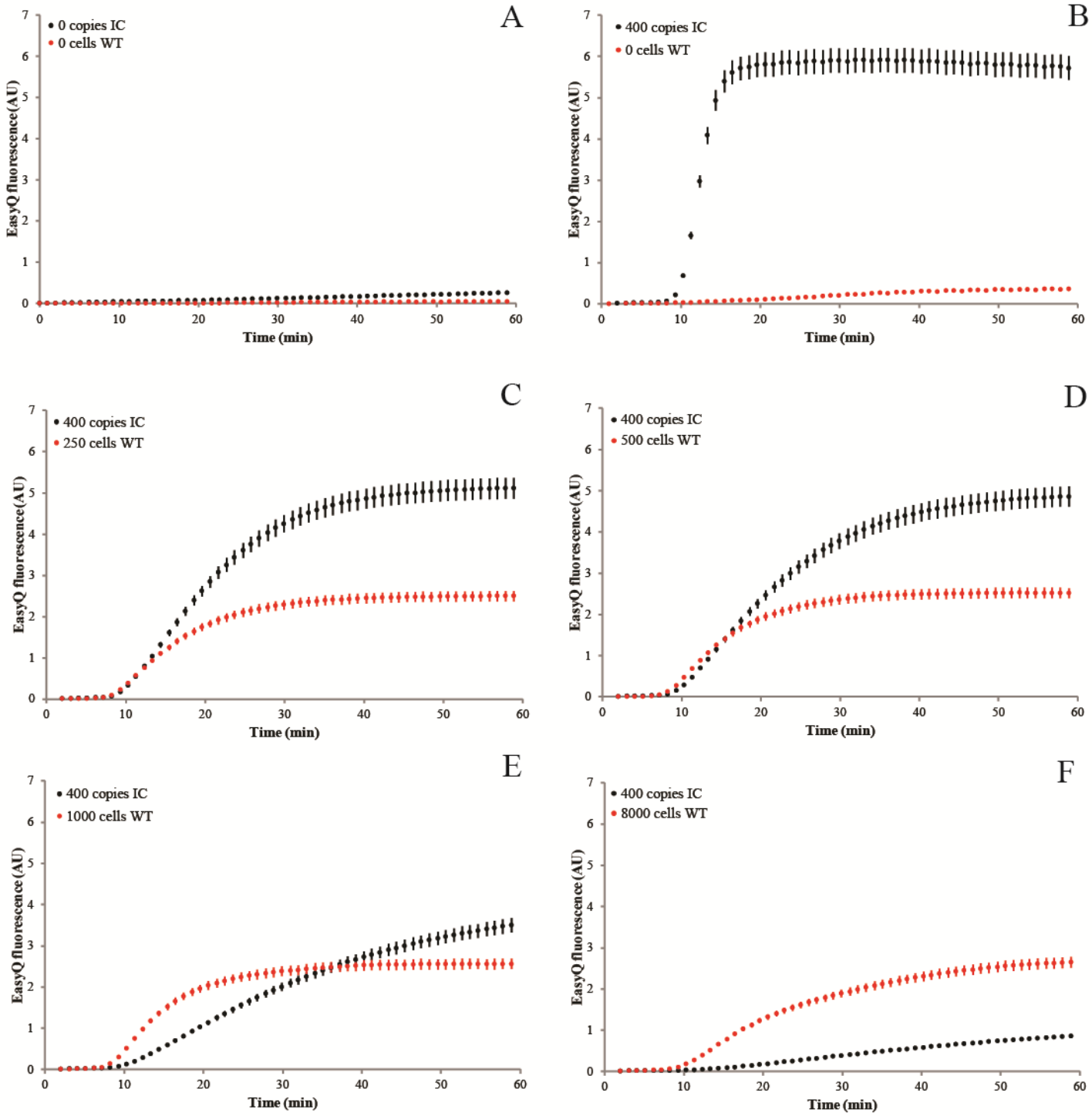

Fig. S1 Calibration curves of competitive NASBA optimisation using constant copies of IC-RNA and increasing *K. brevis* cell numbers: (A) negative control with 0 IC-RNA copies and 0 cells (B) 400 copies IC-RNA and 0 cells (C) 400 copies IC-RNA and 250 cells (D) 400 copies IC-RNA and 500 cells (E) 400 copies IC-RNA and 1000 cells (F) 400 copies IC-RNA and 8000 cells. Error bars denote a coefficient of variance of 5 per cent.

