

Electronic Supplementary Information

## **Second-shell modulation on porphyrin-like Pt single atom catalysts for boosting oxygen reduction reaction**

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## **1. Experimental Section**

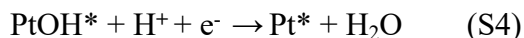
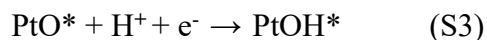
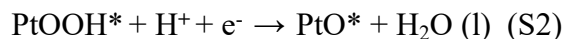
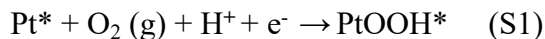
### **1.1 XAFS Measurements**

The X-ray absorption fine structure spectra (Pt L<sub>3</sub>-edge) were collected at BL14W beamline in Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility (SSRF). The storage rings of SSRF was operated at 3.5 GeV with a stable current of 200 mA. Using Si(111) double-crystal monochromator, the data collection were carried out in fluorescence mode using Lytle detector. All spectra were collected in ambient conditions. The data analysis was performed using the Athena/Artemis software packages.

### **1.2 Computational Method**

All first-principle calculations were performed by the Vienna Ab-initio Simulation Package (VASP) considering of spin-polarization effect<sup>1, 2</sup>. The interaction between the ions and electrons were described by the projector-augmented wave (PAW)<sup>3</sup> method and the generalized gradient approximation in the Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE)<sup>4, 5</sup> form was adopted. A DFT + D3 semiempirical correction was described via Grimme’s scheme<sup>6</sup>. The cut-off energy was set to be 400 eV, and the force and energy convergence threshold was set to be  $10^{-2}$  eV/Å and  $10^{-5}$  eV, separately. The PtN4(P) active centers were constructed in a 6\*6 graphene supercell by replacing certain carbon atoms with heterogeneous dopants. Vacuum layer of at least 20 Å was applied to avoid the interactions from adjacent periodical images in -z direction. The Gibbs free energy change ( $\Delta G$ ) of each elemental phase was calculated using the standard hydrogen electrode (SHE)<sup>7</sup>.

The following are the four electron reaction steps for ORR processes<sup>8</sup>:



The Gibbs free energy difference for all of the above elementary steps ( $\Delta G_{\text{OOH}^*}$ ,  $\Delta G_{\text{O}^*}$ ,  $\Delta G_{\text{OH}^*}$ ) that include an electron transfer is calculated by using the following equations:

$$\Delta G = \Delta E + \Delta \text{ZPE} - T\Delta S + \Delta G_{\text{U}} + \Delta G_{\text{pH}} \quad (\text{S5})$$

The energy difference between the free standing and adsorption states of reaction intermediates, changes in zero-point energies and entropy, are represented by  $\Delta E$ ,  $\Delta \text{ZPE}$  and  $\Delta S$ . The adsorption energies of  $\Delta E$  are derived directly from DFT calculations. The  $\Delta \text{ZPE}$  stands for change in zero-point energy,  $T$  stands for temperature ( $T = 298.15$ ), and  $\Delta S$  stands for entropy change, which are accomplished from the vibrational frequency.  $\Delta G_{\text{U}} = -eU$ , denotes the potential based on the SHE, where  $e$  and  $U$  are the number of electrons transferred.  $\Delta G_{\text{pH}}$  stands for the Gibbs free energy correction of pH, which is determined using the formula:  $\Delta G_{\text{pH}} = -k_{\text{B}}T \ln 10^* \text{pH}$ , where  $k_{\text{B}}$  represents the Boltzmann constant ( $1.380649 \times 10^{-23} \text{ JK}^{-1}$ ) and  $T$  indicates a temperature of 298.15

k. The NIST database was used to obtain the vibrational frequencies and entropies of molecules in the gas phase.

The  $\Delta G$  of four elementary steps for ORR processes can be defined as:  $\Delta G_1 = \Delta G_{\text{OOH}^*} - 4.92$ ,  $\Delta G_2 = \Delta G_{\text{O}^*} - \Delta G_{\text{OOH}^*}$ ,  $\Delta G_3 = \Delta G_{\text{OH}^*} - \Delta G_{\text{O}^*}$ ,  $\Delta G_4 = \Delta G_{\text{OH}^*}$ .

The overpotential ( $\eta$ ) used to further validate the catalytic activity of ORR would be derived using the following equations if the  $\Delta G$  values of all four elementary steps are different:

