. One has suggested that ring structure occurs where the alkali ions occupy a compensator role in the structure to balance the charge of the gallium oxide tetrahedra [9].

The preform drawing technique relies on the heating of the glass until attaining its softening at a viscosity close to $10^7$ Pa.s. On the other hand, the crucible technique relies on the complete melting of the glass (corresponding to a viscosity of about $10^2$ Pa.s), followed by a controlled decrease of temperature and thus of viscosity to attain $10^3$-$10^4$ Pa.s, enabling then the fiber drawing throughout the pinhole of the crucible. This technique therefore represents an alternative approach for preventing undesired crystallization to occur during glass drawing, such as for the glass Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K.

For all the investigated glass compositions, the minimum loss remains relatively high for practical applications. It is important reminding that at this stage, no specific protocols were implemented to purify starting materials and glasses. Works are currently ongoing to improve glass chemical purity, especially to reduce hydroxyl group’s content, and to produce core/cladding preforms required for the fabrication of single-mode optical fiber.
4. Conclusion

In this work, we report on the drawing into optical fibers of germano-gallate glasses having various contents of gallium to germanium. We established that lanthanum/yttrium oxides-containing glasses allow the production of crystal-free, light guiding fibers by conventional preform pulling, with optical losses of about 4–6 dB/m at 1310 nm on bare, unpurified fibers. Alternatively, we demonstrated that the crucible technique is a successful approach to suppress the surface crystallization issues faced during the drawing of Ga$_{28}$Ge$_{37}$Ba$_{23}$K glass preforms, leading to the fabrication of tens of meters-long fiber with minimum losses of 3.1 dB/m at 1310 nm. These results provide insights and practical steps in the shaping into optical fibers of mid-IR vitreous materials having a strong technological potential in optics and photonics.

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