

## *Supporting information for*

### **Palladium Nanoparticles Supported on Exfoliated g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> As Efficient Catalysts for Selective Oxidation of Benzyl Alcohol by Molecular Oxygen**

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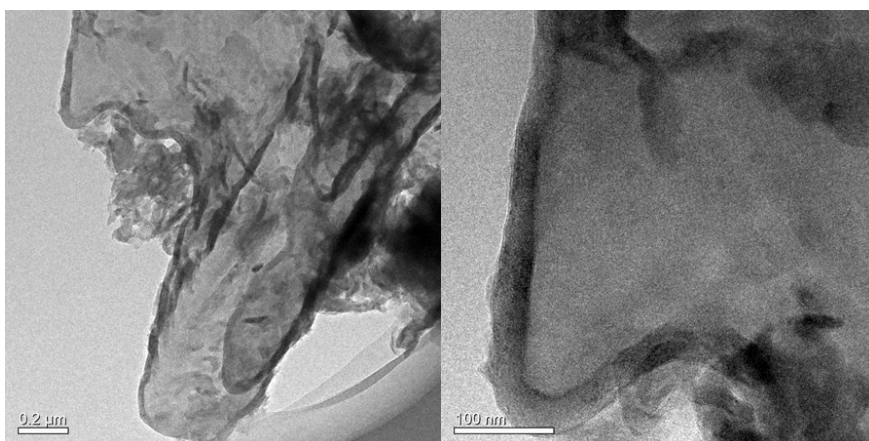
#### **Preparation of mesostructured g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>**

The mesoporous g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (mp-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>) was prepared according to an established nanocasting method reported by Antonietti et al <sup>1</sup>. 4 g of cyanamide was dissolved in 16 g of aqueous suspensions (40wt%) of 12-nm silica spheres (Ludox HS40, Aldrich) under vigorous stirring. The mixture was heated in an oil bath at 50 °C under stirring overnight to remove water. Next, the resultant white solid was ground in a mortar, transferred into a covered crucible, and heated at 3 °C min<sup>-1</sup> up to 550 °C and then treated for further 4 h. Afterwards, the as-synthesized yellow powder was ground and immersed into 200 mL of NH<sub>4</sub>HF<sub>2</sub> aqueous solution (4 mol L<sup>-1</sup>, 100 mL) for 2 d to remove the template. Then, the dispersion was centrifuged and the yellow precipitate was washed using distilled water and ethanol for several times. Finally, the yellow sample was dried at 50 °C under vacuum overnight and the mass of the obtained g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> was *ca.* 1.8 g.

