

## Supplementary Information

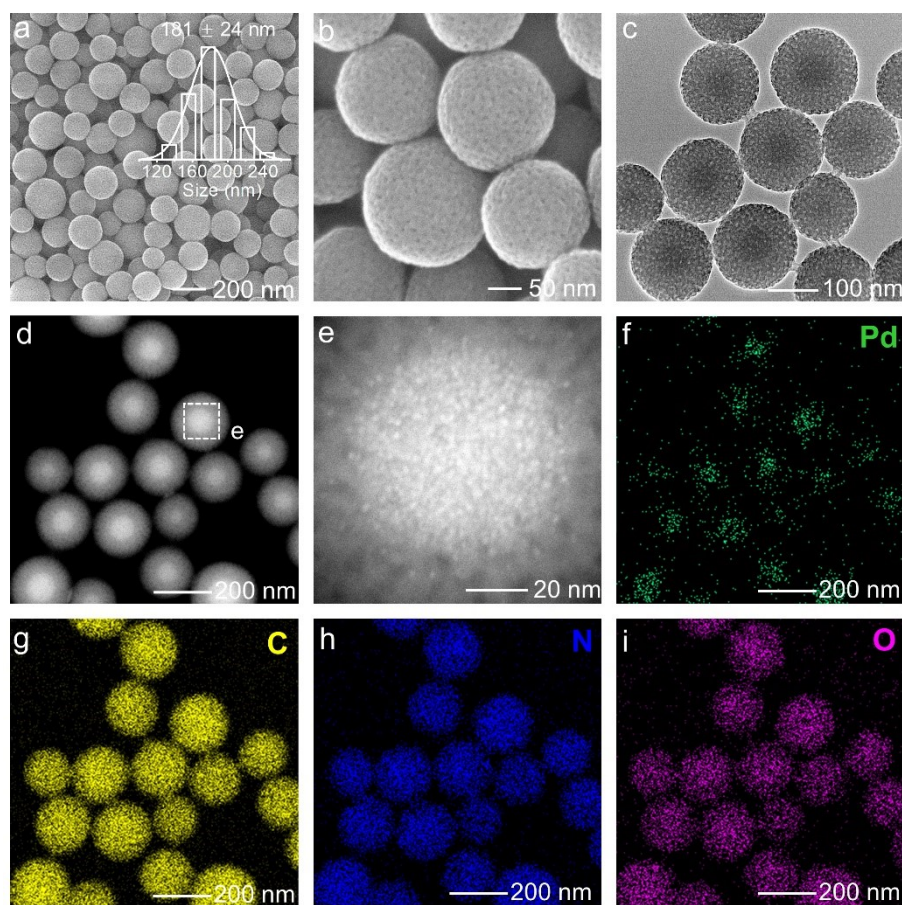
### **Confined thermal transformation strategy to synthesize single atom catalysts supported on nitrogen-doped mesoporous carbon nanospheres for selective hydrogenation**

