

## Supporting Information

### High-Efficiency Fluorescent Polyimides Based on Locally Excited Triarylamine-containing Dianhydride Moieties

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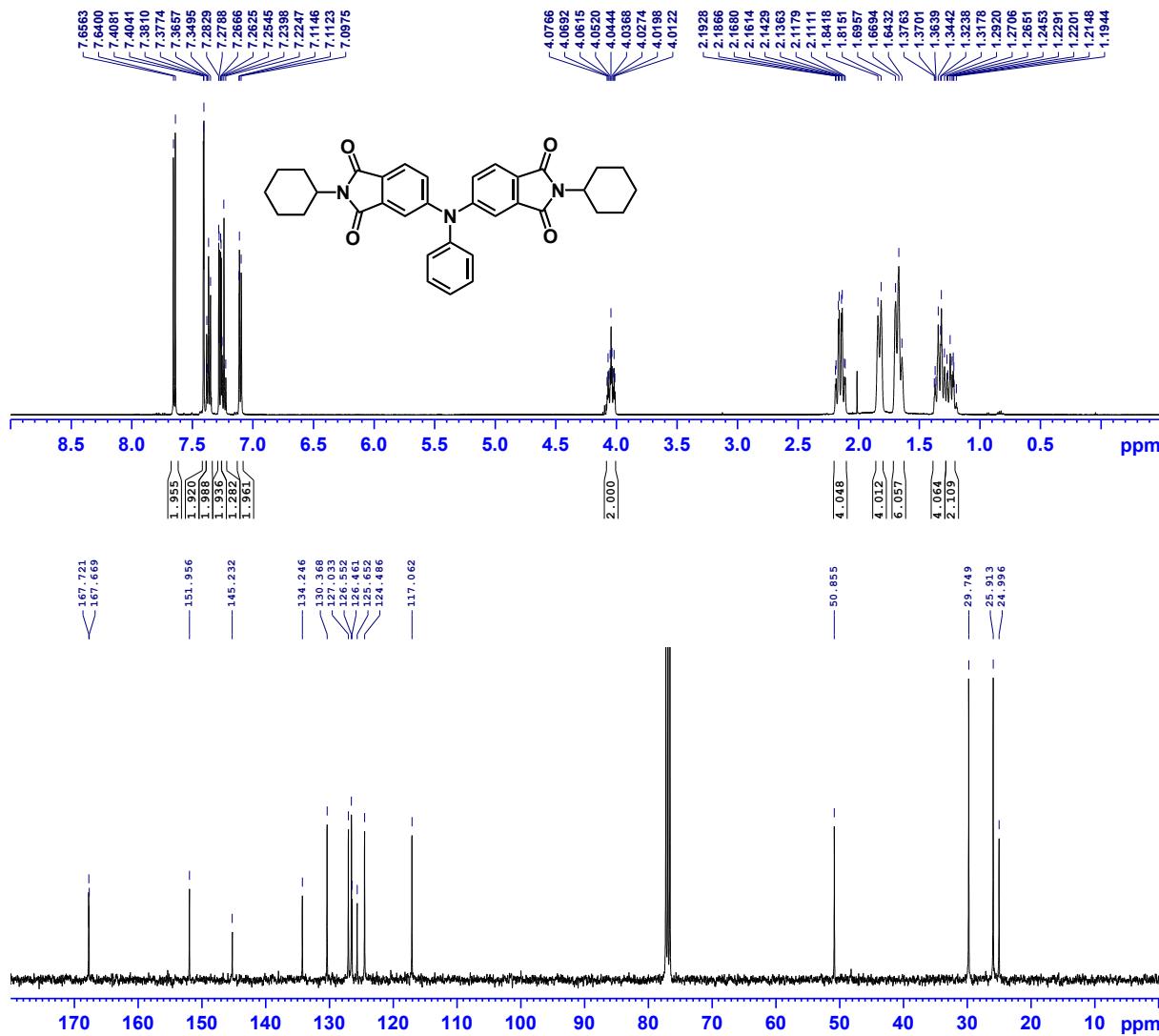
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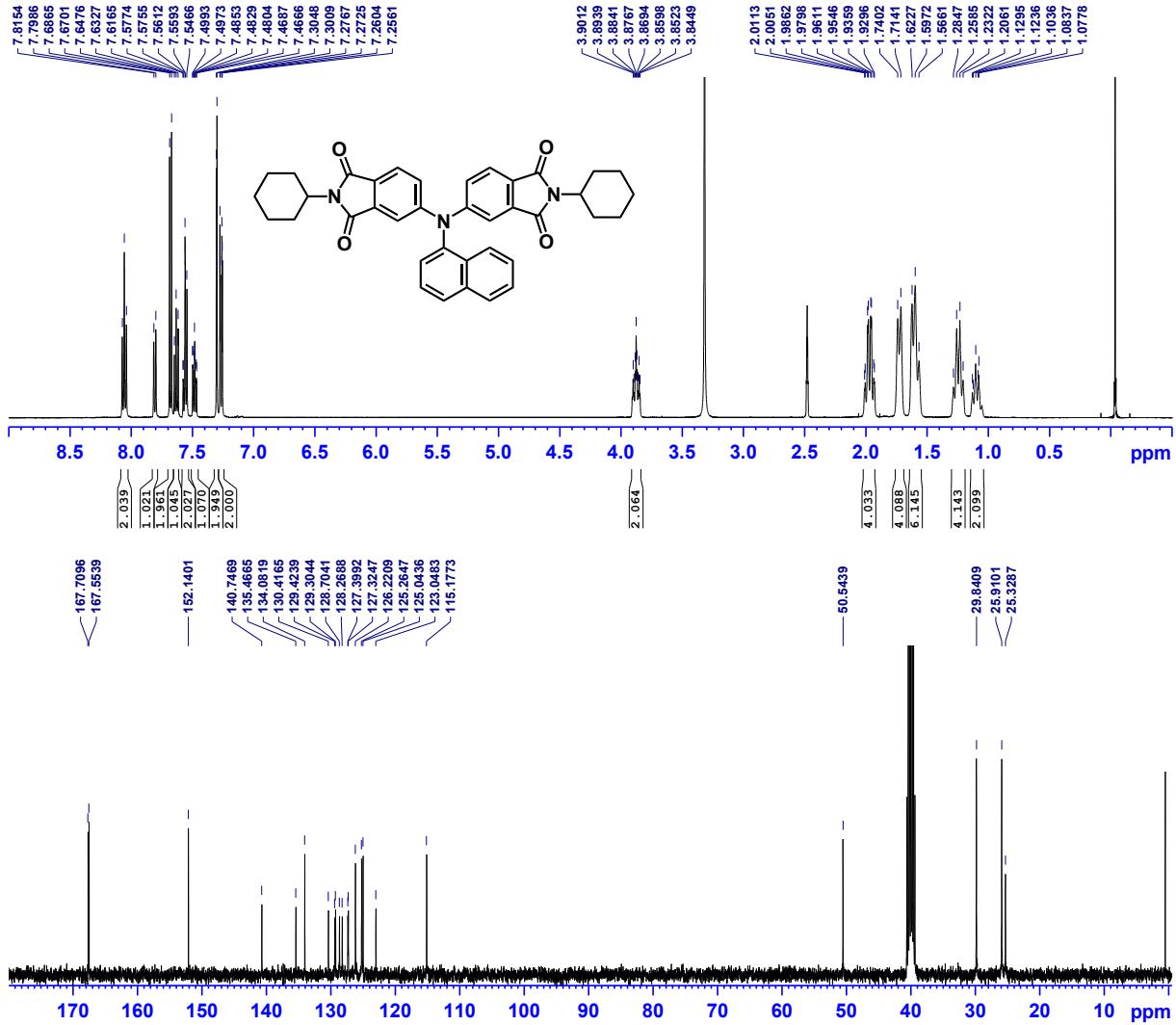
