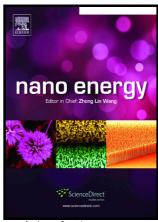
### Author's Accepted Manuscript

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#### **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Atomic-layer-deposited iron oxide on arrays of metal/carbon spheres and their application for electrocatalysis

Xinhui Xia<sup>a,\*</sup>, Yadong Wang<sup>b</sup>, Donghuang Wang<sup>a</sup>, Yongqi Zhang<sup>c</sup>, Zhanxi Fan<sup>d</sup>, Jiangping Tu<sup>a,\*</sup>, Hua Zhang<sup>d</sup>, and Hong Jin Fan<sup>c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> State Key Laboratory of Silicon Materials, Key Laboratory of Advanced Materials and Applications for Batteries of Zhejiang Province, and School of Materials Science and Engineering, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup> School of Engineering, Nanyang Polytechnic, 569830, Singapore

<sup>c</sup> School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 637371, Singapore

<sup>d</sup> School of Materials Science and Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 639798, Singapore

\* Corresponding author.

*E-mail addresses*: helloxxh@zju.edu.cn (X. H. Xia); tujp@zju.edu.cn (J. P. Tu); fanhj@ntu.edu.sg (H. J. Fan)

#### Abstract:

We construct high-performance oxygen reduction reaction (ORR) catalysts by a rational integration of metal tube (NiT), carbon spheres (CSs) and atomic-layer deposited Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The preformed arrays of NiT/CSs are uniform coated by Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> using atomic layer deposition (ALD) technique with variable thickness. The obtained NiT/CSs-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> hybrid nanoarrays have combined properties of inter-connected porous architecture (thus large surface area) and good mechanical robustness. The NiT/CSs-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> arrays exhibit enhanced electro-catalytic ORR properties with higher onset potential and catalytic current than other iron oxide-based counterparts, as well as noticeable methanol-tolerance and CO anti-poisoning due to the integrated architecture and probably a synergistic coupling effect. Our result verifies the useful application of ALD in fabrication of nanostructured electrocatalysts. The developed design protocol of active materials can be extended to other hybrid arrays for applications in electrochemical energy storage and sensing.

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