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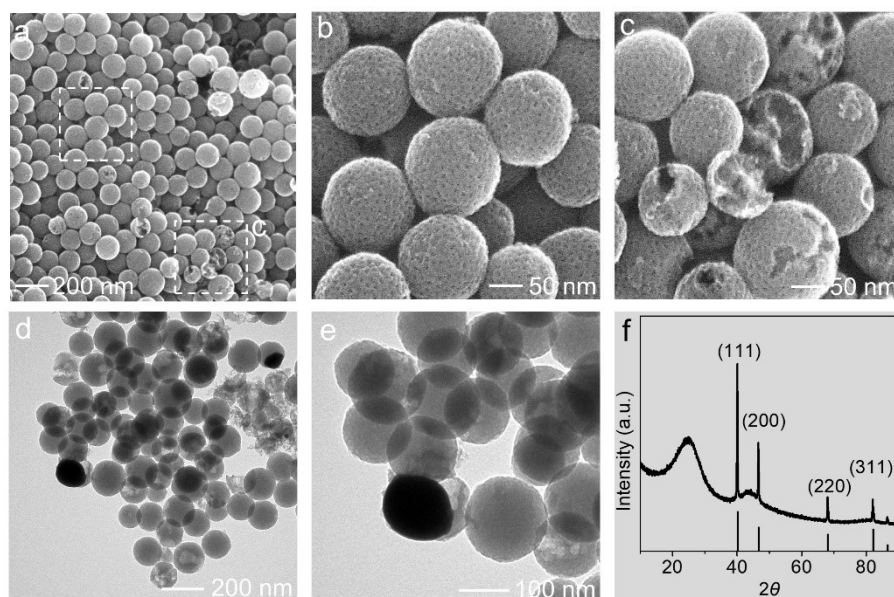
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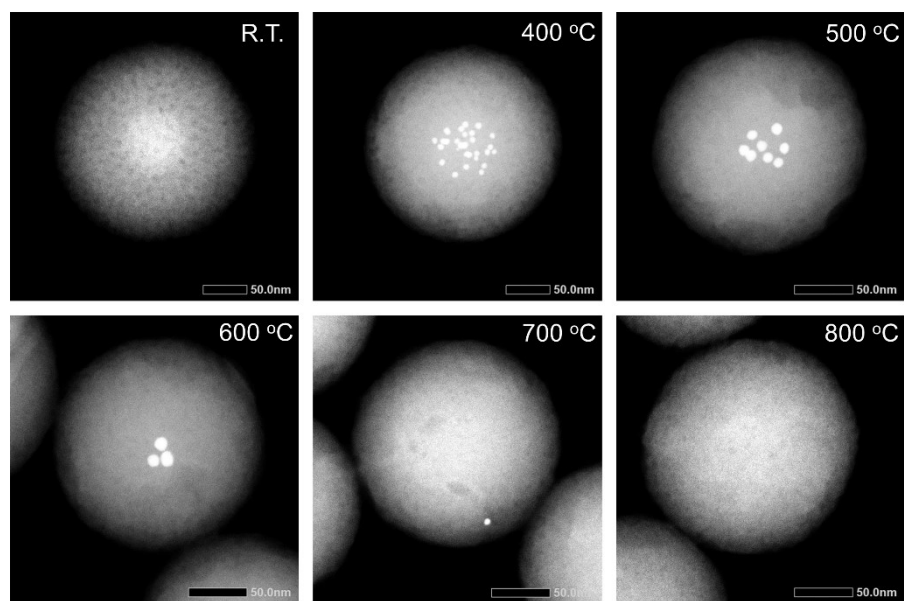
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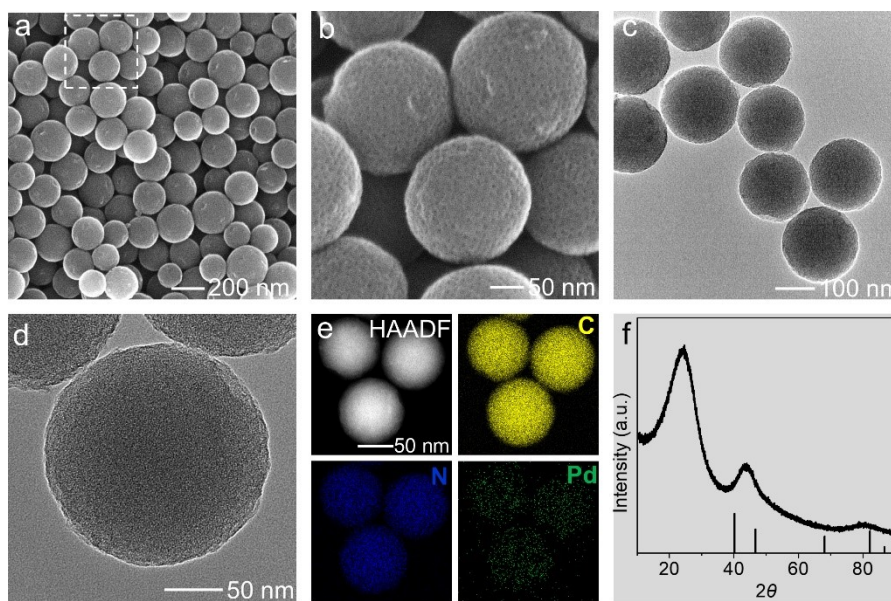
**Fig. S1** (a,b) SEM images, (c) TEM image, (d-i) HAADF-STEM and the corresponding EDS elemental mapping images of Pd-NCs@NMPS-0.