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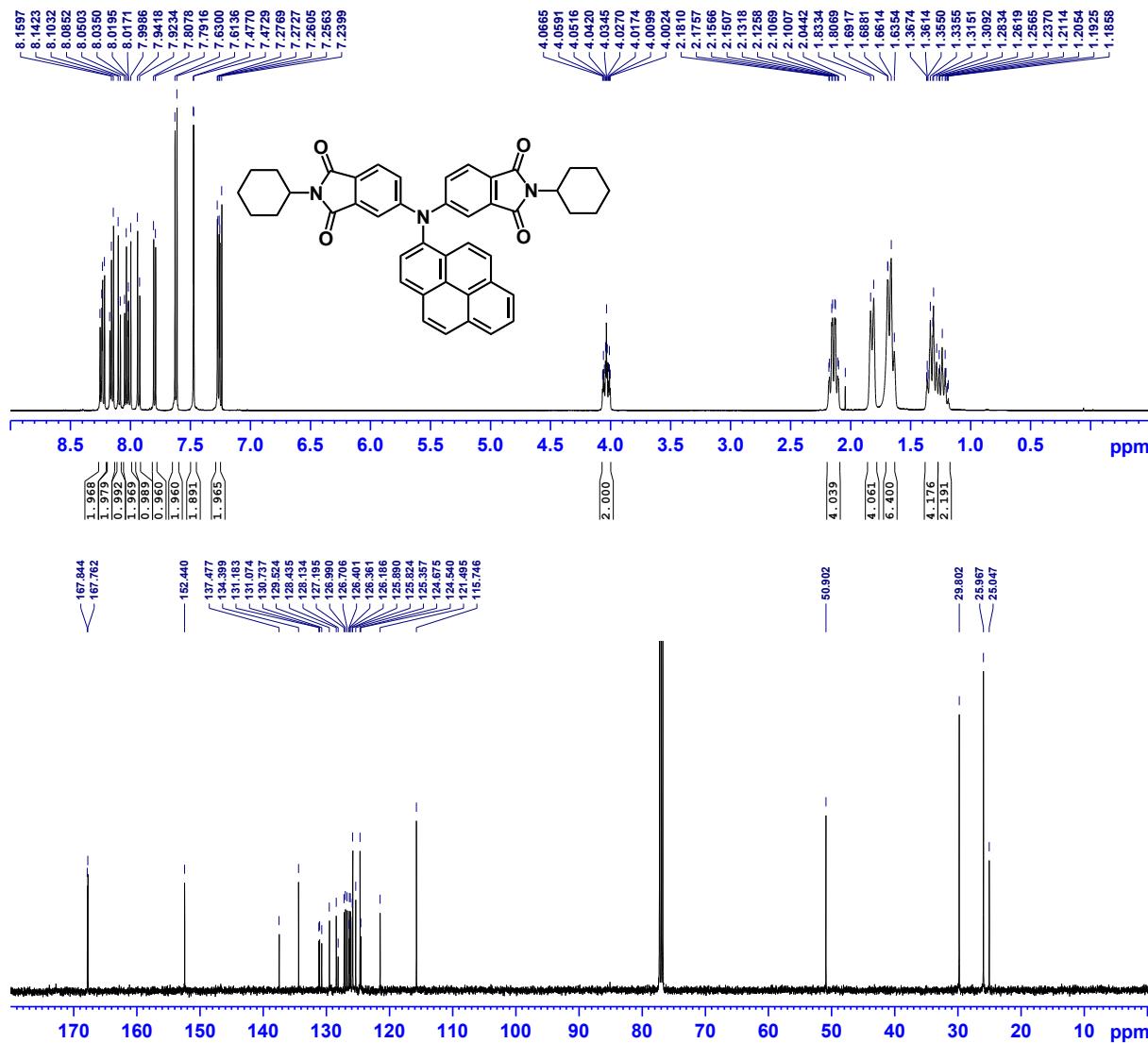
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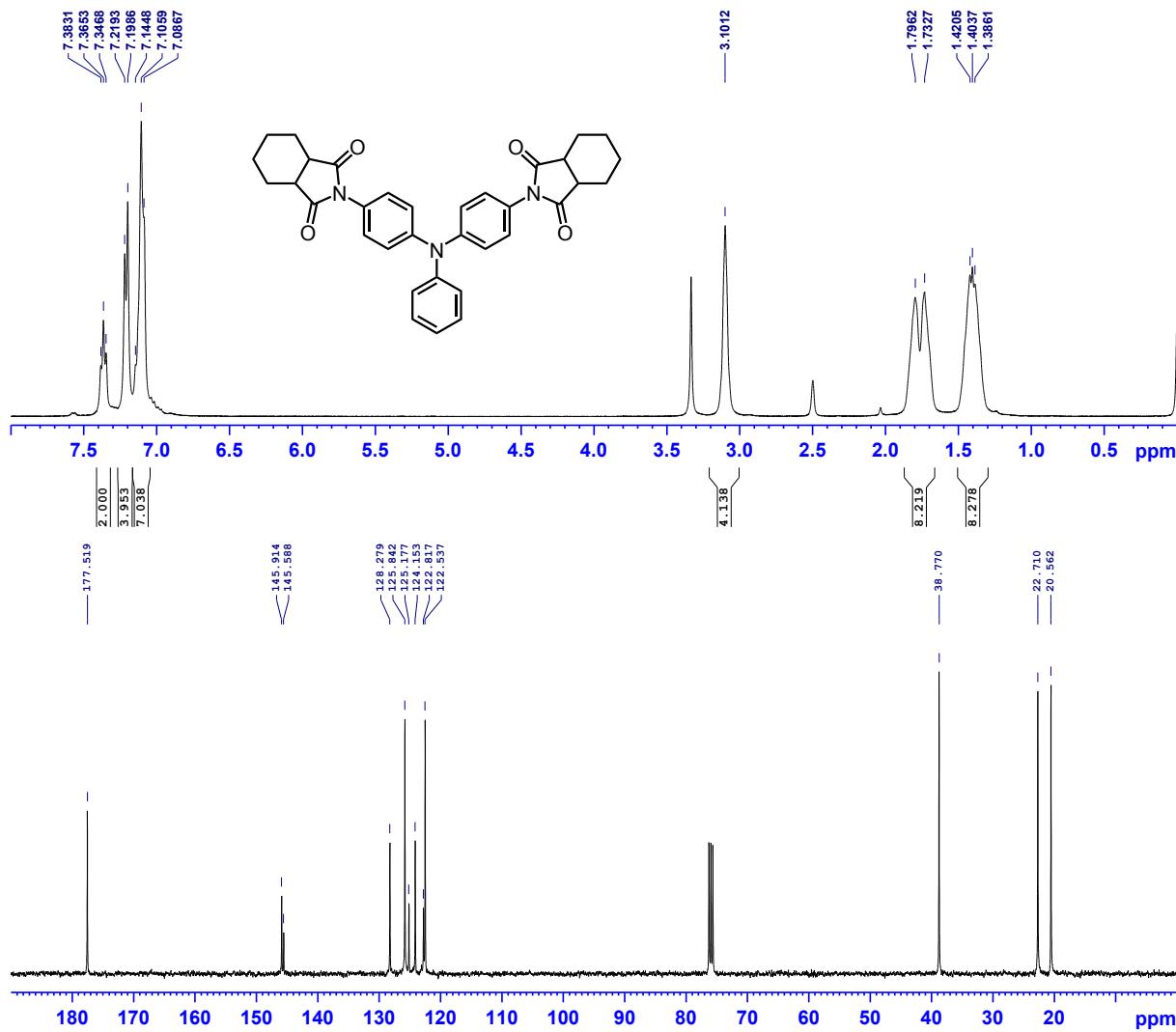
**Scheme S1.** NMR spectra of M-Ph in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



