

Supplementary Information for:

Polar-nonpolar interconnected elastic networks with increased permittivity and high breakdown fields for dielectric elastomer transducers

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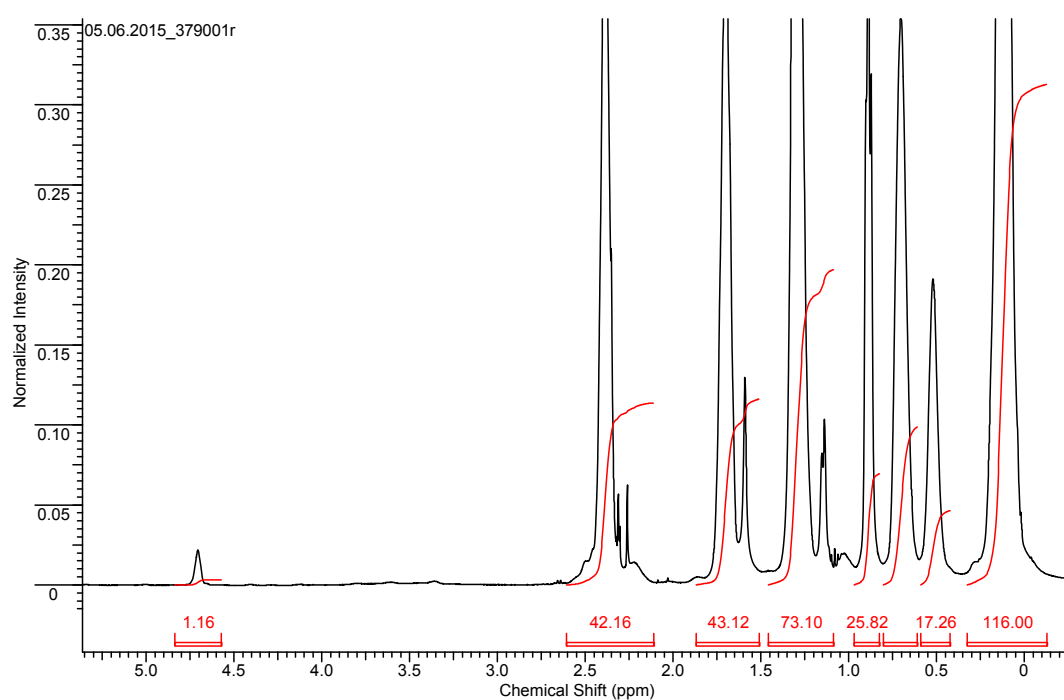
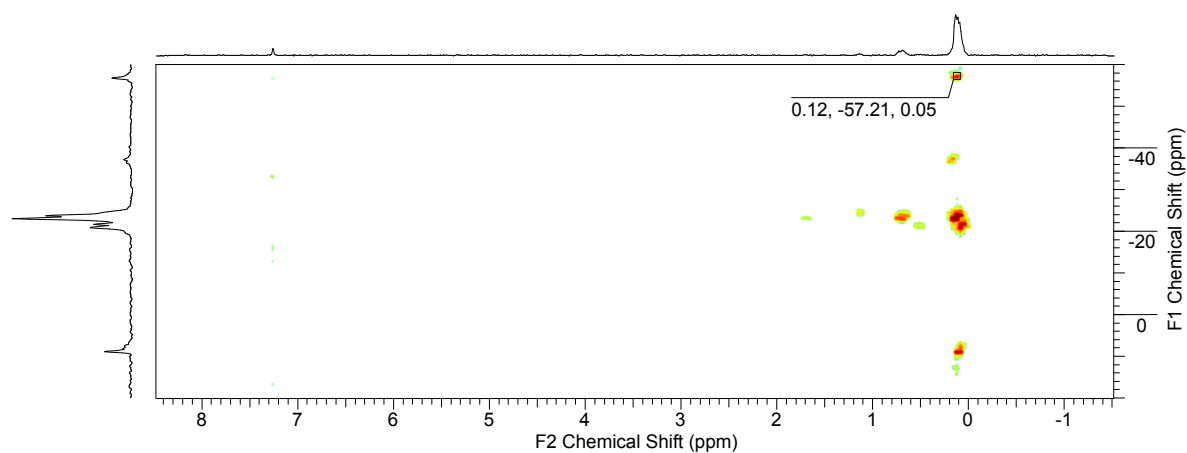


