

## Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0376-7388(15)30315-X  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.memsci.2015.11.013>  
Reference: MEMSCI14106

To appear in: *Journal of Membrane Science*

Received date: 1 September 2015  
Revised date: 7 November 2015  
Accepted date: 15 November 2015

Cite this article as: Octavio Salinas, Xiaohua Ma, Eric Litwiller and Ingo Pinnau High-performance carbon molecular sieve membranes for ethylene/ethane separation derived from an intrinsically microporous polyimide, *Journal of Membrane Science*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.memsci.2015.11.013>

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# High-performance carbon molecular sieve membranes for ethylene/ethane separation derived from an intrinsically microporous polyimide

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## Abstract

An intrinsically microporous polymer with hydroxyl functionalities, PIM-6FDA-OH, was used as a precursor for various types of carbon molecular sieve (CMS) membranes for ethylene/ethane separation. The pristine polyimide films were heated under controlled N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at different stages from 500 to 800 °C. All CMS samples carbonized above 600 °C surpassed the polymeric ethylene/ethane upper bound. Pure-gas selectivity reached 17.5 for the CMS carbonized at 800 °C with an ethylene permeability of about 10 Barrer at 2 bar and 35 °C, becoming the most selective CMS for ethylene/ethane separation reported to date. As expected, gravimetric sorption experiments showed that all CMS membranes had ethylene/ethane solubility selectivities close to

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