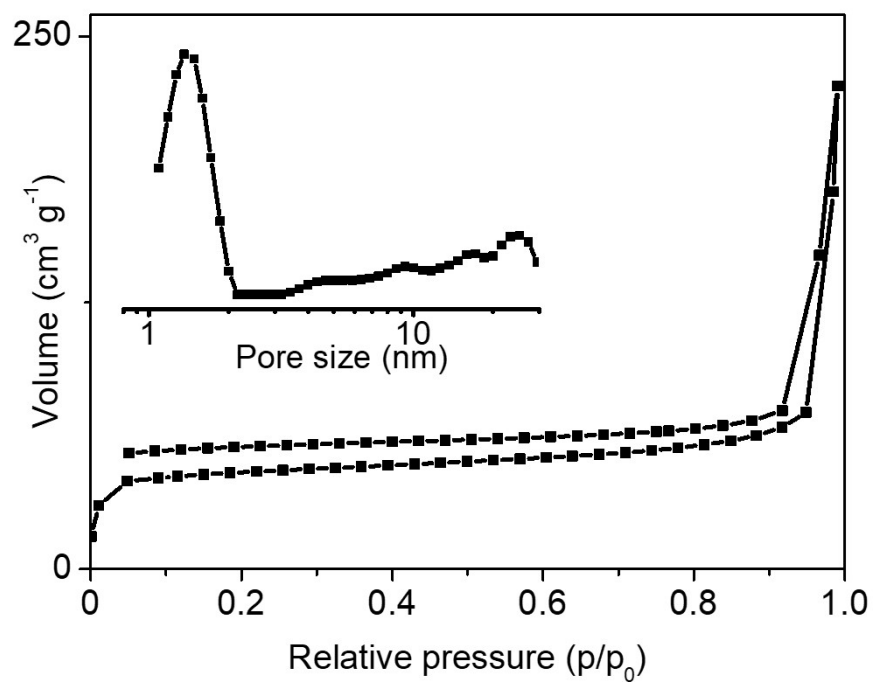
**Fig. S2** (a-c) SEM images, (d,e) TEM images and (f) XRD pattern of Pd-NCs@NMPS-0 after pyrolysis at 800 °C under a  $\text{NH}_3/\text{Ar}$  (5%/95%) flow.



**Fig. S3** Ex situ HAADF-STEM images of Pd-NCs@NMPS after pyrolysis at different temperature.

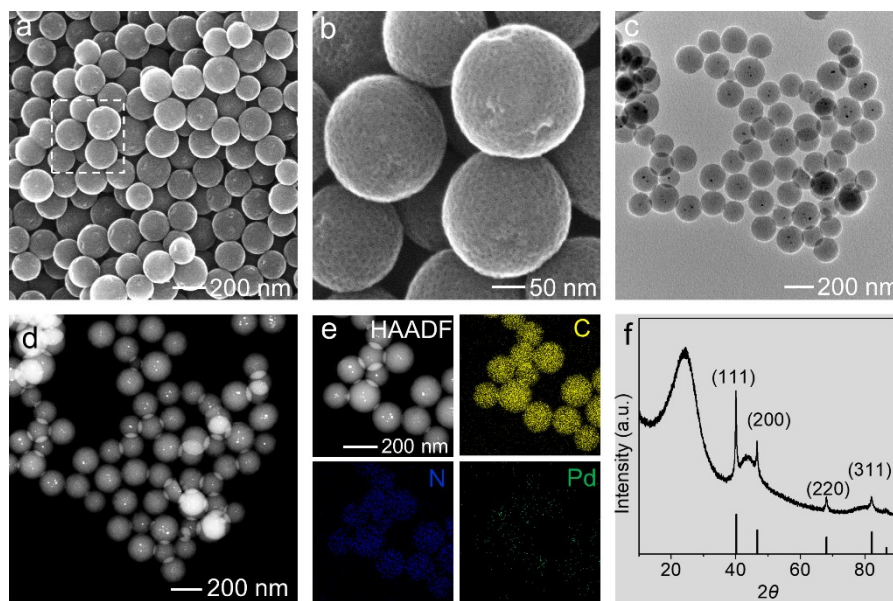


**Fig. S4** (a,b) SEM images, (c,d) TEM images, (e) HAADF-STEM and the corresponding EDS elemental mapping images, (f) XRD pattern of Pd<sub>1</sub>/NMCS-Ar.