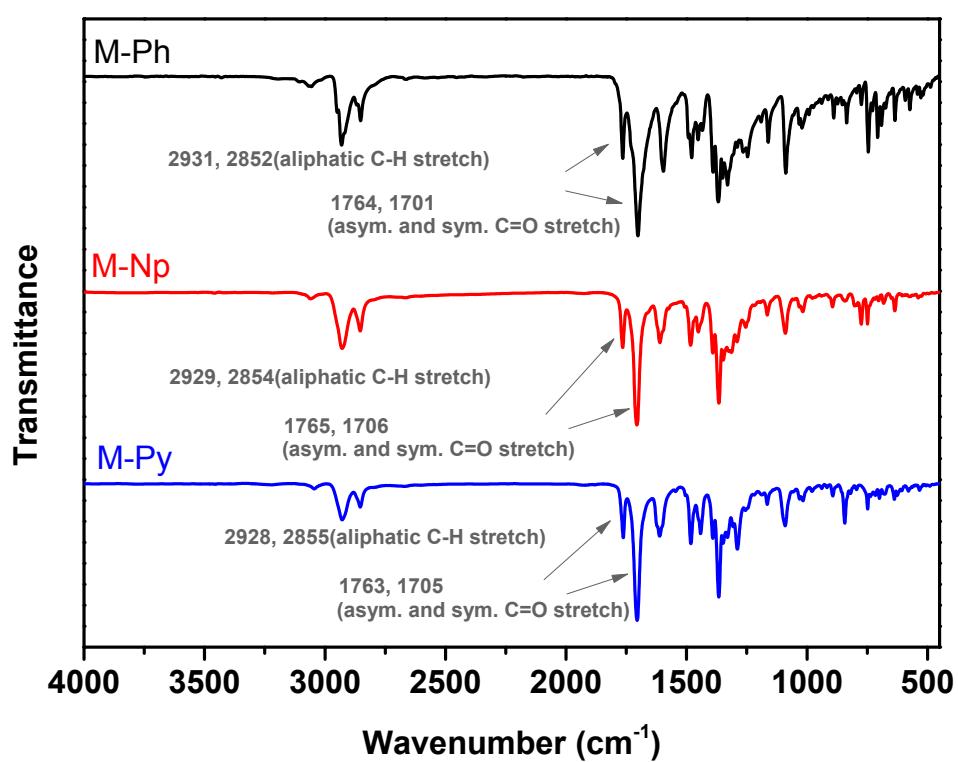
**Figure S1.** NMR spectra of **M-Np** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



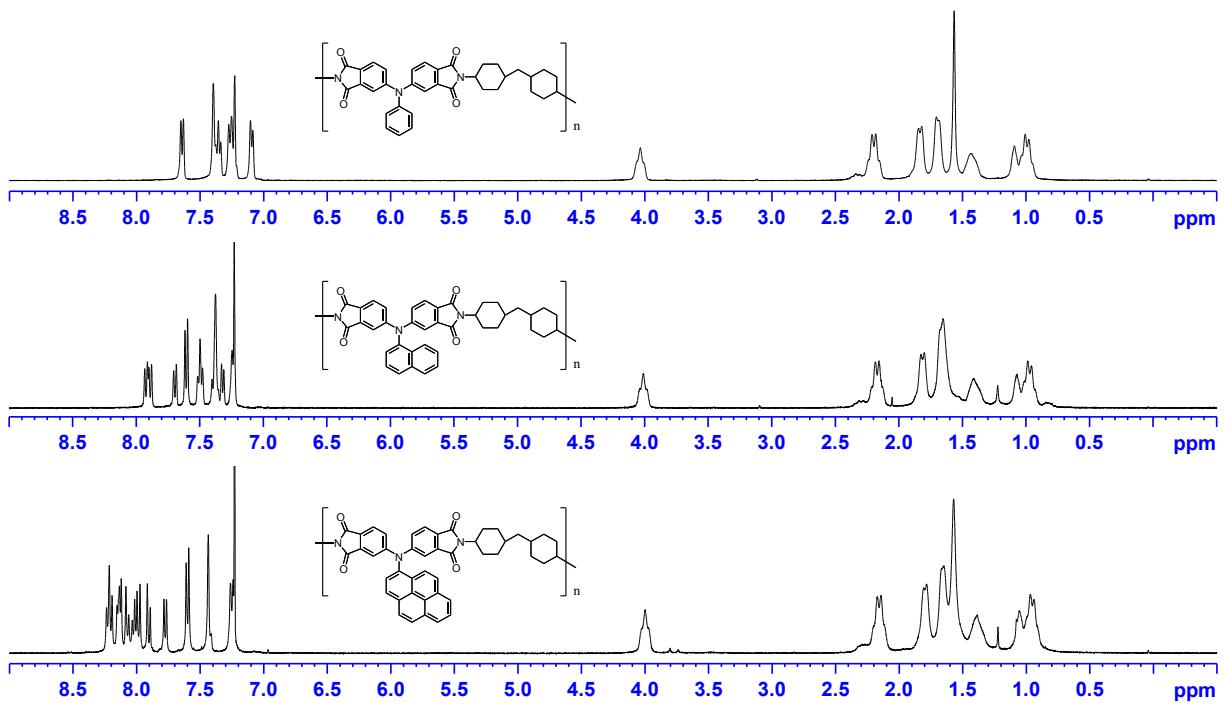
**Figure S3.** NMR spectra of M-Py in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



