

New methods to design double index chalcogenide glass fibers for IR optical applications

David Le Coq, Catherine Boussard, Gilles Fonteneau, Bruno Bureau,
Jean-luc Adam and Jacques Lucas

*Laboratoire des Verres & Céramiques - Université de Rennes 1, UMR-CNRS 6512
Campus de Beaulieu 35042 Rennes Cedex (France)*

Thanks to their exceptional transparency in the mid-infrared range, chalcogenide glass fibers of the tellurium, arsenic and selenium system are used as IR-evanescent-wave chemical sensors. The sensing zone of the fiber must be tapered to improve the IR detection. In order to obtain the suitable design, mechanical and/or chemical methods have been implemented in order to reduce the fiber diameter.

Another promising direction that has been developed, consists in fabricating core/clad fibers from preforms prepared by an in-situ process. This new procedure allows single-mode fiber drawing.