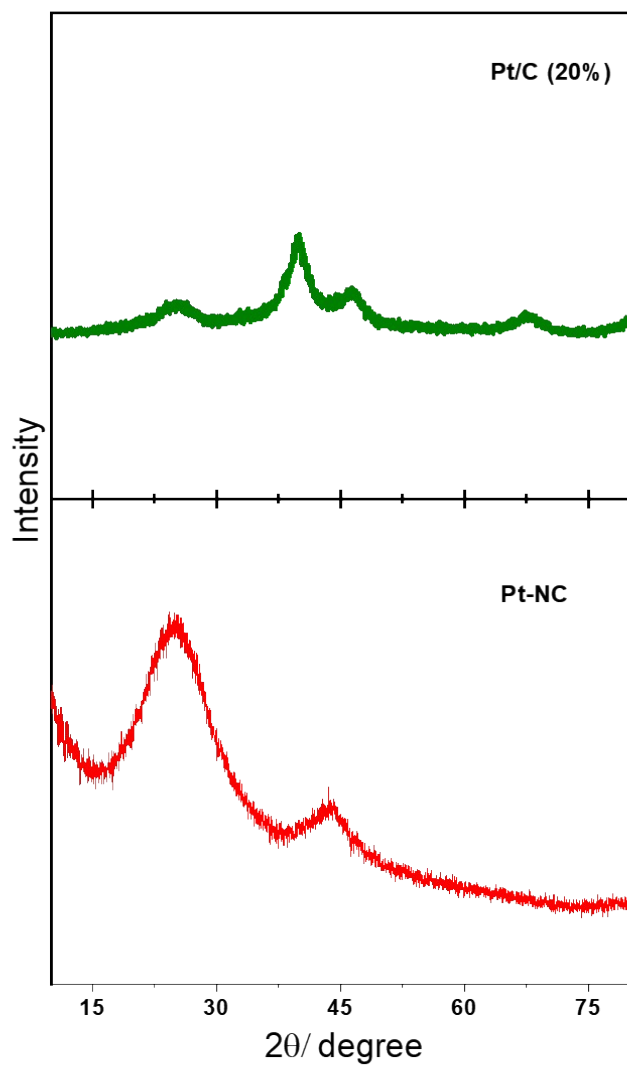
$$\eta = \max \{ \Delta G_1, \Delta G_2, \Delta G_3, \Delta G_4 \} / e + 1.23 \quad (\text{S6}).$$

The exact adsorption energy of  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  was calculated as below:

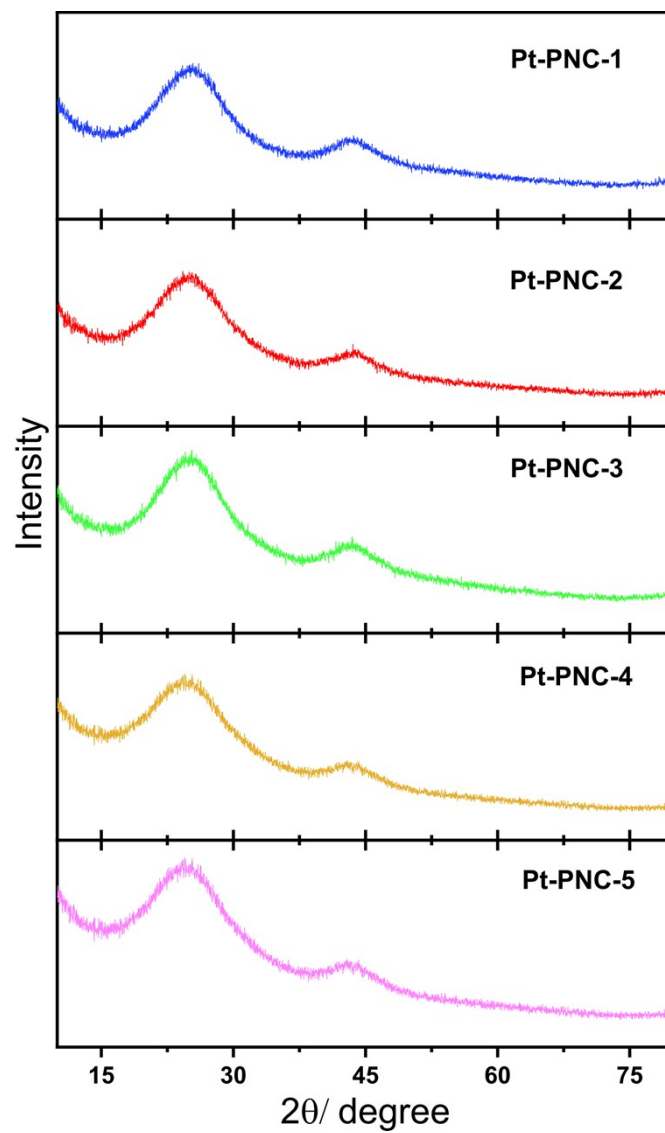
$$\Delta E_{\text{ads}} = E(*\text{ClO}_4) - E(\text{surface}) - E(\text{ClO}_4^-) + E_{\text{correction}} \quad (\text{S7}),$$

where  $E_{\text{correction}}$  contains the correction of the standard formation energy of  $\text{HClO}_4$  and  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  of both gas and liquid phase and can be derived from experimental observation. Unfortunately, we didn't find their exact values yet it shouldn't affect the general trend of  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  adsorption on different SACs, because the correction represents only a constant shift when comparing the adsorption energies. Meanwhile, the energy of  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  ion was also inaccurate due to the limitation of our calculational methods, but it also has no influence on the trend because the error is constant as well.

