

Detail of Structural Characterization

Raman spectroscopy was performed on the pure NHCS and FeNi@NHCS samples. The morphology of the sample was observed by Field emission scanning electron microscopy (SEM, JSM-7100F) and the structure was analyzed by X-ray diffraction (XRD, Bruker D8). The fine structure and elemental distribution of the FeNi@NHCS were characterized by scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM, JEOL ARM 200F). The composition of the FeNi alloy on NHCS was tested by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICP-AES, Optimal8000). Nitrogen adsorption/desorption tests were conducted on the pure NHCS and FeNi@NHCS samples. The specific surface area and pore size distribution of the samples were calculated by using Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) method and Barrett-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) model. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) measurement was performed to analyze the valence state and electron structure of the FeNi@NHCS sample.

Calculation of electron transfer number (n)

The Koutecky-Levich equation was used to calculate the electron transfer number (n) per oxygen molecule during ORR process:

$$\frac{1}{j} = \frac{1}{j_L} + \frac{1}{j_K} = \frac{1}{B\omega^{1/2}} + \frac{1}{j_k}$$
$$B = 0.62nFC_{O_2}D_{O_2}^{2/3}v^{-1/6}$$

In the Koutecky-Levich equation, j is the measured current density, j_K and j_L are the kinetic diffusion current density and the kinetic limiting current density, respectively. ω is the angular velocity, n is the transferred electron number, F is the Faraday constant ($96,485 \text{ C mol}^{-1}$), C_{O_2} is the saturated concentration of O_2 in 0.1 M KOH ($1.2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol cm}^{-3}$), D_{O_2} is the diffusion coefficient of O_2 in 0.1 M KOH ($1.9 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$), and v is the kinetic viscosity of 0.1 M KOH ($0.01 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$).

Table S1. The electrochemical properties of the optimized FeNi_x@NHCS sample compared with recently reported FeNi electrocatalysts.

Catalysts	E _{1/2} (V vs. RHE)	E _{10 mA cm⁻²-1.23V} (mV)	Reference
FeNi ₃ @NHCS	0.828	281	This work
Fe/Ni-NC FeNi@G	0.885	273	Electrochimica Acta 2023 , 458, 142594
FeNi/N-GPCM	0.883	310	<i>Separation and Purification Technology</i> 2022 ,308, 122974
FeNi@NC	0.878	360	<i>International Journal of Hydrogen Energy</i> 2022 ,47, 16025-16035
FeNi@NCSs	0.84	318	<i>Journal of Colloid and Interface Science</i> 2022 , 628, 499-507
FeNi-NPC HT	0.859	321	<i>Journal of Energy Chemistry</i> 2023,83, 264-274
B-FeNi-NC-1000	0.9	283	<i>Chemical Engineering Science</i> 2022 ,247, 117038
FeNi Sas/NC	0.84	270	<i>Advanced Energy Materials</i> 2021 ,11, 2101242
FeNi-NCS-2	0.867	395	<i>International Journal of Hydrogen Energy</i> 2021 ,47, 984-992
Glu-NiFe	0.85	440	<i>Electrochimica Acta</i> 2022 ,428, 140938
FeNi/N-CNT	0.82	357	<i>Journal of Materials Chemistry A</i> 2022 ,10, 9911-9921

Figure S1

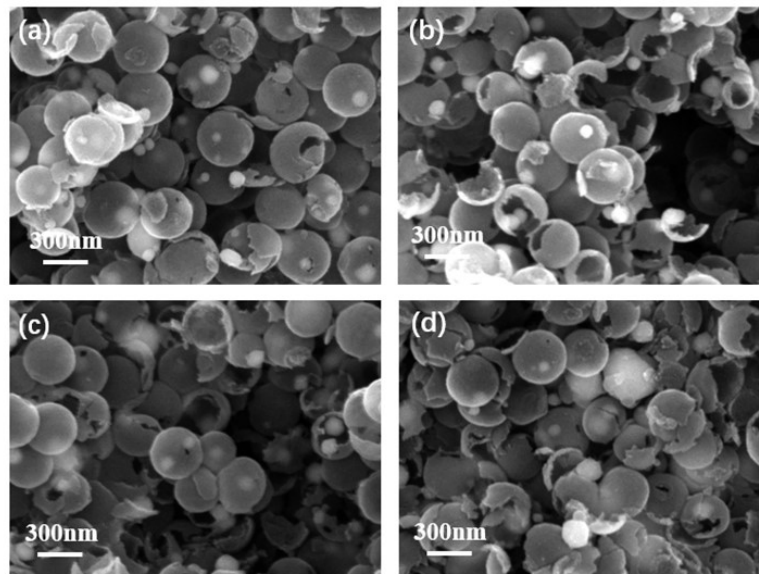


Figure S1. SEM images of FeNi@NHCS samples prepared at (a) 500 °C, (b) 600 °C, (c) 700 °C and (d) 800 °C.

Figure S2

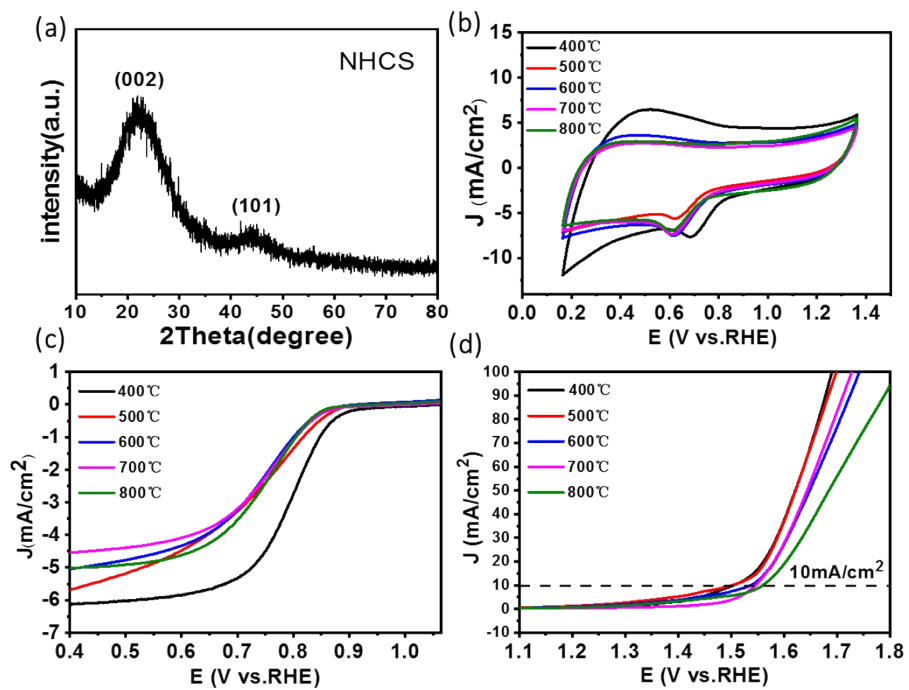


Figure S2. (a) XRD patterns of Pure NHCS sample, (b) C-V curves and (c) LSV curves of sample (T0~T4) in O₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH electrolyte at scan rate of 5 mV s⁻¹ at 1600 rpm, (d) LSV curves in O₂-saturated 1 M KOH at scan rate of 5 mV s⁻¹ at 1600 rpm of sample (T0~T4).