Supplementary Information (SI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry C. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2024

## **Supporting Information**

## Epitaxially Grown Single-Crystalline SrTiO<sub>3</sub> Membranes Using a Solution-Processed, Amorphous SrCa<sub>2</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> Sacrificial Layer

Shivasheesh Varshney<sup>1</sup>, Martí Ramis<sup>2</sup>, Sooho Choo<sup>1</sup>, Mariona Coll<sup>2</sup>, Bharat Jalan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minnesota, 55455, USA

<sup>2</sup>ICMAB-CSIC, Campus UAB 08193, Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

As loaded	With O <sub>2</sub> Plasma		
100°C	100°C	200°C	300°C
400°C	500°C	600°C	700°C
			the standard in
800°C	825°C	900°C	950°C 180 days

**Figure S1:** RHEED evolution as a function of substrate temperature during oxygen plasma annealing of  $SrCa_2Al_2O_6$  on STO (001) substrate. The substrate temperature at which the image is taken is indicated on the image. All images are taken along [100] azimuthal direction.



**Figure S2:** Time-dependent RHEED intensity profile during STO growth. (a) when STO is grown directly on annealed  $SrCa_2Al_2O_6$ . (b) when STO is grown on a 4-monolayers of STO on  $SrCa_2Al_2O_6$ . (c) when Sr-deficient STO is grown on a 4-monolayers of STO on  $SrCa_2Al_2O_6$ . Inset of (a, b, c) show a sample schematic and the RHEED pattern with a box where time-dependent intensity was recorded.



**Figure S3:** RHEED and X-ray diffraction of Sr-deficient and stoichiometric STO / SrCa<sub>2</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>/ STO (001). (a) RHEED images after STO growth taken at 100 °C along [100] and [ $\overline{110}$ ] directions. (b)  $2\theta$ - $\omega$  coupled scan of as-grown films. The film with TTIP/Sr ratio of 103.84 is stochiometric, the out-of-plane lattice parameter extracted from STO (002) peak is 3.905 ± 0.002 Å and from Sr<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>3-x</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (008) is 15.39 ± 0.002 Å (÷4 = 3.849 Å), indicating *x* ~ 0.9 (assuming relaxed lattice parameter). The film with TTIP/Sr ratio of 134.47 is Sr-deficient, the lattice parameter extracted from STO (002) peak is 3.936 ± 0.002 Å and from Sr<sub>x</sub>Ca<sub>3-x</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (008) is 15.30 ± 0.002 Å (÷4 = 3.825 Å), indicating x ~ 0.3 (assuming relaxed lattice parameter). This film is grown after 270+ days of SrCa<sub>2</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> sample preparation, and nominal deviation from peak position is expected in hygroscopic samples. The reduction in intensity of SCAO suggests change in crystallinity over the period of time. (c) x-ray reflectivity scan of 100 nm STO/ 20 nm SrCa<sub>2</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>/ STO (001) substrate with a fit done using GenX software, indicating a thickness of 103.9 nm.



**Figure S4:** Rocking curve of as-grown STO film and after exfoliation and transfer onto a Aucoated Si substrate. The FWHM of the film has changed from 0.46° to 1.40°.



**Figure S5:** Box-pattern on Sr-deficient STO membrane on a different region than shown in Figure 4. First, a  $4 \times 4 \ \mu\text{m}^2$  square area was scanned with -10 V tip bias with bottom electrode grounded. A  $2 \times 2 \ \mu\text{m}^2$  square area that was scanned with +10 V tip bias. Finally, a  $6 \times 6 \ \mu\text{m}^2$  area was scanned with 0 V tip bias. The  $6 \times 6 \ \mu\text{m}^2$  area scan with 0 V also captures the pristine state of the sample. And the -10 V and +10 V region represents the polled state of the sample. (a) Amplitude demonstrating contrast between regions that were scanned with -10 V and 10 V. (b) Phase demonstrating contrast of nearby 180° between the region that was scanned with -10 V and 10 V. (c) Topography scan of the membrane done during 0 V scan. This scan further reveals ferroelectric-like switching on a different region on Sr-deficient membrane.



**Figure S6:** PFM hysteresis loops, topography, and amplitude on Sr-deficient STO membrane on the region shown in Figure 4a. (a) Phase and amplitude hysteresis loops obtained on Sr-deficient STO membrane on a surface polled to -10 V, +10 V, and pristine surface (0 V). The scans on the polled region were done after 30 minutes of polling process. A 180° flipping is observed in phase angle in all three areas of the sample, -10 V (polled), +10 V (polled), and 0 V (pristine). These loops demonstrate switching in the sample at various regions. (b) Amplitude and bias butterfly loops done on three areas of the sample as discussed in Figure S6a. (c-d) Topography and amplitude of membrane after box-writing shown in Figure 4a. A minimal contrast is observed in amplitude when +10 V and 0 V compared since the pristine state of the sample could have dipoles in the out-of-plane direction.