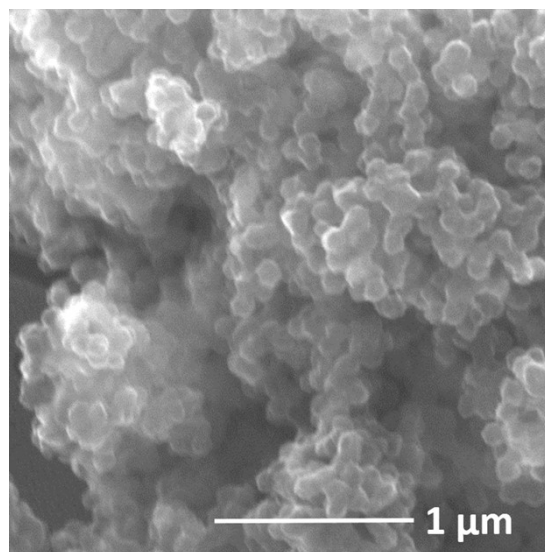
## 2. Figures and Tables



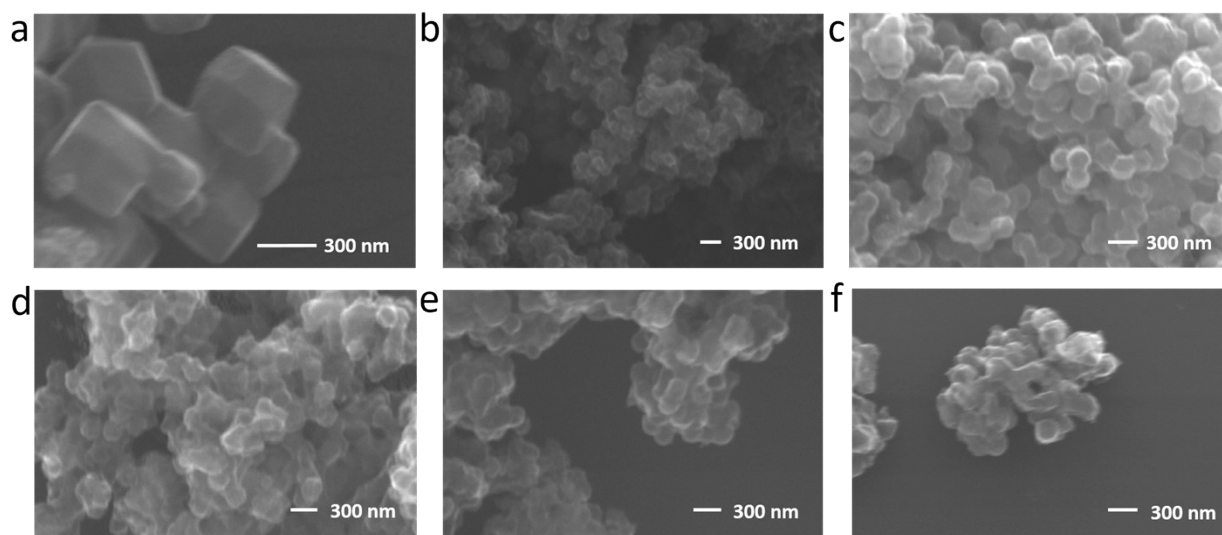
**Fig. S1** XRD comparative analysis of commercial Pt/C (20%) and Pt-NC with a Pt content of 0.3wt%.



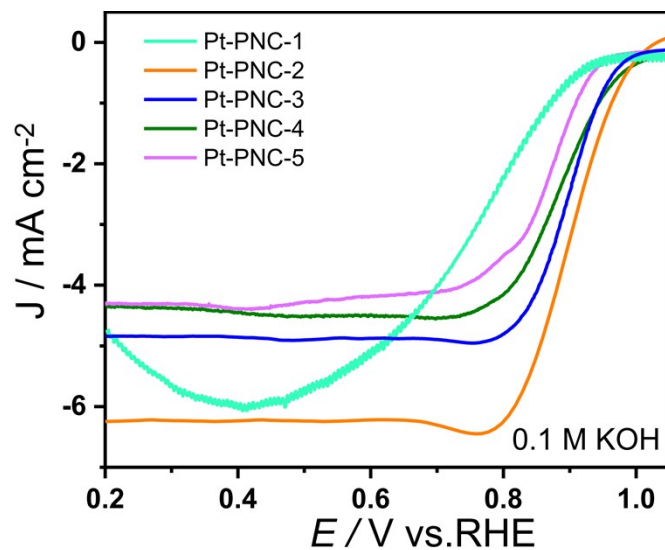
**Fig. S2** XRD comparative analysis of Pt-PNC with varying Pt-loading.



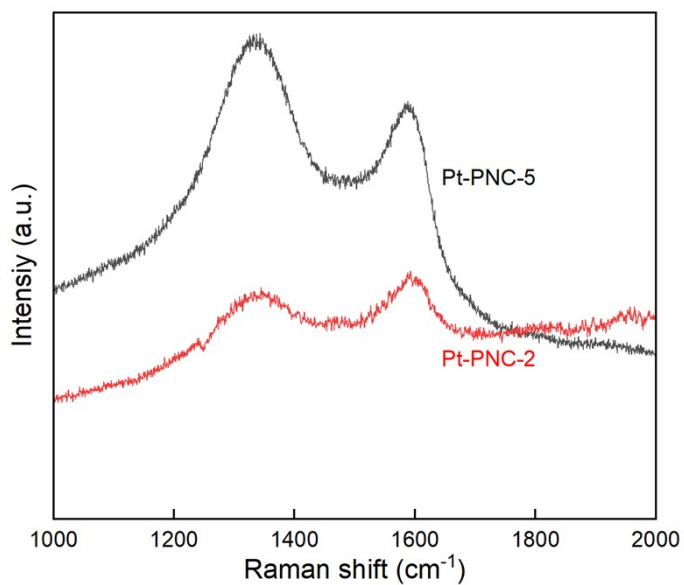
**Fig. S3** Typical SEM image of Pt@ZIF-8.