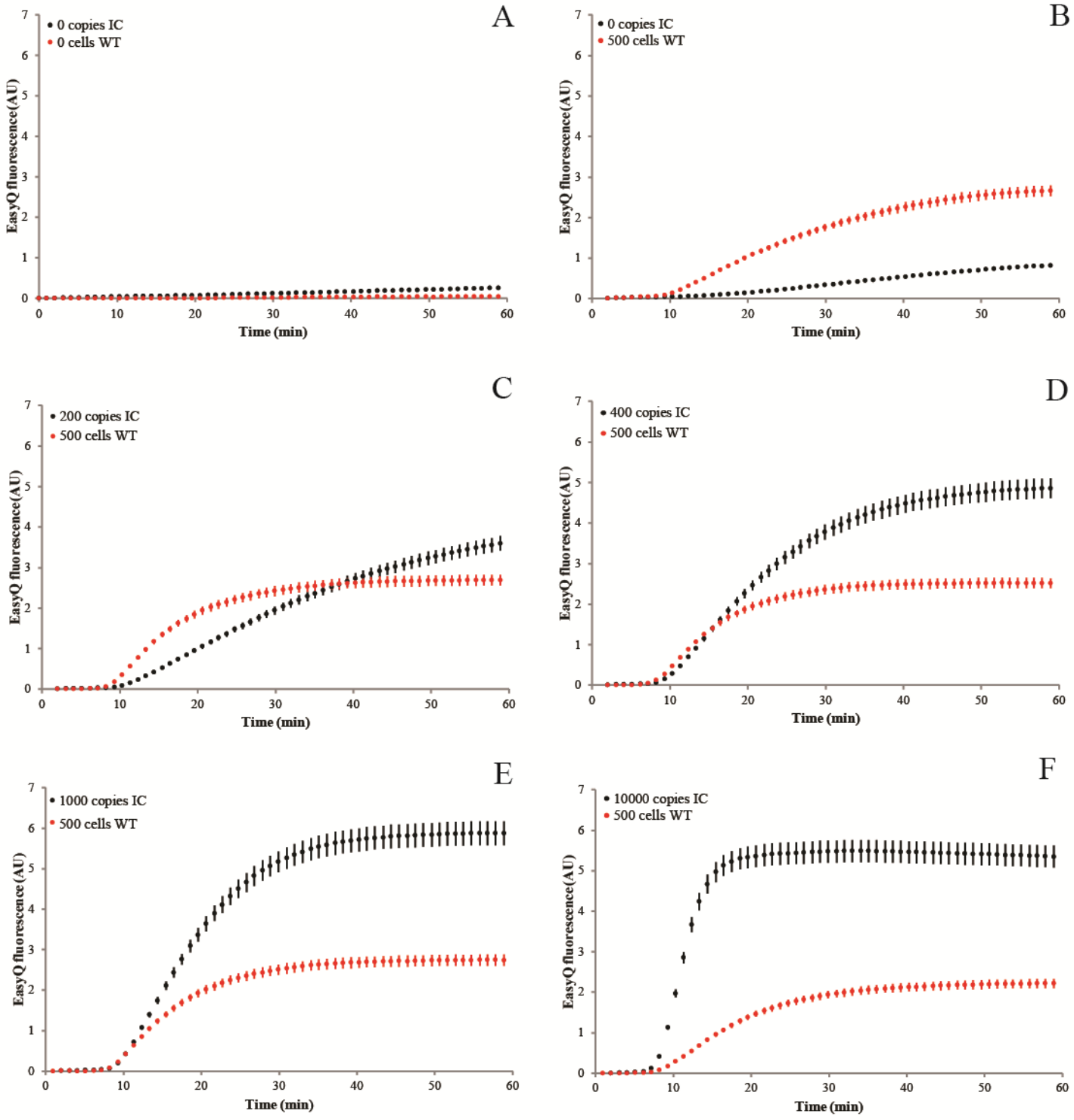

Fig. SI2 Calibration curves of competitive NASBA optimisation using constant *K. brevis* cell numbers and increasing copies of IC-RNA: (A) negative control with 0 IC-RNA copies and 0 cells (B) 0 copies IC-RNA and 500 cells (C) 200 copies IC-RNA and 500 cells (D) 400 copies IC-RNA and 500 cells (E) 1000 copies IC-RNA and 1000 cells (F) 1000 copies IC-RNA and 8000 cells. Error bars denote a coefficient of variance of 5 per cent.