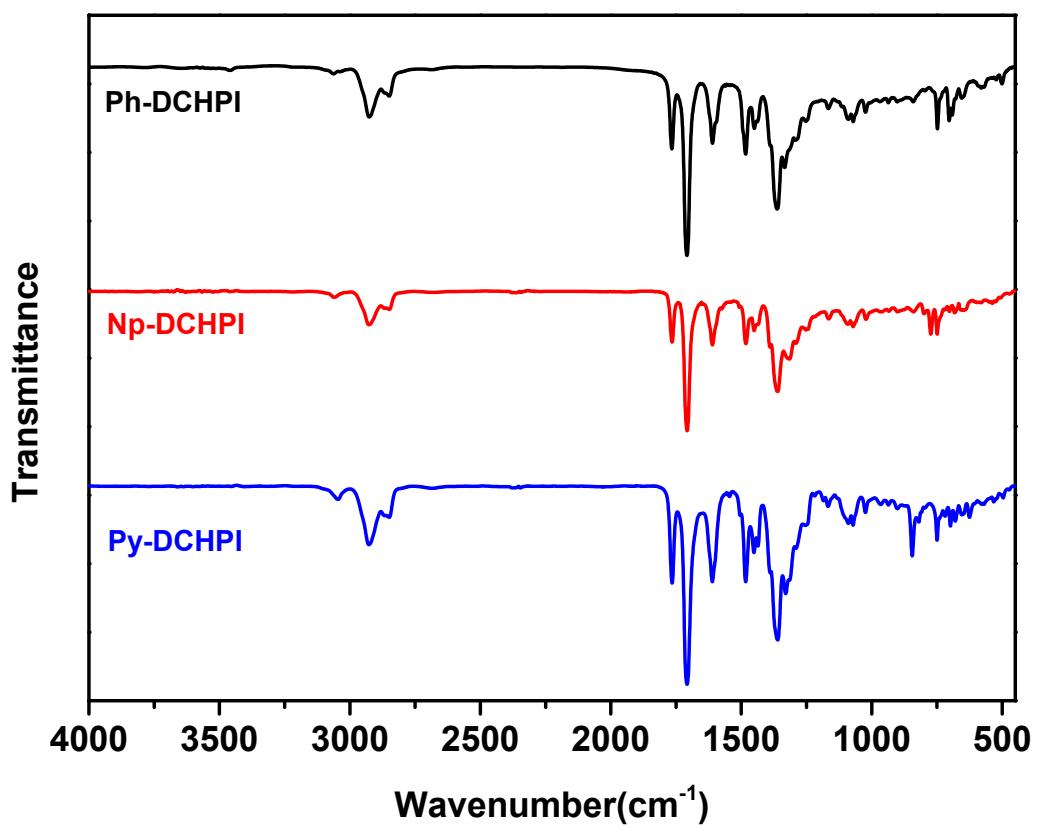
**Figure S4.** NMR spectra of **M-Ph'** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



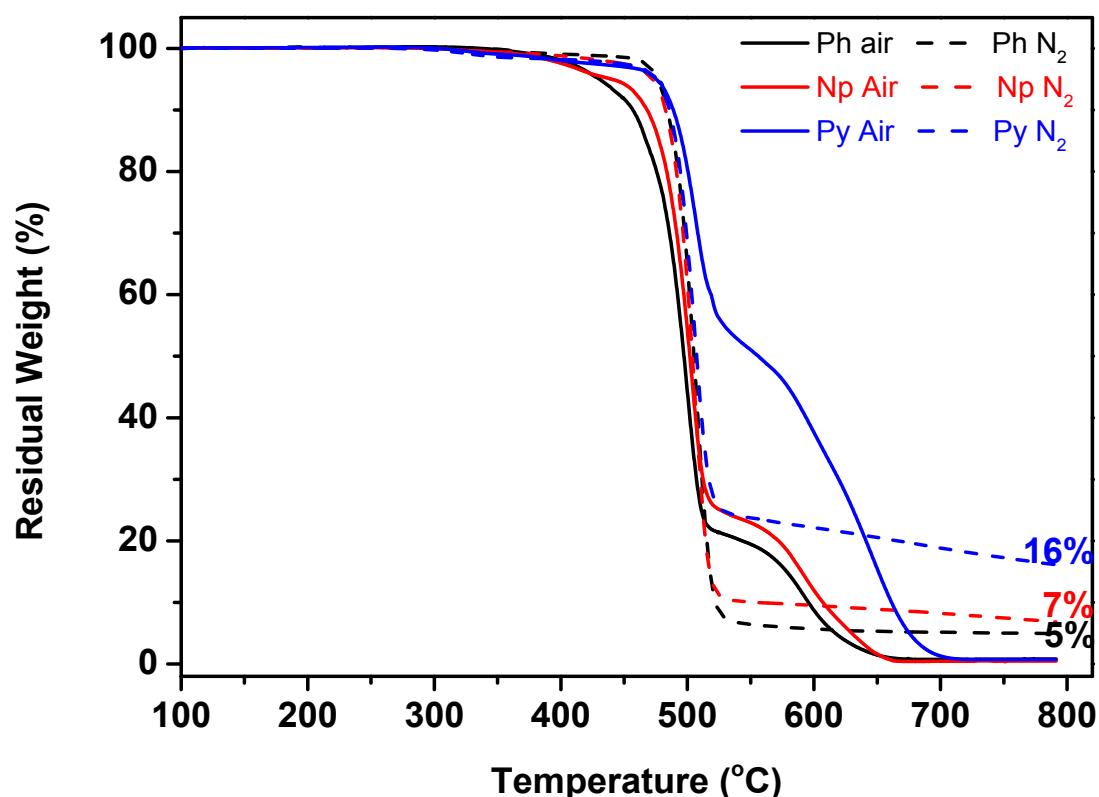
**Figure S5.** FTIR spectra of the model compounds.