**Fig. S4** SEM images of (a) PNC, (b) Pt-PNC-1, (c) Pt-PNC-2, (d) Pt-PNC-3, (e) Pt-PNC-4, (f) Pt-PNC-5.



**Fig. S5** ORR comparative study of Pt-PNC with varying Pt loading in 0.1 M KOH.



**Fig. S6** Raman spectra of the catalysts determining the defects in the support. The  $I_D/I_G$  value has increased from 0.94 to 1.23 by increasing the Pt concentration doped inside from 0.22% to 0.33%.

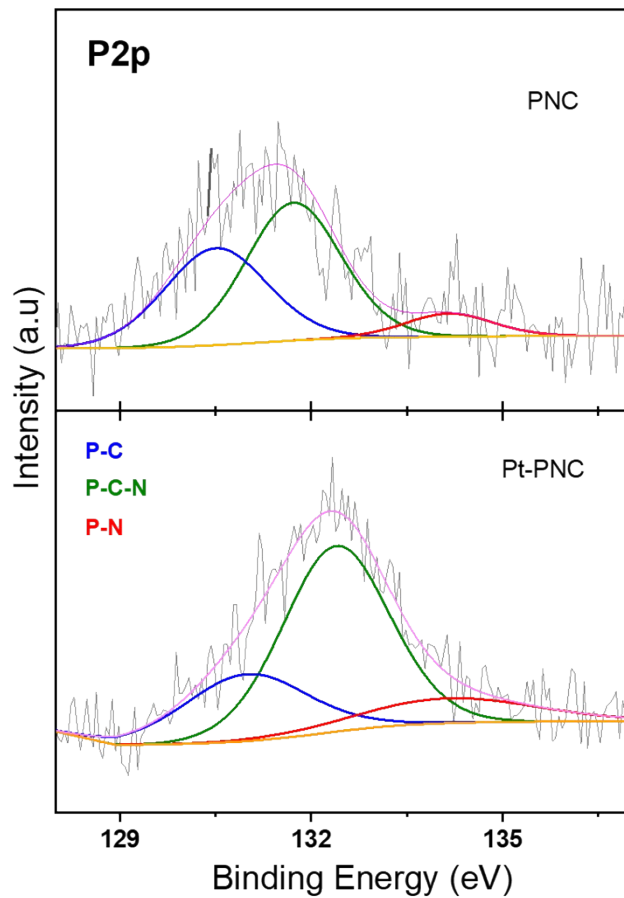


Fig. S7 XPS high resolution P2p spectrum.

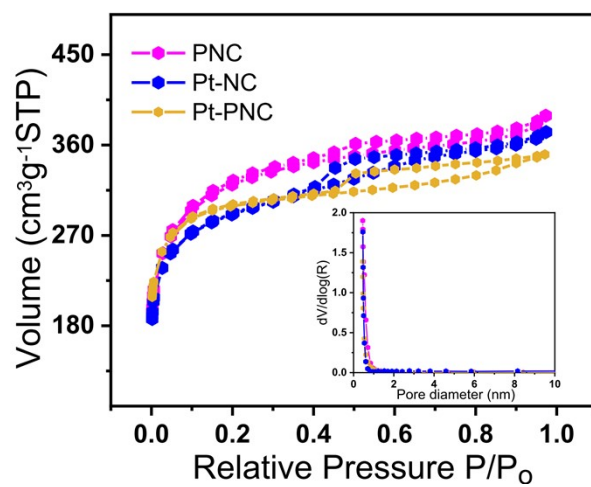
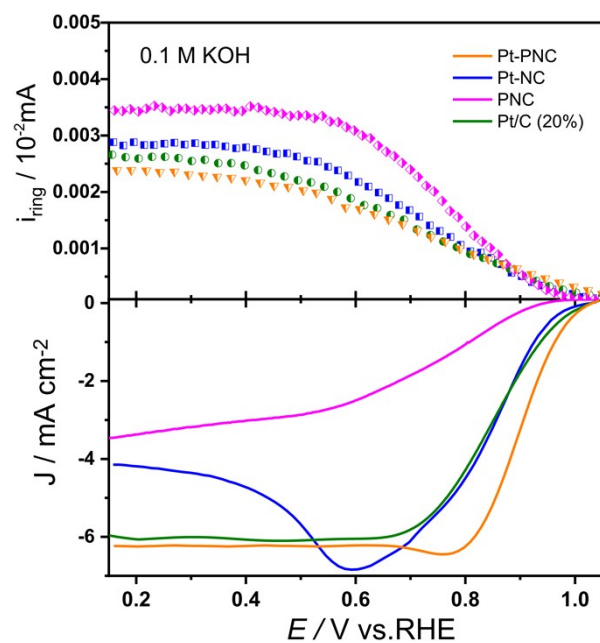
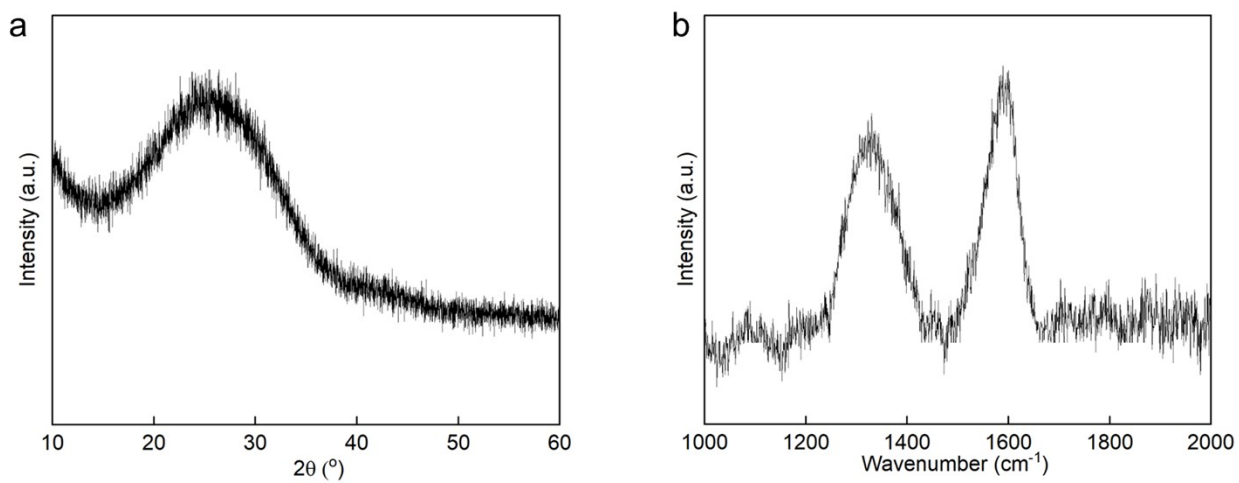


