

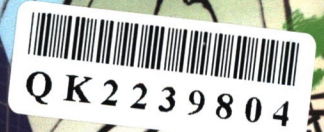
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# RARE METALS

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**Cover Picture**

J.-M. Wu et al. Stable GeSe thin-film solar cells employing non-toxic SnO<sub>2</sub> as buffer layer

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**Cover story**

(Jian-Min Wu, Yan-Ping Lv, Hao Wu\*, Hui-Sheng Zhang, Fang Wang, Jun Zhang, Jin-Zeng Wang, Liu Yang, and Xiao-Hong Xu\*, pp. 2992–2997)

**Stable GeSe thin-film solar cells employing non-toxic SnO<sub>2</sub> as buffer layer**

Germanium monoselenide (GeSe) has attracted significant attention recently due to its excellent optoelectronic properties, nontoxicity, and high stability. However, the current best-performance GeSe solar cells usually use toxic CdS as the buffer layer that restricts their practical applications. Herein, non-toxic SnO<sub>2</sub> was firstly introduced to construct environment-friendly SnO<sub>2</sub>/GeSe heterojunction solar cells. Benefiting from (110)-plane SnO<sub>2</sub>, GeSe film with a preferred [111] orientation was realized, facilitating the carrier transport along in-plane direction. The resulting FTO/SnO<sub>2</sub>/GeSe/Au solar cells exhibit a power conversion efficiency of 0.51%, accompanied by excellent light and air stability. This work demonstrates the great potential of SnO<sub>2</sub>/GeSe heterojunction solar cells for practical applications.

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