Figure S1: ^{29}Si NMR and ^1H NMR spectra of a partially cross-linked copolymer (P_{62}). The signal at -57 ppm in the ^{29}Si spectrum is assigned to trifunctional siloxane, while the Si-H signal is seriously diminished (for comparison see Figure S5b).

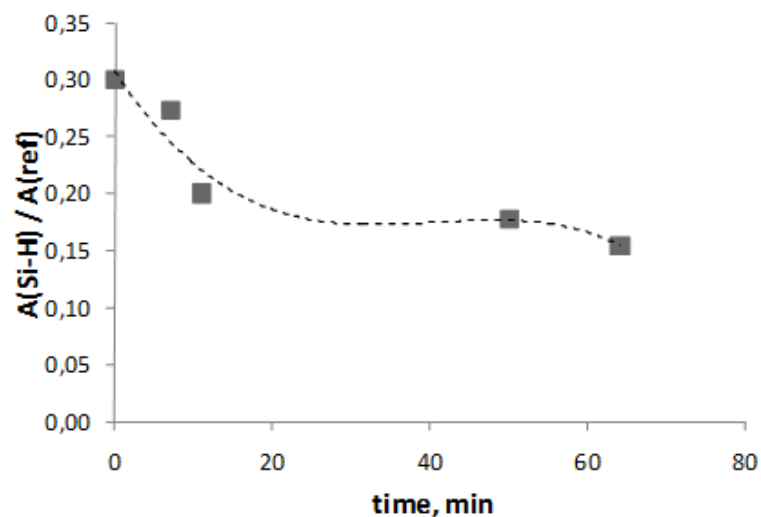


Figure S2: Reaction monitoring with IR spectroscopy: variation of the Si-H stretching band at 2154 cm^{-1} versus Si-CH₃ symmetric band at 1260 cm^{-1} due to hydrolysis of P₆₂ as function of time.

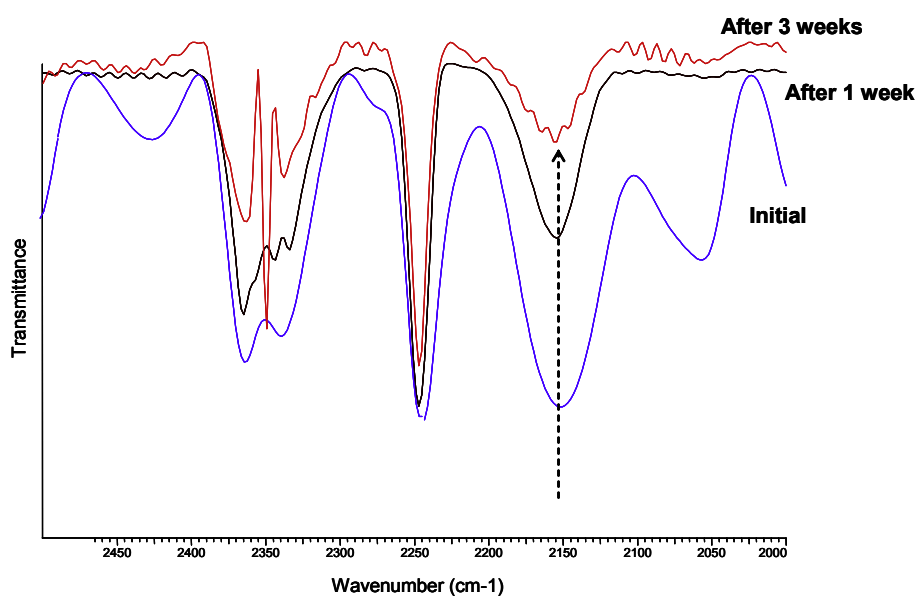


Figure S3: Evolution of the Si-H stretching band in a cross-linked film within three weeks.

