## Supporting information

## Dispersed $VO_2$ phases in flexible sensor for recognizing

## tensile and compressive stress

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**Figure S1** a) Schematic diagram of bent  $VO_2$  MW. Optical micrographs of the as-grown  $VO_2$  MW b) before and c) after bending.

The VO<sub>2</sub> MWs were deposited on SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si substrate and the length was in about 100  $\mu$ m while the width was around 1~2  $\mu$ m. The weak binding between substrate and microwires was favorable for us to carry out bending experiments in situ.



**Figure S2**. a) Optical micrographs of the bent  $VO_2$  MW. b) Temperature dependence of the resistance of the bent  $VO_2$ .

Figure S2 shown the MIT characteristics of the bent VO<sub>2</sub> MW. The magnitude

of resistance change was about 10<sup>5</sup> with a transition temperature of 410 K.



**Figure S3** a) Raman spectra of the domain  $\alpha$ . The enlarged Raman spectra of selected wavenumbers of b) 150 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 250 cm<sup>-1</sup> and c) 550 cm<sup>-1</sup> to 650 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S4** a) SEM images of the bent VO<sub>2</sub> MWs with different radii marked as 1 (0.7  $\mu$ m), 2 (1 $\mu$ m), 3 (1.3  $\mu$ m), 4 (1.9  $\mu$ m). b) Relationship between the ratio of M2/(M1+M2) and the diameter of microwires. c-d) Raman spectra of the bent VO<sub>2</sub> MWs with radius of 1) 0.7  $\mu$ m, 2) 1  $\mu$ m, 3) 1.3  $\mu$ m, 4) 1.9  $\mu$ m. The black frame represents the Raman vibration mode of VO<sub>2</sub> of M2 phase.



**Figure S5** a, c) Optical micrograph of the VO<sub>2</sub> MW marked as II, III respectively. Three domains marked as  $\alpha_{II}$ ,  $\beta_{II}$ ,  $\gamma_{II}$  were selected according to the bending degree. The white arrow presented line scan direction. b, d) Line-scanned mapping of the Raman spectra of the bent VO<sub>2</sub>-MW, corresponding to the three points in a, c) respectively.



**Figure S6** Raman spectra and fitting curve of mode  $\omega_3$  in a) domain  $\beta$  and b) domain  $\gamma$ . c) Relationship of the stress, resistance and phases.