Fig. S8 N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption isotherms (inset: pore size distribution).

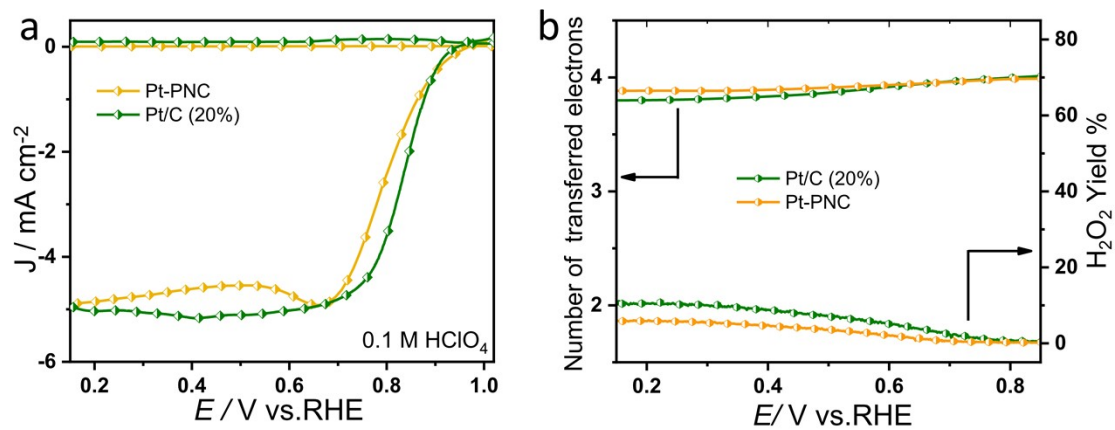




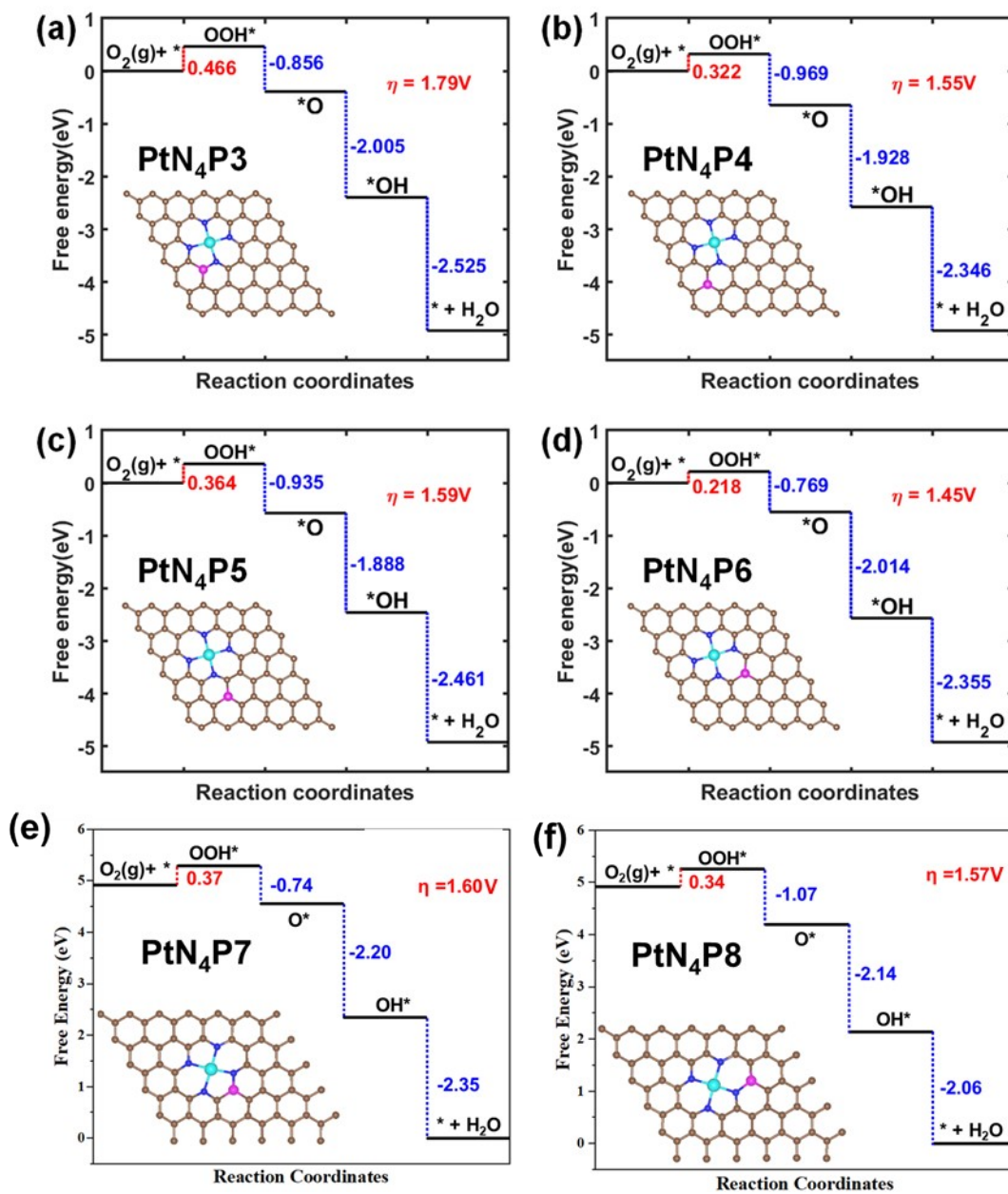
**Fig. S9** RRDE performance of Pt-PNC, Pt-NC, PNC and Pt/C (20%) under 0.1 M KOH.