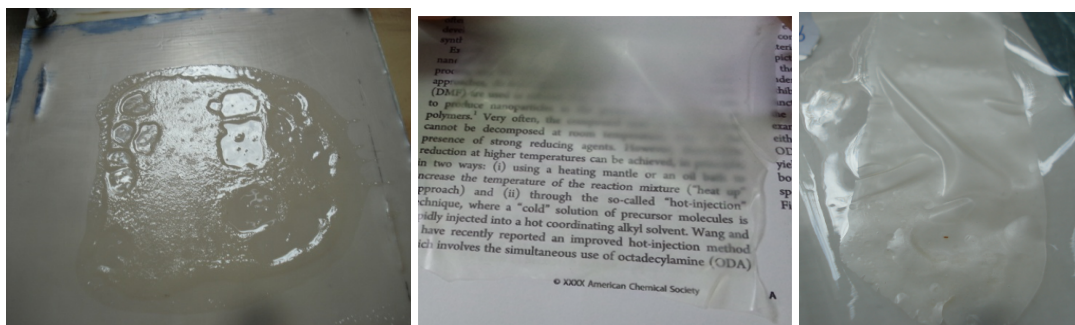


Figure S4: Image of a blend of cross-linked PDMS and P₆₂ (left), P₆₂(1/3) (middle) and P₆₂^{part}(1/2) (right). Macroscopic phase separation can be seen when P₆₂ is not cross-linked (the left-side photo).

