## **Supporting Information**

## Constructing inverse opal structured hematite photoanodes via electrochemical process and their application to photoelectrochemical water splitting

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Figure S1. FE-SEM image of different sized PS colloid templates: (a) 250 nm,

(b) 500 nm and (c) 900 nm; (d) the section image for a general PS template.



**Figure S2.** The optical band gap (Eg) of the IOS  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> electrodes made by 250nm beads under 400 °C annealing with different electrodeposition time.



Figure S3. TGA data of PS beads as template.



**Figure S4** (a) the morphology of a general planar  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, (b) the I-V curve of the planar  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> vs. potential in 1M NaOH electrolyte under AM 1.5G light.