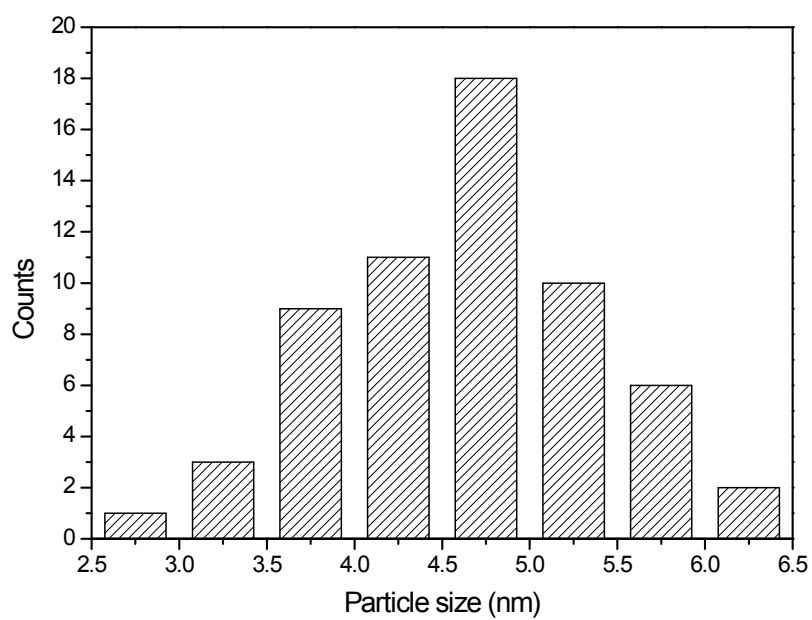
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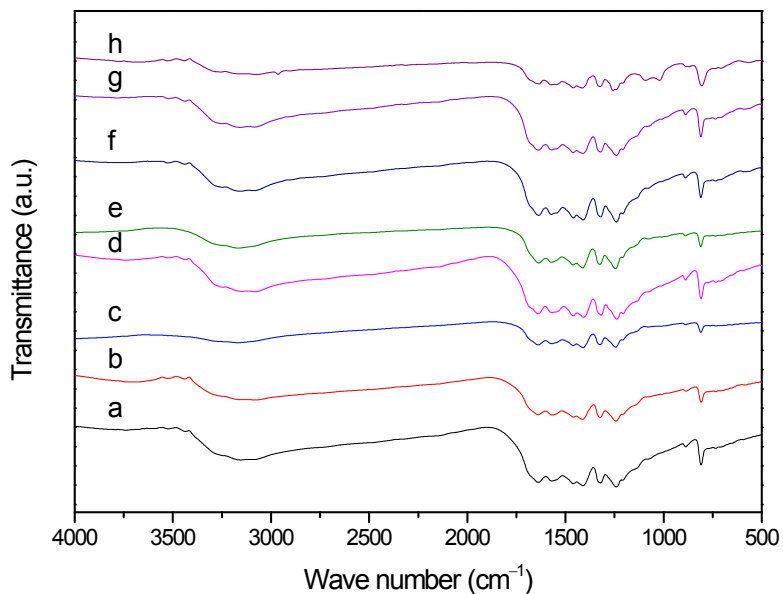
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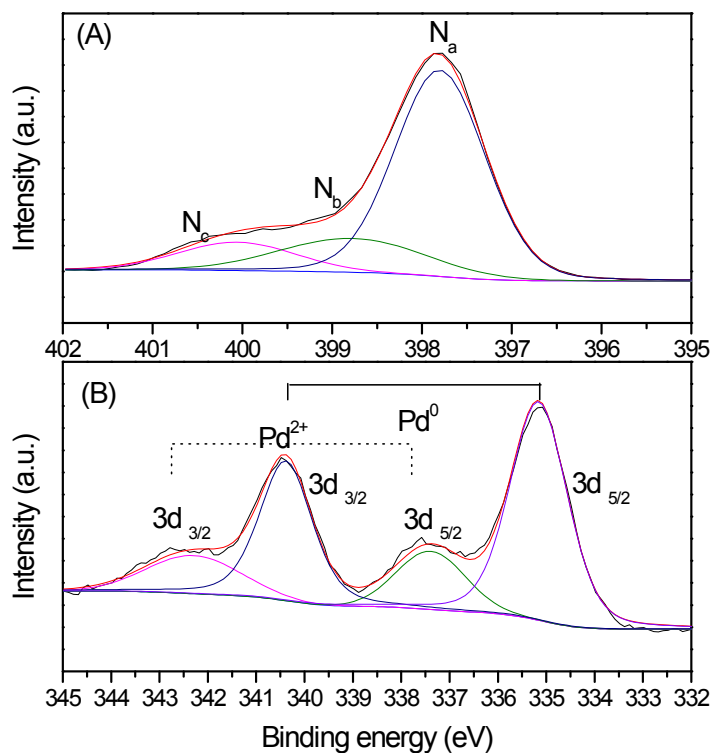
**Fig. S1** TEM images of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.



**Fig. S2** The histogram of the particle size distribution of Pd in 3Pd/eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>.



**Fig. S3** FT-IR spectra of g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (a), eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>-450 (b), eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>-500 (c), eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>-550 (d), 3Pd/eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (e), 3Pd/eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>-IMP (f), 3Pd/eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>Ar (g), and 3Pd/eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>-R (h).



**Fig. S4** N 1s (A) and Pd 3d (B) spectra of the recycled 3Pd/eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> catalyst.

**Table S1** Catalytic performances of 3Pd/eg-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> in selective oxidation of BZA in the presence of various solvents <sup>a</sup>.

Solvent	Con. (%)	Sel. (%)
toluene	70	>99
<i>n</i> -heptane	72	>99
trifluorotoluene	81	>99
ethanol	25	>99
water	9	>99

<sup>a</sup> The reaction conditions are as follows: 3 mL of BZA, 3 mL of solvent,  $v_{(O_2)} = 20$  mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $W_{\text{catal.}} = 50$  mg,  $T = 90$  °C, and  $t = 4$  h.

## References

1 F. Goettmann, A. Fischer, M. Antonietti and A. Thomas, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2006, **45**, 4467-4471.