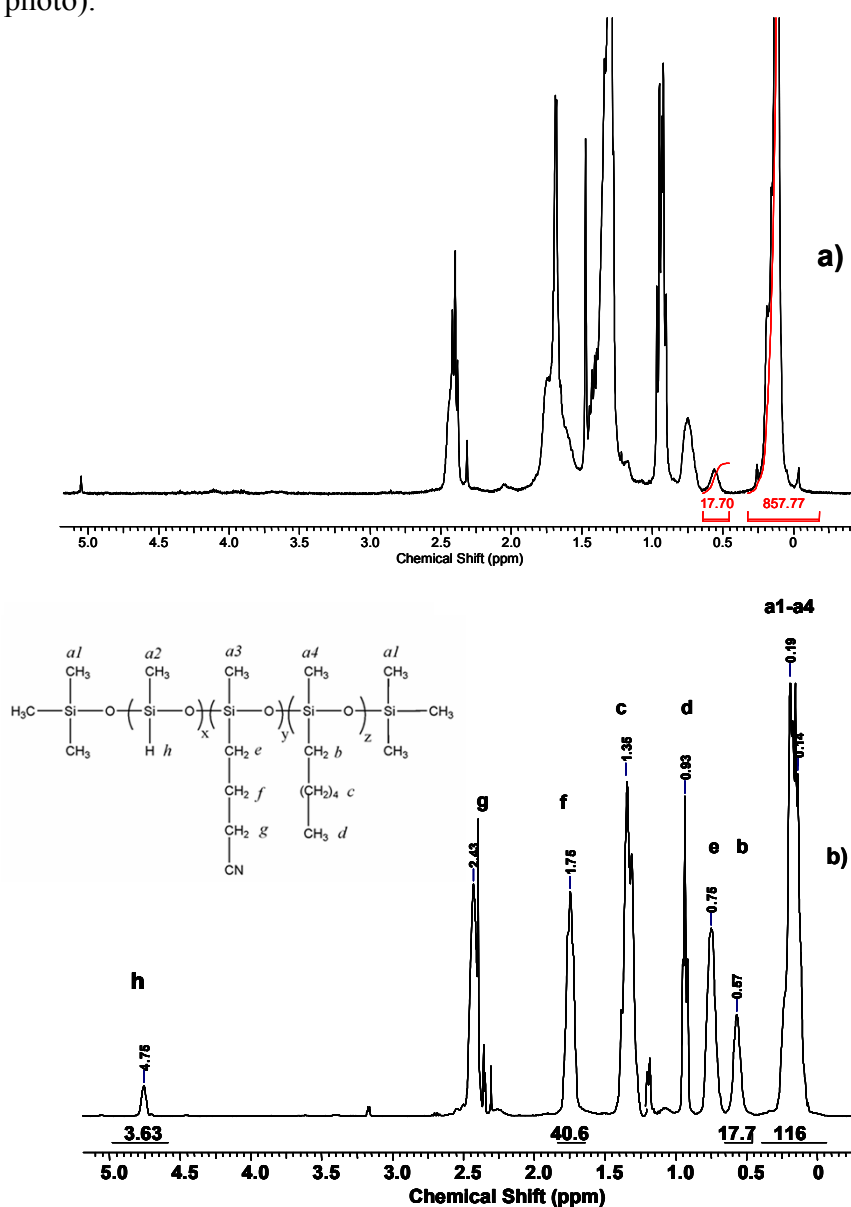


Figure S5: ¹H NMR spectrum of the extract from film P₆₂(1/2) (a), compared with the starting copolymer (b). The ratio between the Si-CH₂ and Si-CH₃ protons indicate that the extract contains little amount of un-cross-linked P₆₂ and a high amount of un-cross-linked PDMS (possible macrocycles) –roughly 1:7.4. A large amount of DBDTL catalyst is, as expected, present in the extract. No signal for Si-H protons can be seen.

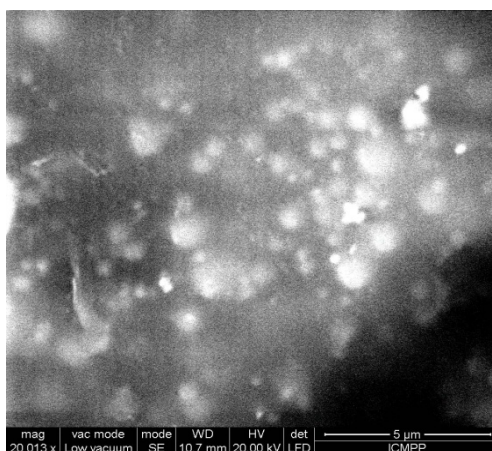


Figure S6: SEM image of cross-section of material $P_{62}^{\text{part}(1/2)}$.

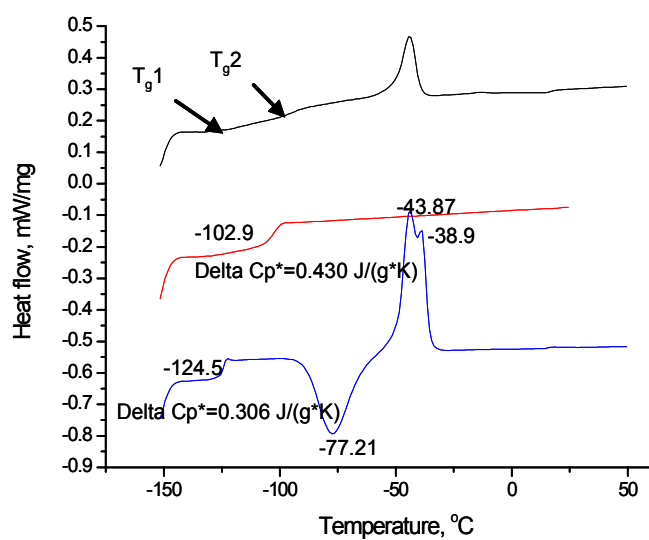


Figure S7: DSC scans (second heating) of P_{10} (red), PDMS (blue) and $P_{10}^{\text{part}(1/2)}$ (black).

