## **Supporting information**

## Sub-nanometer scale size-control of iron oxide nanoparticles with

## drying time of iron oleate

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**Figure S1.** Weight of as-prepared iron oleate depending on the drying time. The as-prepared iron oleate is dried at (a) 30 °C and (b) 60 °C for a different amount of time.

Table S1: Elemental analysis (in wt %) of the iron oleate dried for a different amount of time.

Sample	С	Н	Fe	<b>O</b> *
Iron oleate dried for 5 days	70.35	11.16	5.56	12.93
Iron oleate dried for 30 days	70.53	11.05	5.75	12.67
$Fe_3O(oleate)_6$ ·4(oleic acid)·4H <sub>2</sub> O	70.37	11.14	5.45	13.04
$Fe_3O(oleate)_7 \cdot 3(oleic acid) \cdot 3H_2O$	70.78	11.10	5.49	12.63

(\* indicates that the wt % is calculated by difference)



**Figure S2.** TEM images and size distributions of IONPs synthesized at 320 °C using the iron oleate dried at 30 °C for a different amount of time. All scale bars are 20 nm.



**Figure S3.** Asymmetric absorption peak intensity corresponding to bidentate ligands depending on the drying time of iron oleate at 30 °C.



**Figure S4.** FTIR spectra of the iron oleate dried at 60 °C for a different amount of time. (a) Symmetric and asymmetric carboxylate (COO<sup>-</sup>), and carbonyl (C=O) vibrations, and (b) hydrocarbon (C-H) and hydroxyl (OH) vibrations.



**Figure S5.** TEM images and size distributions of IONPs prepared at 320 °C using the iron oleate dried at 60 °C for a different amount of time. All scale bars are 20 nm.



**Figure S6.** Size of IONPs depending on the drying time of iron oleate. The synthesis is performed at 320 °C using the iron oleate dried at 30 °C and 60 °C for a different amount of time.