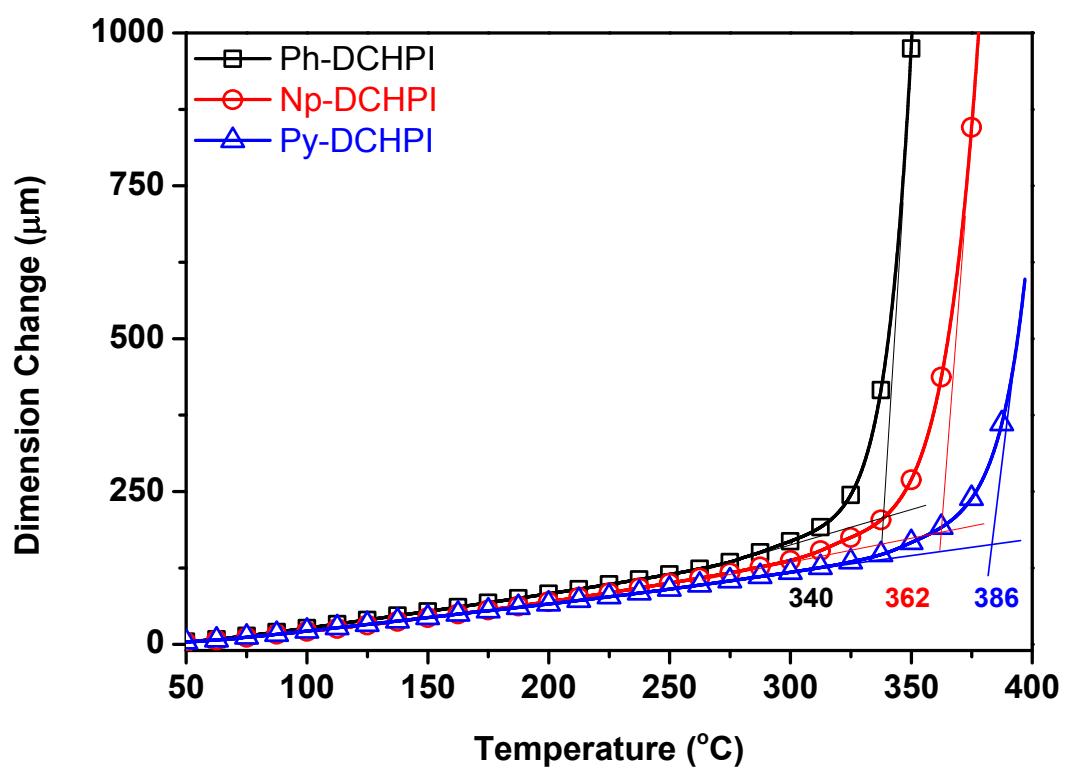
**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the polyimides in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



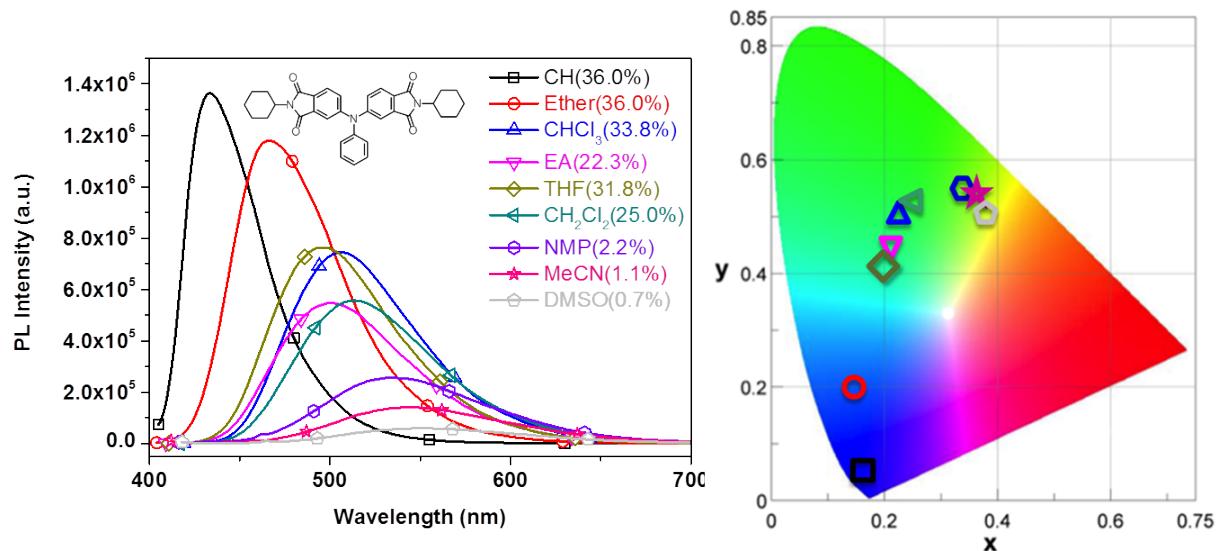
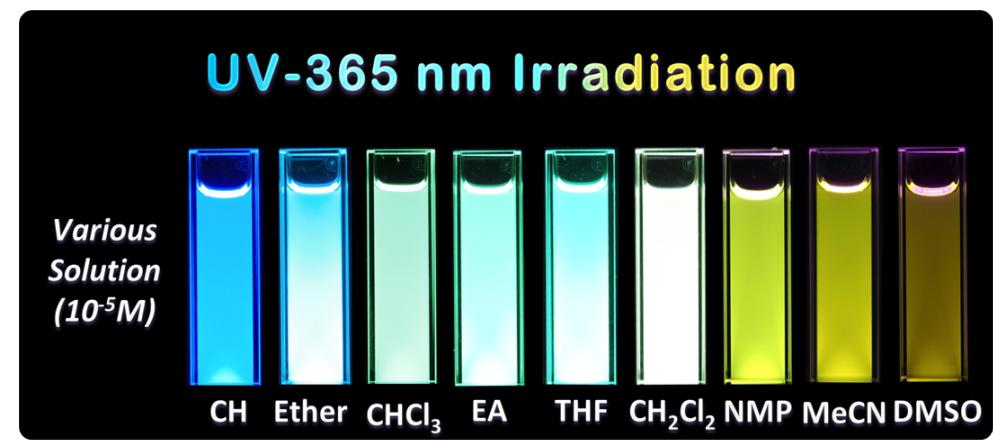
**Figure S7.** FTIR spectra of the polyimides.