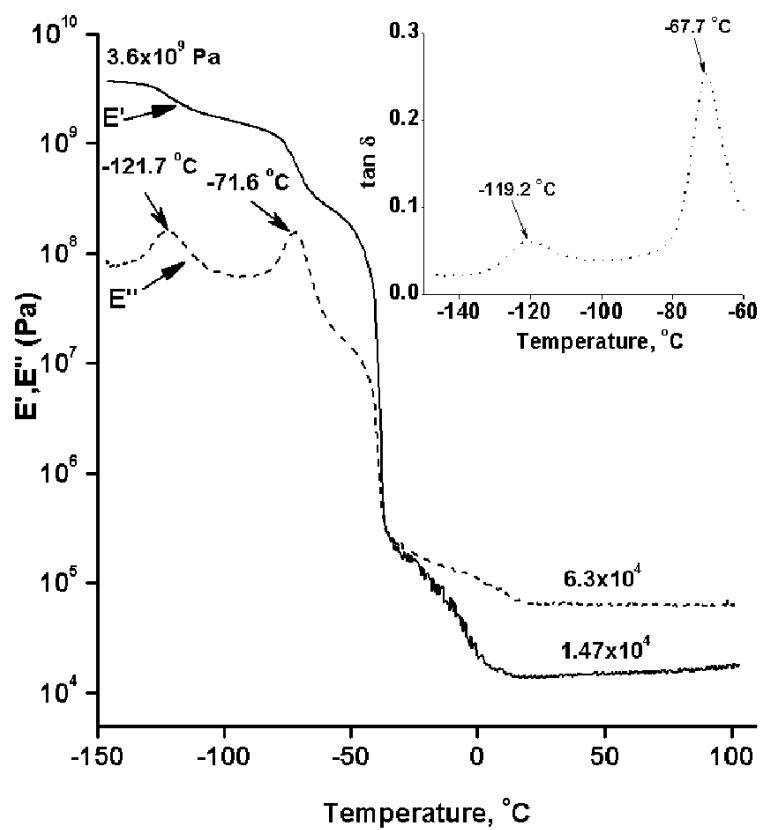


Figure S8: DMA curves of $P_{62}(1/2)$ in tension mode, at 1 Hz, at a heating rate of $2^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$.

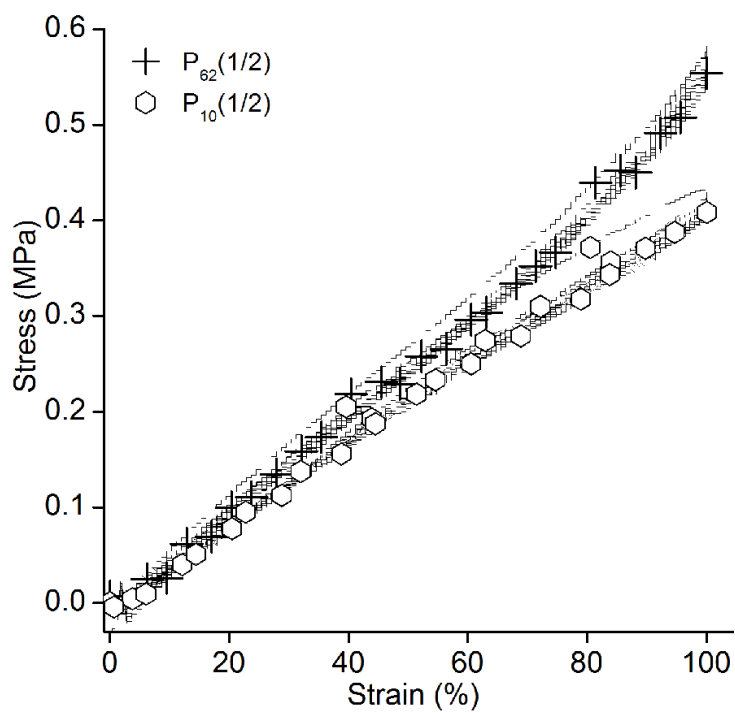


Figure S9: The cyclic test results for materials $P_{62}(1/2)$ and $P_{10}(1/2)$.