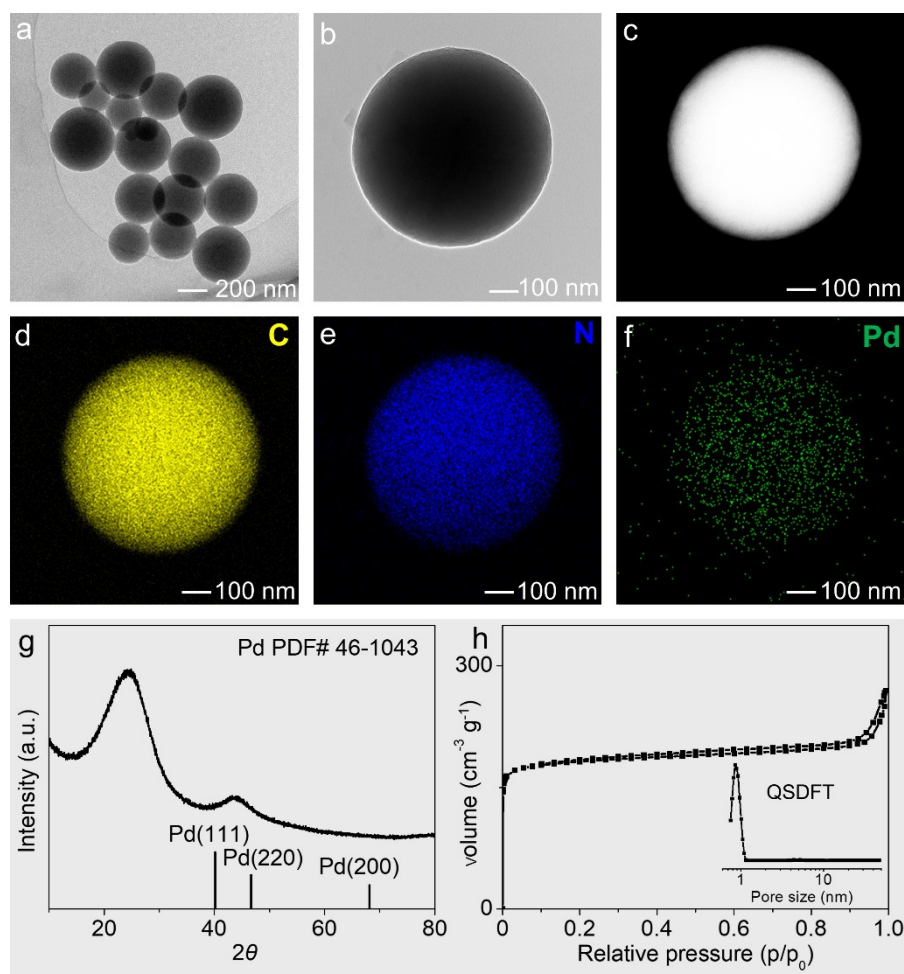


**Fig. S5** N<sub>2</sub>-sorption isotherm and the pore size distribution of Pd<sub>1</sub>/NMCS-Ar.

It is found that the adsorption and desorption branches are not closed for the sample of Pd<sub>1</sub>/NMCS-Ar. The phenomenon is often observed for the samples of porous polymers and nitrogen-doped carbons (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**, *55*, 8850-8855).

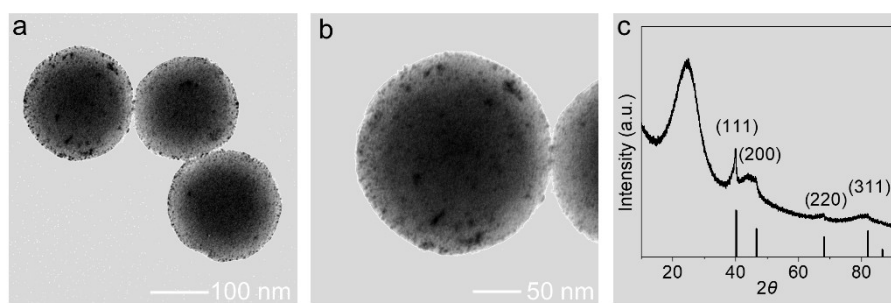


**Fig. S6** (a,b) SEM images, (c) TEM image, (d,e) HAADF-STEM and the corresponding EDS elemental mapping images, (f) XRD pattern of Pd@NMCS-H<sub>2</sub>.