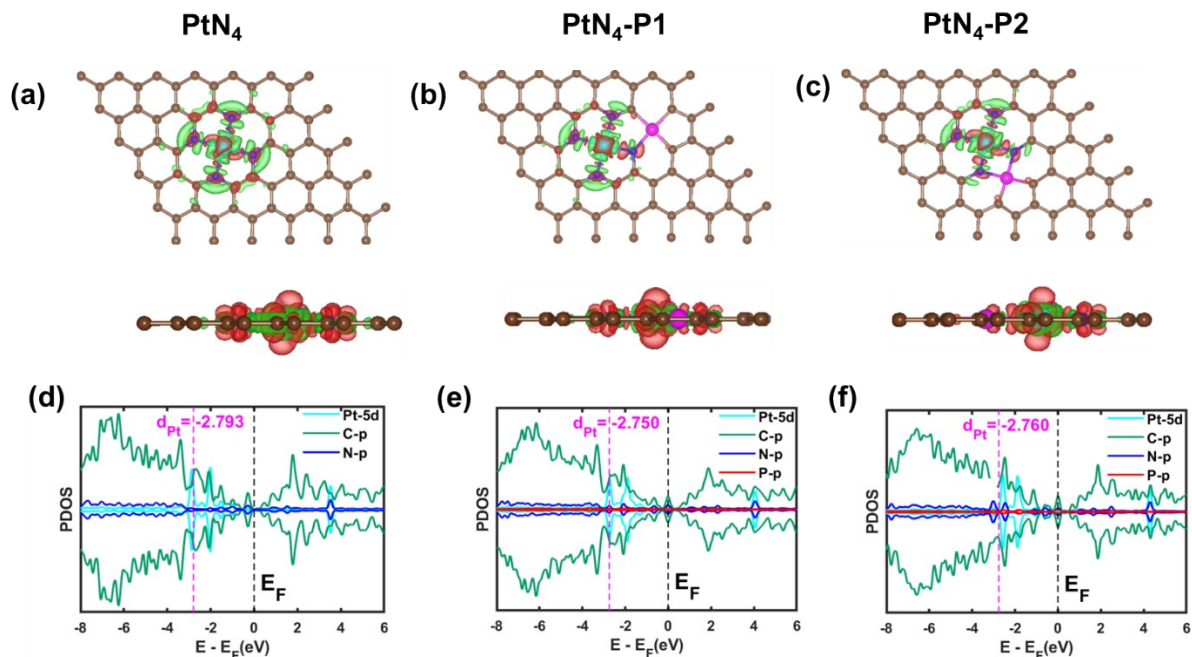
**Fig. S10** Post-stability characterization of the Pt-PNC catalyst after 10000 cycles at the range of 0.6-1.2 V vs RHE in 0.1 M KOH solution. (a) XRD profile. (b) Raman spectrum.



