Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for New Journal of Chemistry. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique 2024

FeCoNiW medium entropy alloys loaded on N-doped carbon

skeletons as efficient electrocatalysts for oxygen evolution reactions

Yuanyuan Ye^a, Hui Zhang^a, Xian Cao^b, Zhaoshun Zhang^a, Xueqin Zuo^{*, c}, Qun Yang^{*, c}, Huaibao

Tang^c, Shaowei Jin^c, Guang Li^{*,a,d}

^a School of Materials Science and Engineering, Anhui University, Hefei 230601, China.

^bUniversity of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China.

^cSchool of Physics and Optoelectrics, Anhui University, Hefei 230601, China.

^dAnhui KeyLaboratory of Information Materials and Devices, Anhui University, Hefei 230601, China.

Figure S1. SEM images of (a) NC, (b-c) FeCoNi-350-NC and (d-f) FeCoNiW-350-NC.

^{*}E-mail: (G. L.) liguang1971@ahu.edu.cn.

^{*}E-mail: (X. Z.) 06028@ahu.edu.cn.

^{*}E-mail: (Q. Y.) qyoung@ahu.edu.cn.

Figure S2. (a) EDS of FeCoNiW-350-NC. (b) EDS line scan of FeCoNiW-350-NC.

Figure S3. Pore size of four samples of FeCoNi-350-NC, FeCoNiW-300-NC, FeCoNiW-350-NC, and FeCoNiW-400-NC.

Figure S4. (a) Spectra of FeCoNiW-350-NC W 4f. (b) Spectra of FeCoNiW-350-NC and FeCoNi-350-NC N 1s.

Figure S5. CV curves of FeCoNiW-350-NC and its comparison samples. (a) FeCoNi-350-NC. (b) FeCoNiW-300-NC. (c) FeCoNiW-350-NC. (d) FeCoNiW-400-NC. (Scanning rate at 1 M KOH solution: 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120 mV s⁻¹).





The normalized current density curves obtained according to the geometric current density (Fig.4a) and ECSA are shown in Fig.S6 The highest specific current density is achieved over FeCoNiW-350-NC, indicating its superior intrinsic activity (e.g., average activity per reactive site) for OER.

Figure S7. TEM images of (a) FeCoNiW-350-NC and (b) FeCoNi-350-NC. The corresponding particle size distribution of (c) FeCoNiW-350-NC and (d) FeCoNi-350-NC.

Figure S8. XPS after OER stability test. After the OER stability test, the XPS of the FeCoNiW-

350-NC sample was tested. The Fe, Co, Ni and W elements are transformed into stable oxidation states.

Figure S9. (a) Testing device for Faraday efficiency of O_2 evolution by drainage method. (b) Faraday efficiency (1M KOH) calculated from the amount of O_2 measured experimentally and theoretically on the FeCoNiW-350-NC catalyst.

In order to study the oxygen evolution Faraday efficiency of FeCoNiW-350-NC, the catalyst was tested at a constant current density of 100 mA cm⁻², and the amount of O₂ was collected by the drainage method (Figure S9a). The data points of FeCoNiW-350-NC calculated according to

Faraday electrolysis law and ideal gas law are shown in Figure S9b. The results show that FeCoNiW-350-NC has a Faraday efficiency of nearly 100 %.

Table S1. Comparison with already reported catalysts for the oxygen

Catalyst	Tafel slope (mV dec ⁻¹)	Overpotential (mV) @10mA cm ⁻²	Reference
FeCoNiW-350-NC	54	225	This work
MnFeCoNiCu	43	263	1
(CrMnFeCoNi)S	68	295	2
FeCoNiCuPd	96	390	3
AlNiCoRuMo	55	270	4
NiMnFeMo	65	310	5
FeCoNiMn@HEO	84	302	6
La(CrMn ₂ FeCoNi)O ₃	66	353	7
Co-Fe-Ga-Ni-Zn	71	370	8
np-NCMCF	81	283	9
HEF/Al alloy	88	293	10

precipitation reaction in 1 M KOH solution.

Reference

- 1. K. Huang, B. Zhang, J. Wu, T. Zhang, D. Peng, X. Cao, Z. Zhang, Z. Li and Y. Huang, *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*, 2020, **8**, 11938-11947.
- 2. M. Cui, C. Yang, B. Li, Q. Dong, M. Wu, S. Hwang, H. Xie, X. Wang, G. Wang and L. Hu, *Advanced Energy Materials*, 2020, **11**,2002887.

- 3. H. Li, H. Zhu, Q. Shen, S. Huang, S. Lu, P. Ma, W. Dong and M. Du, *Chem Commun (Camb)*, 2021, **57**, 2637-2640.
- 4. Z. Jin, J. Lyu, Y.-L. Zhao, H. Li, X. Lin, G. Xie, X. Liu, J.-J. Kai and H.-J. Qiu, *ACS Materials Letters*, 2020, **2**, 1698-1706.
- 5. H. Liu, C. Xi, J. Xin, G. Zhang, S. Zhang, Z. Zhang, Q. Huang, J. Li, H. Liu and J. Kang, *Chemical Engineering Journal*, 2021, **404**,126530.
- 6. W. Dai, T. Lu and Y. Pan, *Journal of Power Sources*, 2019, **430**, 104-111.
- T. X. Nguyen, Y. C. Liao, C. C. Lin, Y. H. Su and J. M. Ting, *Advanced Functional Materials*, 2021, 31,2101632.
- 8. L. Sharma, N. K. Katiyar, A. Parui, R. Das, R. Kumar, C. S. Tiwary, A. K. Singh, A. Halder and K. Biswas, *Nano Research*, 2021, **15**, 4799-4806.
- Z.-J. Zhang, J.-P. Guo, S.-H. Sun, Q. Sun, Y.-W. Zhao, Y.-F. Zhang, Z.-Y. Yu, C.-S. Li, Y. Sun, M.-M.
 Zhang and Y. Jiang, *Rare Metals*, 2023, 42, 3607-3613.
- 10. P. Yang, Y. An, C. Feng, Y. Liu, S. Liu, L. Gao, Y. Zhou, X. Li, P. Li and F. Zeng, *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*, 2024, **51**, 1218-1228.