ZHENXIN ZHONG, DARRELL RENEKER, Dept of polymer science, University of Akron — Thermophotovoltaic conversion technology is a promising way to convert waste heat to electricity via photons. In this research, erbium (III)-doped polyimide nanofibers mats were prepared as selective emitters to explore the selective thermal emission efficiency in a low operating temperature range (< 500 °C). The selective emission at 6500 cm\(^{-1}\) of erbium (III)-doped polyimide nanofiber mats was measured on mats characterized with scanning electron microscopy, transmission electron microscopy, FT-IR spectroscopy, and thermogravimetric analysis. A small but potentially useful amount of power was obtained from a 2 mg mat.

\(^1\)We acknowledge the financial support from NSF grant # DMI-0403835.