

## Supplementary Information

### Purification Method Dependent Fluorescence from Nitrogen-vacancy (NV) Centers of Nano-diamonds

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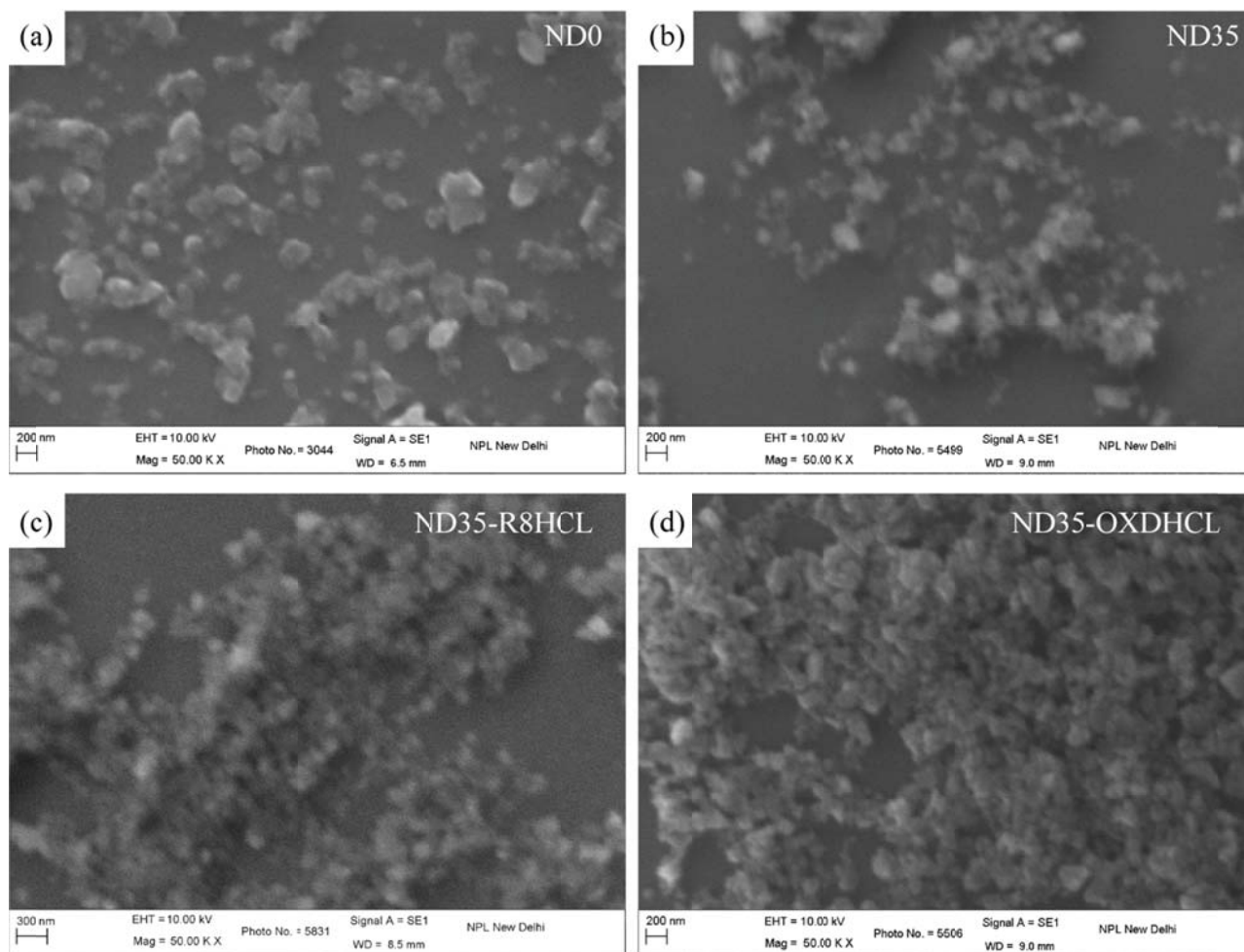
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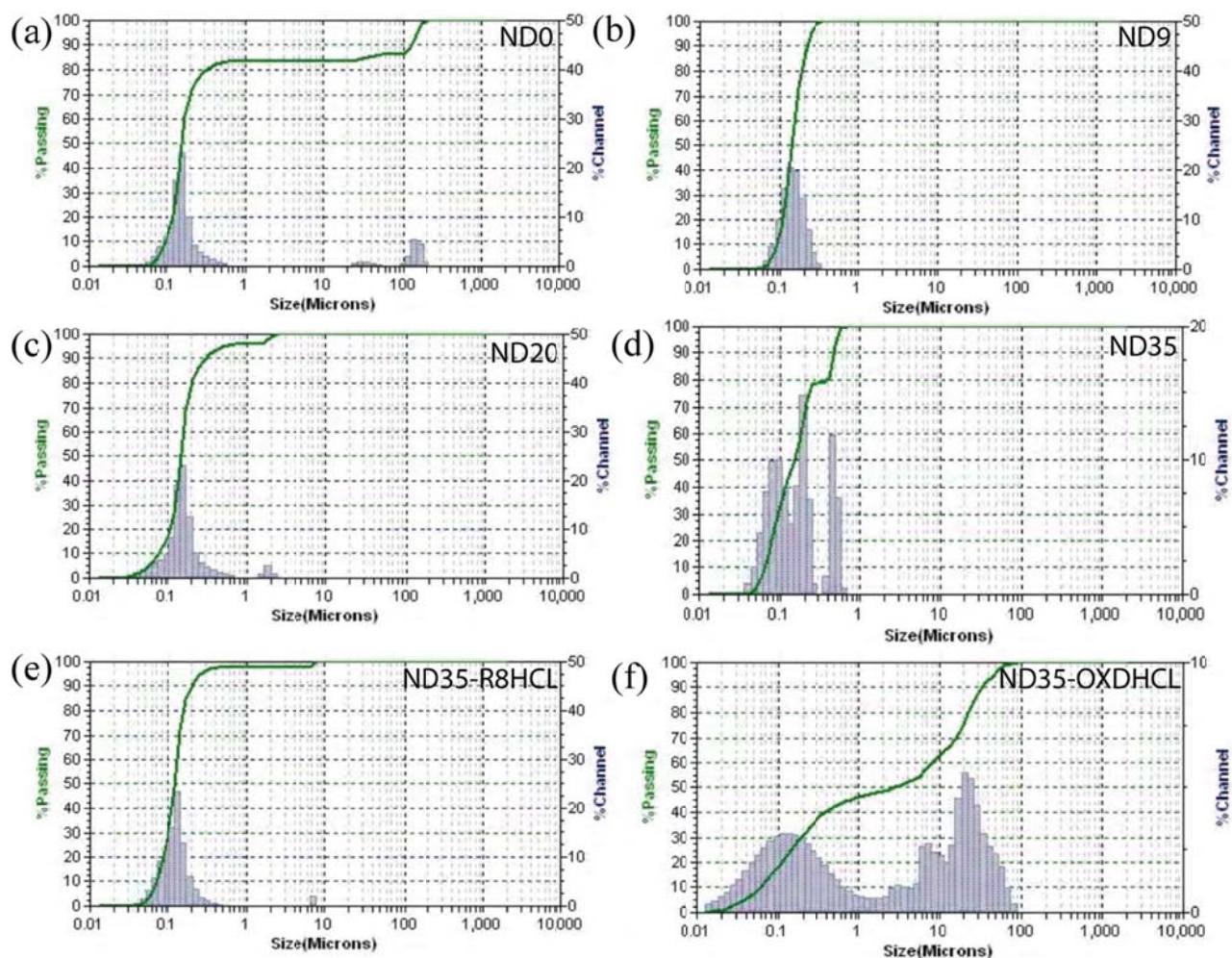
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**Estimation of Inter-planar lattice spacing (d) from selected area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern**