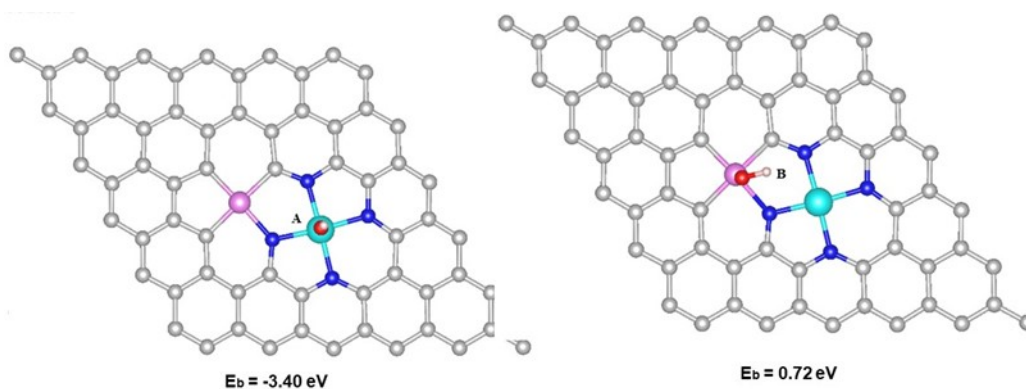
**Fig. S11** (a) RRDE performance of Pt-PNC, and Pt/C (20%) under 0.1 M HClO<sub>4</sub>. (b) Electron transferred number and peroxide% calculations.



**Fig. S12** Free energy diagrams and configurations of six structures studied in our theoretical calculations. Color map: brown-C; cyan-Pt; blue-N; purple-P.



**Fig. S13** (a-c) Top and side views of partial electron density differences (PEDD) of Pt atom anchored on the doped-graphene (PtN<sub>4</sub>, PtN<sub>4</sub>-P1, PtN<sub>4</sub>-P2) monolayer. For the contour plots, the charge accumulation regions are rendered in blue while the charge depletion regions are shown in red. The contour value of the PEDD is  $\pm 0.005$  a.u. (d-f) Calculated spin-polarized partial density of states (PDOS) of Pt atom anchored on the doped-graphene (PtN<sub>4</sub>, PtN<sub>4</sub>-P1, PtN<sub>4</sub>-P2) monolayer. The Fermi level is fixed at the zero of energy and the d-band center ( $\epsilon_d$ ) is marked by the pink dashed line.



**Fig. S14** Binding energies of OH-molecules on site-A (on the top of Pt-atom) and site-B (on the top of P-atoms).

The turn-over frequency (TOF) is estimated (Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2019, 58, 9640-9645) by the following equation:  $TOF = J_k \times N_e / (\omega_{Pt} \times C_{cat} \times N_A / M_{Pt})$ , where  $J_k$  is the kinetic current density ( $A \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ),  $N_e$  is electron number per Coulomb  $6.24 \times 10^{18}$ ,  $\omega_{Pt}$  is the metal content in the catalyst,  $C_{cat}$  is the catalyst loading on the electrode,  $N_A$  is Avogadro constant  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ ,  $M_{Pt}$  is molar mass of Pt  $195.1 \text{ g} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ . As a result, we can get the relationship between the TOF and  $J_k$  to be  $TOF = 4659.7 J_k$  in our Pt-PNC and Pt-NC catalysts.

**Table S1.** Pt wt% calculated from ICP analysis.

Catalyst	wt%
Pt-PNC-1	0.086
Pt-PNC -2	0.217
Pt-PNC -3	0.243
Pt-PNC -4	0.265
Pt-PNC -5	0.331

**Table S2.** Elemental composition as determined by XPS analysis.

Sample	C (atm%)	N (atm%)	P (atm%)	Pt (atm%)
PNC	91.79	7.66	0.55	-
Pt-PNC	95.13	4.11	0.45	0.31
Pt-NC	92.94	6.76	-	0.30

**Table S3.** EXAFS data fitting results of Pt-NC and Pt-PNC.

Sample	Path	CN	$\sigma^2$	Delta $E_0$	R(Å)	R-factor
Pt-NC	Pt-N/C	3.6(0.6)	0.0054(0.0011)	3.29(1.39)	1.99(0.02)	0.017
Pt-PNC	Pt-N/C	3.7(0.6)	0.0049(0.0012)	4.42(1.35)	2.01(0.02)	0.018

The following values were determined from fits of the standards and were then held constant for the fits shown above; "CN" is the coordination number; Three times the estimated standard deviation is shown in parentheses following each value.  $\sigma^2$ , Debye-Waller factor, 0.0029 Å<sup>2</sup>; Interatomic distance = R (Å) (the bond length between central atoms and surrounding coordination atoms), R-factor (Goodness of fit) =  $\Sigma k^6(\chi_o - \chi_c)^2/N_p$  where  $\chi_o$ ,  $\chi_c$  are the observed and calculated EXAFS intensities, respectively and  $N_p$  is the number of points.

**Table S4.** Comparison of TOF in different catalysts for ORR

Catalysts	TOF (e <sup>-1</sup> site <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
<b>Pt-PNC</b>	15.0 (0.9 V)	This work
<b>Pt-NC</b>	8.1 (0.9 V)	This work
<b>Pt/C</b>	0.092 (0.9 V)	This work
<b>Cu/CNT-8</b>	0.72 (0.85 V)	46
<b>Cu-N/C</b>	~0.074 (0.85 V)	47
<b>Co-N3 C1</b>	0.46 (0.8 V)	48
<b>Cu-N@C</b>	~0.030 (0.85 V)	49
<b>CPG-900</b>	~0.052 (0.85 V)	50
<b>Fe SAs-HP</b>	5.99 (0.8 V)	51
<b>Fe SACs</b>	4.3 (0.8 V)	52
<b>sur-FeN4-HPC</b>	1.63 (0.8 V)	53

**Table S5.** Comparative study of Pt-PNC with reported SACs/DACs in acidic electrolytes based on precious and non-precious electrocatalysts.