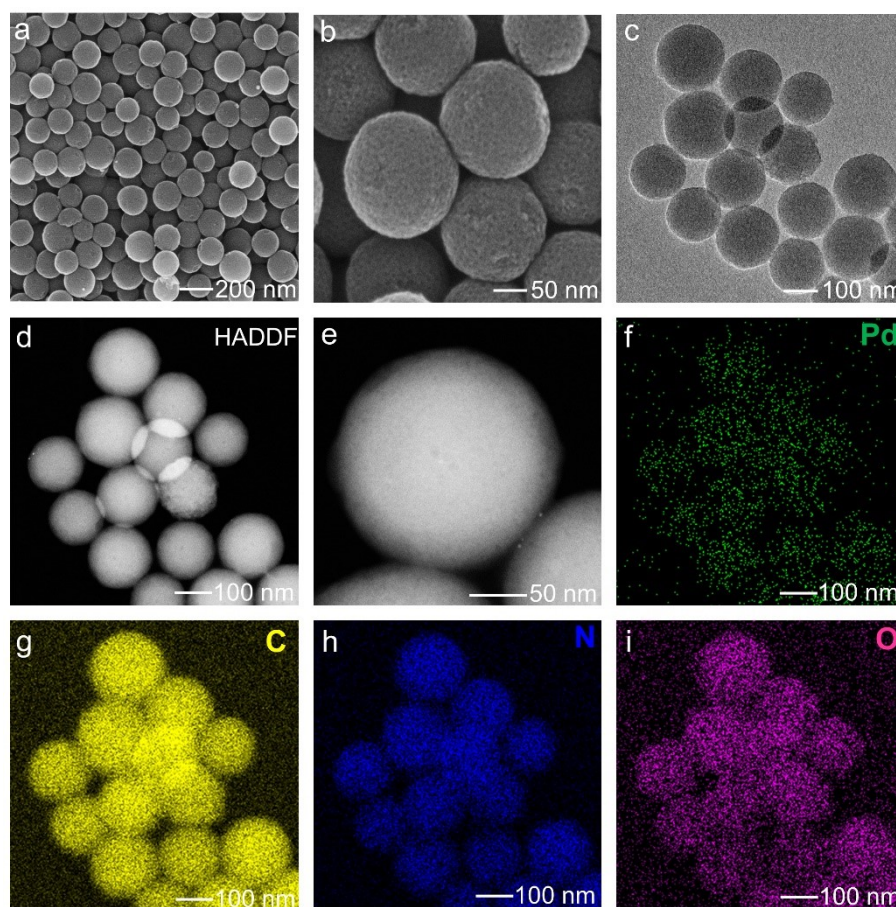


**Fig. S7** (a,b) TEM images, (c-f) HAADF-STEM and the corresponding EDS elemental mapping images, (g) XRD pattern and (h) N<sub>2</sub>-sorption isotherm and the pore size distribution (inset) of Pd<sub>1</sub>/NCS.





**Fig. S8** (a,b) TEM images and (c) XRD pattern of Pd-NPs/NMCS.



**Fig. S9** (a,b) SEM images, (c) TEM image, (d-i) HAADF-STEM and the corresponding EDS elemental mapping images of Pd<sub>1</sub>/NMCS after five runs.

**Table S1.** Textural parameters of the nitrogen-doped carbon catalysts.

Sample	Nanospheres size (nm)	Textual properties		Chemical composition			
		S <sub>BET</sub> (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	V <sub>total</sub> (cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> )	N <sup>a</sup> wt%	C <sup>b</sup> wt%	N <sup>b</sup> wt%	O <sup>b</sup> wt%
Pd <sub>1</sub> /NMCS	~177	595	0.46	9.3	84.2	10.2	3.5
Pd <sub>1</sub> /NMCS-Ar	~193	167	0.32	6.5	85.6	8.8	4.0
Pd@NMCS-H <sub>2</sub>	~178	482	0.57	4.2	86.0	6.1	6.8
Pt <sub>1</sub> /NMCS	~144	590	0.54	9.1	--	--	--
Pd <sub>1</sub> /NCS	100~1000	728	0.42	8.9	--	--	--

<sup>a</sup> Measured by elemental analysis; <sup>b</sup> Measured by XPS.