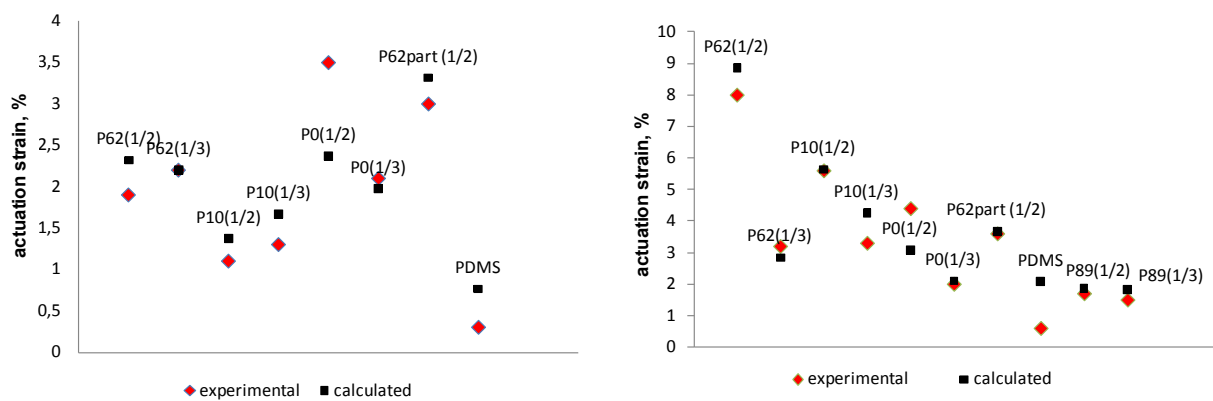


Figure S10: Calculated and experimental actuation strain at 30 V/ μm (left) and at breakdown (right)

Table S1: Mechanical properties of the optimized materials compared to the corresponding ones with similar composition.

Sample	Young modulus (MPa)				Tensile strength [MPa]	Elongation at break [%]
	10%	20%	50%	100%		
P₆₂(1/3)	0.75	0.62	0.41	0.39	1.02	208
soft P₆₂(1/3)	0.28	0.21	0.67	0.50	1.19	350
P₆₂part(1/2)	0.48	0.45	0.46	0.70	1.71	247
soft P₆₂part(1/2)	0.14	0.32	0.20	0.48	0.63	489

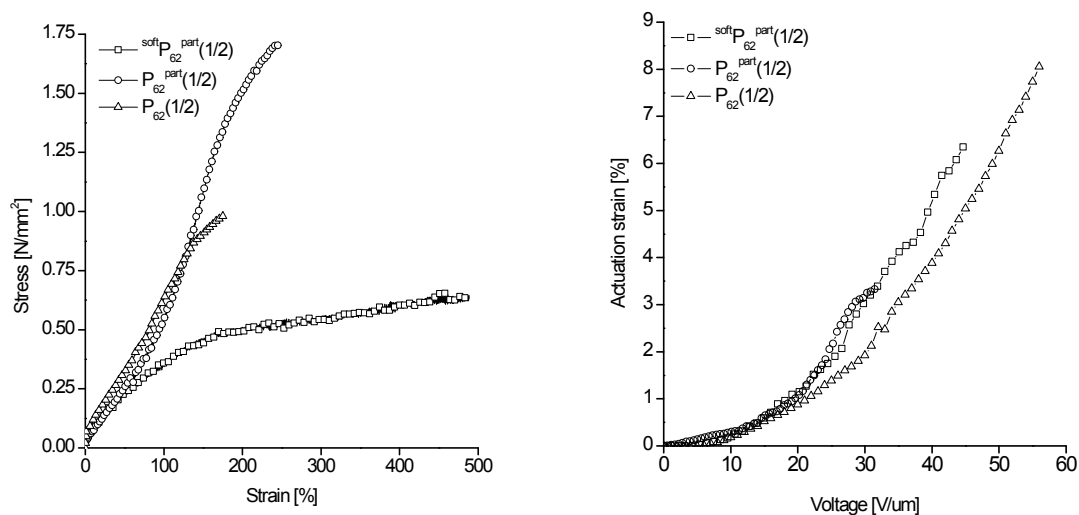


Figure S11: Stress-strain curve (left) and electromechanical response (right) of all-polymer composites compared with the interconnected network with similar composition.