Catalyst	Active Site	$E_{\text{onset}}$ (V)	$E_{1/2}$ (V)	Electrolyte	Refs
Pt-PNC	Pt-N <sub>4</sub> P	0.98	0.805	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	This work
Pt <sub>1</sub> -N/BP	Isolated Pt atoms anchored on N sites	-	0.76	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	8
Pt <sub>1</sub> @Fe-N-C	Pt <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>2</sub> -Fe <sub>1</sub> -N <sub>4</sub>	0.93	0.8	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	9
Ru-N/G-750	Ru-oxo-N <sub>4</sub>	0.89	0.75	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	10

Ir SAC	IrN <sub>4</sub>	0.97	0.864	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	11
Fe ISAs/GHSs	Fe-N <sub>x</sub>	1.05	0.87	0.1 M KOH	13
Fe SAs/N-C	Fe-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.798	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	14
FeSA-G	Fe-N	0.95	0.804	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	16
ZIF/MIL-10-900	Fe-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.78	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	17
Fe <sub>SA</sub> -N-C	Fe-N <sub>4</sub>	0.93	0.776	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	19
Fe-ZIF	Fe-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.85	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	22
Co-N-C@F127	Co-N <sub>4</sub> , Co-N <sub>2+2</sub>	0.93	0.84	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	28
Co-NC (1100)	Co-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.80	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	31
Cu-SAs/N-C	Cu-N <sub>4</sub>	0.83	-	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	33
Zn-N-C-1	Zn-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.743	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	36
Cr/N/C-950	Cr-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.773	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	39
(FeCo)/N-C	(Fe-Co)N <sub>6</sub>	1.06	0.863	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	41
Co/Zn-NCNF	(Zn-Co)N <sub>6</sub>	0.997	0.797	0.1 M HClO <sub>4</sub>	43

**Table S6.** Comparative study of Pt-PNC with reported SACs/DACs in alkaline electrolytes based on precious and non-precious electrocatalysts.

Catalyst	Active Site	E <sub>onset</sub> (V)	E <sub>1/2</sub> (V)	Electrolyte	Zn-air battery (mW cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Refs
Pt-PNC	Pt-N <sub>4</sub> P	1.05	0.91	0.1 M KOH	247.8	This work
Ag-MnO <sub>2</sub>	Isolated Ag atoms on MnO <sub>2</sub>	0.95	-	1 M KOH	273.2	12
Fe ISAs/GHSs	Fe-N <sub>x</sub>	1.05	0.87	0.1 M KOH	-	13

Fe SAs/N-C	Fe-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.91	0.1 M KOH	225	14
Fe-NC SAC	Fe-N <sub>x</sub>	0.98	0.90	0.1 M KOH	-	15
Fe-NSDC	Fe-N <sub>x</sub>	0.96	0.84	0.1 M KOH	225.1	18
Fe <sub>SA</sub> -N-C	Fe-N <sub>4</sub>	1.0	0.891	0.1 M KOH	-	19
S <sub>2</sub> N-Fe/N/C-CNT	Fe-N <sub>x</sub>	-	0.85	0.1 M KOH	102.7	20
Fe-ISA/CN	Fe-N <sub>4</sub> with O <sub>2</sub> adsorbed on Fe-center	0.986	0.90	0.1 M KOH	-	21
CoN <sub>4</sub> /NG	CoN <sub>4</sub>	0.98	0.87	0.1 M KOH	115	23
EA-Co-900	Isolated Co-N Sites	-	0.84	0.1 M KOH	73	24
SCoNC	Co-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.91	0.1 M KOH	194	25
Co-N <sub>3</sub> C <sub>1</sub> @GC	Co-N <sub>3</sub> C <sub>1</sub>	0.913	0.854	0.1 M KOH	225	26
CoSAs/PTF-600	Co-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.808	0.1 M KOH	-	27
NC-Co-SA	Co-N <sub>x</sub>	1.0	0.87	1 M KOH	20.9	29
CoSAs/N-C(900)	Co-N <sub>2</sub>	0.982	0.881	0.1 M KOH		30
Cu ISAS/NC	CuN <sub>3</sub> -defective	-	0.92	0.1 M KOH	280	32
Cu-SAs/N-C	Cu-N <sub>4</sub>	0.99	0.895	0.1 M KOH	-	33
Cu-N-C	CuN <sub>2</sub> , CuN <sub>4</sub>	-	0.869	0.1 M KOH	-	34
Mn/C-NO	Mn-N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>1</sub>	-	0.86	0.1 M KOH	120	35
Zn-N-C-1	Zn-N <sub>4</sub>	-	0.873	0.1 M KOH	-	36
SA-Zn-NHPC	Zn-N <sub>4</sub>	1.00	0.87	0.1 M KOH	-	37
NiN <sub>4</sub> -C	Ni-N <sub>4</sub>	~0.97	~0.86	0.1 M KOH	-	38
Fe-NiNC-50	Fe-Ni	1.0	0.85	0.1 M KOH	220	40
Zn/CoN-C	(Zn-Co)N <sub>6</sub>	1.004	0.861	0.1 M KOH	230	42
Zn, Co-N <sub>x</sub> -C-Sy	Zn, Co-N <sub>6</sub> -C-S	-	0.893	0.1 M KOH	150	44



CoNi-SAs/NC	(Ni-Co)N <sub>6</sub>	0.88	0.76	0.1 M KOH	101.4	45
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