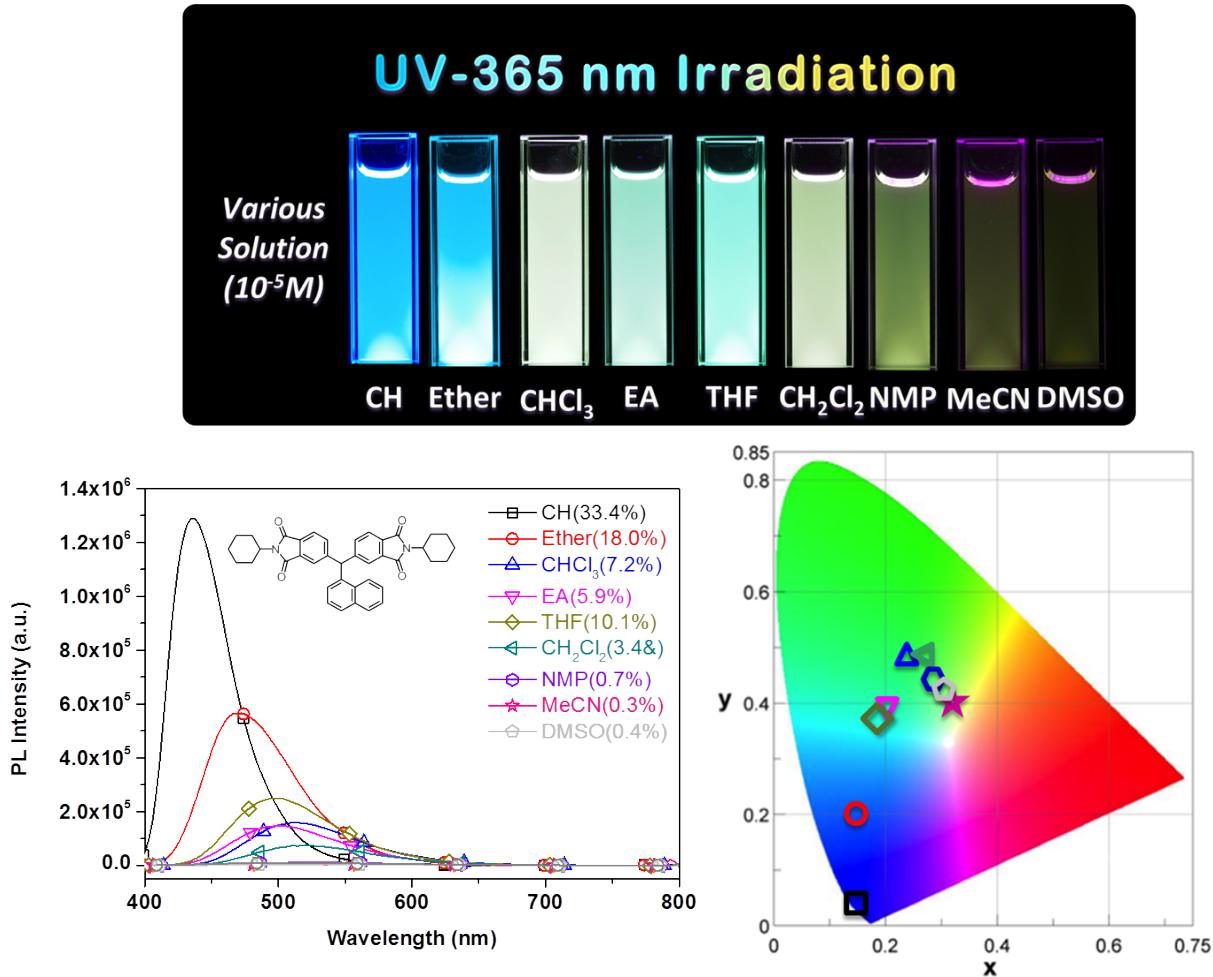
**Figure S8.** TGA thermograms of the polyimides.



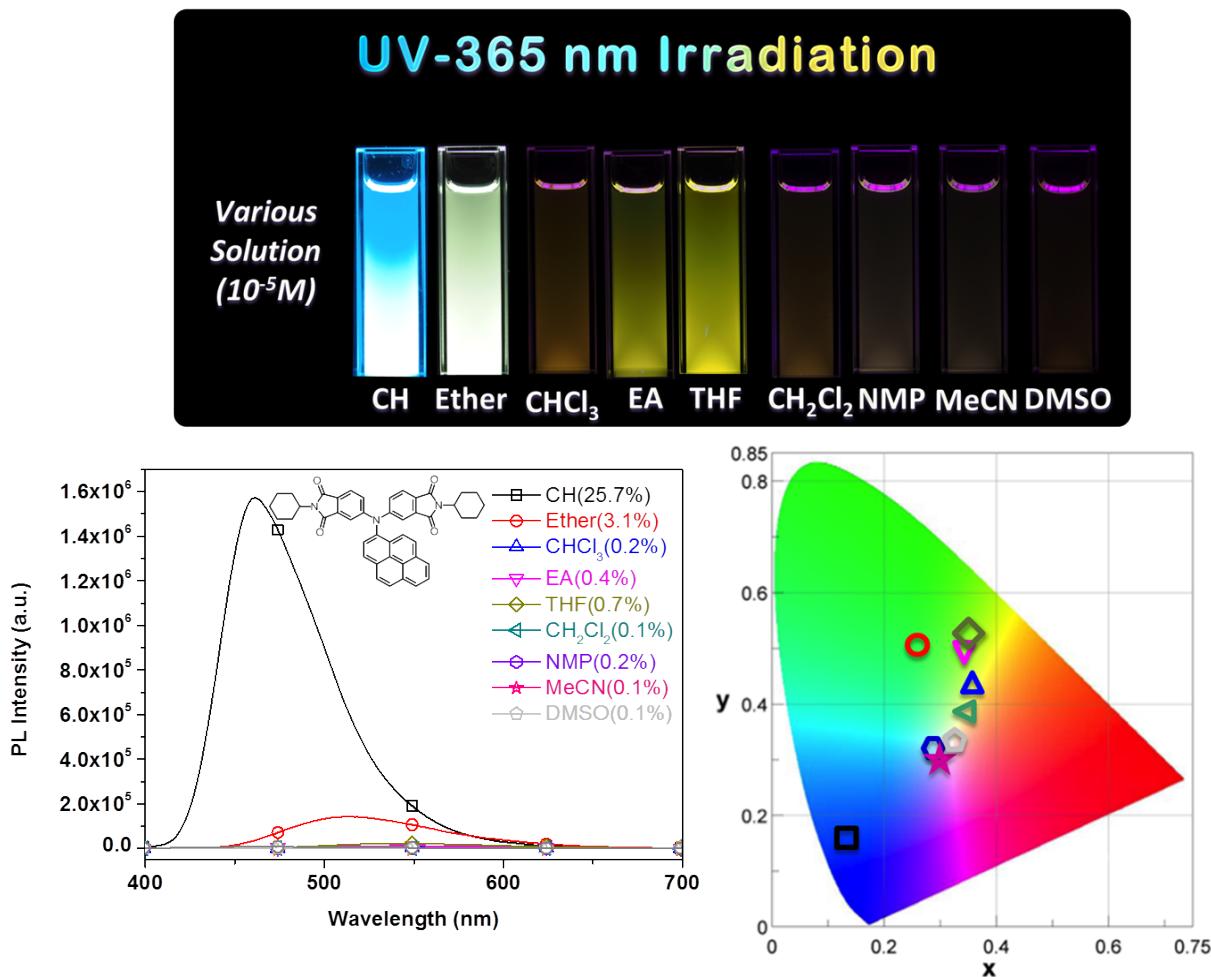
**Figure S9.** TMA thermograms of the polyimides.



**Figure S10.** PL spectra and quantum efficiency of the model compound **M-Ph** in different solvents excited at  $\text{abs}_{\text{max}}$  (solution concentration  $10 \mu\text{M}$ ). Photographs were taken under illumination at 365 nm.



**Figure S11.** PL spectra and quantum efficiency of the model compound **M-Np** in different solvents excited at  $\text{abs}_{\text{max}}$  (solution concentration  $10 \mu\text{M}$ ). Photographs were taken under illumination at  $365 \text{ nm}$ .



**Figure S11.** PL spectra and quantum efficiency of the model compound **M-Py** in different solvents excited at  $\text{abs}_{\text{max}}$  (solution concentration 10  $\mu\text{M}$ ). Photographs were taken under illumination at 365 nm.

**Table S1.** Inherent viscosity and molecular weight of the polyimides

| Polymer         | $\eta_{inh}$ (dL/g) <sup>a</sup> | Mn <sup>c</sup> | Mw <sup>c</sup> | PDI <sup>d</sup> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Ph-DCHPI</b> | 1.53 <sup>b</sup>                | -               | -               | -                |
| <b>Np-DCHPI</b> | 1.17                             | 67900           | 142200          | 2.09             |
| <b>Py-DCHPI</b> | 0.54                             | 19900           | 45000           | 2.26             |

<sup>a</sup>  $\eta_{inh}$  (dL/g) measured at polymer concentration of 0.5 g/dL in NMP at 30°C.

<sup>b</sup>  $\eta_{inh}$  (dL/g) measured at polymer concentration of 0.5 g/dL in H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 30°C.

<sup>c</sup> Calibrated with polystyrene standards, using NMP as the eluent at a constant flow rate of 0.5 ml/min at 40 °C.

<sup>d</sup> Polydispersity Index ( $M_w/M_n$ ).

**Table S2.** Solubility behavior of the polyimides.

| Polymer         | Solubility in various Solvent |      |     |                  |     |                   |         |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------|-----|------------------|-----|-------------------|---------|
|                 | NMP                           | DMAc | DMF | <i>m</i> -Cresol | THF | CHCl <sub>3</sub> | Toluene |
| <b>Ph-DCHPI</b> | + -                           | + -  | -   | ++               | +   | ++                | + -     |
| <b>Np-DCHPI</b> | ++                            | +    | + - | ++               | ++  | ++                | + -     |
| <b>Py-DCHPI</b> | ++                            | + -  | -   | ++               | +   | ++                | -       |

Qualitative solubility was tested with 5 mg of a sample in 1 mL of solvent. ++, soluble at room temperature; +, soluble on heating; + -, partially soluble or swelling; -, insoluble even on heating.

**Table S3.** Thermal properties of the polyimides.

| Polymer <sup>a</sup> | $T_g$ [°C] <sup>b</sup> | $T_d^5$ [°C] <sup>c</sup> |     | $T_d^{10}$ [°C] <sup>c</sup> |     | $R_{w800}$ [%] <sup>d</sup> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
|                      |                         | N <sub>2</sub>            | Air | N <sub>2</sub>               | Air |                             |
| <b>Ph-DCHPI</b>      | 340                     | 475                       | 430 | 485                          | 445 | 5                           |
| <b>Np-DCHPI</b>      | 362                     | 475                       | 440 | 485                          | 470 | 7                           |
| <b>Py-DCHPI</b>      | 386                     | 475                       | 475 | 485                          | 490 | 16                          |

<sup>a</sup> The polymer samples were heated at 300 °C for 1 h prior to all the thermal analyses.

<sup>b</sup> Glass transition temperature measured by TMA with a constant applied load of 5 mN at a heating rate of 10 °C/min by film/fiber probe in nitrogen.

<sup>c</sup> Temperature at which 5 % and 10 % weight loss occurred, respectively, recorded by TGA at a heating rate of 20 °C/min and a gas flow rate of 60 cm<sup>3</sup>/min.

<sup>d</sup> Residual weight percentages at 800 °C under nitrogen flow.

**Table S4.** Transition wavelengths, oscillator strengths, and the assignment of  $S_0 \rightarrow S_i$  transitions of the model compounds.

| Code         | State | Transition Wavelength (nm) | Oscillator Strength | Orbitls           | Character of Transition         | Contribution |
|--------------|-------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>M-Ph'</b> | S1    | 329.2                      | 0.5896              | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO         | 0.99         |
|              | S2    | 318.1                      | 0.0188              | CT( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1       | 0.08         |
|              |       |                            |                     | CT( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2       | 0.06         |
|              |       |                            |                     | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+4       | 0.82         |
| <b>M-Ph</b>  | S3    | 312.9                      | 0.3001              | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3       | 0.97         |
|              | S1    | 413.8                      | 0.3038              | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO         | 0.98         |
| <b>M-Np</b>  | S1    | 409.5                      | 0.2341              | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO         | 0.98         |
| <b>M-Py</b>  | S1    | 432.0                      | 0.1489              | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO         | 0.98         |
|              | S2    | 407.3                      | 0.2911              | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO-<br>1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 | 0.06         |
|              |       |                            |                     |                   |                                 |              |
|              |       |                            |                     |                   |                                 |              |
|              |       |                            |                     | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2       | 0.89         |
|              |       |                            |                     | LE( $\pi-\pi^*$ ) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3       | 0.03         |

**Table S5.** Photophysical properties of model compound **M-Ph** in different solvents.

| Solvent                         | $\epsilon^a$ | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm) | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ (nm) <sup>b</sup> | $\Phi_{\text{PL}} (\%)^c$ | CIE 1931 coordinates |        |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|--------|
|                                 |              |                                    |  |                           | x                    | y      |
| Cyclohexane                     | 2.0          | 395                                | 433  | 36.0                      | 0.1530               | 0.0463 |
| Ethyl ether                     | 4.3          | 394                                | 466  | 36.0                      | 0.1432               | 0.1852 |
| CHCl <sub>3</sub>               | 4.8          | 409                                | 507  | 33.8                      | 0.2138               | 0.4910 |
| EA                              | 6.0          | 399                                | 500  | 22.3                      | 0.2003               | 0.4357 |
| THF                             | 7.6          | 401                                | 497  | 31.8                      | 0.1823               | 0.4060 |
| CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> | 8.9          | 407                                | 514  | 25.0                      | 0.2448               | 0.5200 |
| NMP                             | 32.2         | 406                                | 534  | 2.2                       | 0.3274               | 0.5352 |
| MeCN                            | 37.5         | 402                                | 544  | 1.1                       | 0.3576               | 0.5274 |
| DMSO                            | 46.7         | 408                                | 551  | 0.7                       | 0.3691               | 0.4957 |

<sup>a</sup> Dielectric constant of the solvents.

<sup>b</sup> Excited at  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ .

<sup>c</sup> The quantum yield was measured by using quinine sulfate (dissolved in 1 N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> with a concentration of 10 μM, assuming photoluminescence quantum efficiency of 0.546) as a standard at 25°C.

**Table S6.** Photophysical properties of model compound **M-Np** in different solvents.

| Solvent                         | $\epsilon^a$ | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm) | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ (nm) <sup>b</sup> | $\Phi_{\text{PL}} (\%)^c$ | CIE 1931 coordinates |          |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|
|                                 |              |                                    |  |                           | <i>x</i>             | <i>y</i> |
| Cyclohexane                     | 2.0          | 388                                | 436  | 33.4                      | 0.1523               | 0.0508   |
| Ethyl ether                     | 4.3          | 390                                | 472  | 18.0                      | 0.1513               | 0.2110   |
| CHCl <sub>3</sub>               | 4.8          | 403                                | 511  | 7.2                       | 0.2474               | 0.4974   |
| EA                              | 6.0          | 394                                | 501  | 5.9                       | 0.2092               | 0.4126   |
| THF                             | 7.6          | 393                                | 498  | 10.1                      | 0.1983               | 0.4011   |
| CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> | 8.9          | 400                                | 520  | 3.4                       | 0.2744               | 0.5109   |
| NMP                             | 32.2         | 402                                | 526  | 0.7                       | 0.2930               | 0.4560   |
| MeCN                            | 37.5         | 396                                | 544  | 0.3                       | 0.3260               | 0.4166   |
| DMSO                            | 46.7         | 401                                | 547  | 0.4                       | 0.3252               | 0.4279   |

<sup>a</sup> Dielectric constant of the solvents.

<sup>b</sup> Excited at  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ .

<sup>c</sup> The quantum yield was measured by using quinine sulfate (dissolved in 1 N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> with a concentration of 10 μM, assuming photoluminescence quantum efficiency of 0.546) as a standard at 25°C.

**Table S7.** Photophysical properties of model compound **M-Py** in different solvents.

| Solvent                         | $\epsilon^a$ | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm) | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ (nm) <sup>b</sup> | $\Phi_{\text{PL}} (\%)^c$ | CIE 1931 coordinates |          |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|
|                                 |              |                                    |  |                           | <i>x</i>             | <i>y</i> |
| Cyclohexane                     | 2.0          | 378                                | 461  | 25.7                      | 0.1436               | 0.1593   |
| Ethyl ether                     | 4.3          | 374                                | 512  | 3.1                       | 0.2576               | 0.4984   |
| CHCl <sub>3</sub>               | 4.8          | 377                                | 563  | 0.2                       | 0.3609               | 0.4345   |
| EA                              | 6.0          | 377                                | 544  | 0.4                       | 0.347                | 0.4949   |
| THF                             | 7.6          | 379                                | 541  | 0.7                       | 0.352                | 0.5238   |
| CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> | 8.9          | 380                                | 564  | 0.1                       | 0.3462               | 0.3822   |
| NMP                             | 32.2         | 376                                | 560  | 0.2                       | 0.2934               | 0.3274   |
| MeCN                            | 37.5         | 375                                | 566  | 0.1                       | 0.3022               | 0.3031   |
| DMSO                            | 46.7         | 379                                | 561  | 0.1                       | 0.3204               | 0.3398   |

<sup>a</sup> Dielectric constant of the solvents.

<sup>b</sup> Excited at  $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ .

<sup>c</sup> The quantum yield was measured by using quinine sulfate (dissolved in 1 N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> with a concentration of 10 μM, assuming photoluminescence quantum efficiency of 0.546) as a standard at 25°C.

**Table S8.** Optical properties of the polyimides in NMP-MeOH with different methanol fraction.

| Polymer  | $f_w$ [v%] <sup>a</sup> | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{abs}}$ [nm] | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{em}}$ [nm] | $\Phi_{\text{PL}}$ [%] | CIE 1931 coordinates |        |
|----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
|          |                         |                                    |                                   |                        | x                    | y      |
| Ph-DCHPI | 0                       | 407                                | 527                               | 5.2                    | 0.2970               | 0.5226 |
|          | 30                      | 410                                | 517                               | 7.9                    | 0.2733               | 0.5253 |
|          | 50                      | 408                                | 520                               | 5.9                    | 0.2835               | 0.5288 |
|          | 70                      | 410                                | 527                               | 4.2                    | 0.2997               | 0.5343 |
|          | 90                      | 406                                | 531                               | 3.1                    | 0.3121               | 0.5361 |
| Np-DCHPI | 0                       | 402                                | 523                               | 1.7                    | 0.2874               | 0.4785 |
|          | 30                      | 402                                | 512                               | 5.9                    | 0.2462               | 0.4778 |
|          | 50                      | 401                                | 514                               | 4.7                    | 0.2572               | 0.4894 |
|          | 70                      | 401                                | 517                               | 3.5                    | 0.2690               | 0.4974 |
|          | 90                      | 402                                | 522                               | 2.4                    | 0.2827               | 0.4989 |
| Py-DCHPI | 0                       | 378                                | 553                               | 0.3                    | 0.3087               | 0.3587 |
|          | 30                      | 378                                | 528                               | 1.7                    | 0.3248               | 0.5117 |
|          | 50                      | 377                                | 526                               | 1.3                    | 0.3266               | 0.4946 |
|          | 70                      | 376                                | 531                               | 1.1                    | 0.3351               | 0.4887 |
|          | 90                      | 378                                | 545                               | 0.8                    | 0.3401               | 0.4710 |

<sup>a</sup> Polymer concentration is 10  $\mu\text{M}$  with different MeOH fraction.