For ND0, diffraction spots and rings are observed at inter-planar spacing (plane) of 0.113 nm (220), 0.063 nm (400) and 0.052 (unassigned plane) of diamond. The observed inter-planar spacing is lower than the standard inter-planar spacing of bulk diamond (PCPDF No. # 060675: 0.206 nm (111), 0.126 nm (220) and 0.890 nm (400)). This indicates presence of compressive strain in the initial sample grown by HPHT. After purification sample ND35-R8HCL shows diffraction rings at 0.231 (111), 0.143 (220) and at 0.123 (220) lattice planes respectively, see inset of Fig. 1(c). For ND35-OXDHCL the SAED patterns are observed at 0.22 nm (111) plane and 0.138 nm (220).

**Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)**

**Fig. S1** SEM micrographs of initial sample (ND0), milled sample (ND35), sample purified through acid reflux (ND35-R8HCL) and sample purified through air oxidation (ND35-OXDHCL). Sample purified through wet chemical route shows smaller size than the sample purified through air oxidation.



**Fig. S2** Particle size distribution histogram obtained from Dynamic light scattering measurements for (a) Initial sample: ND0; Milled samples (b) ND9, (c) ND-20, (d) ND-35, Purified samples (e) ND35-R8HCL and (f) ND35-OXDHCL.

**Table-SI:** XRD line-profile of milled, purified and irradiated nano-diamond samples.

Peak Profile	Peak1	Peak2	Crystallite size (Peak1)	Crystallite (Peak 2)
<b>ND0</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.703 0.524 636.7	43.888 0.335 1657.9	16.3	25.5
<b>ND3</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.667 0.659 660.9	43.766 0.286 1185.9	13.0	29.9
<b>ND6</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.541 0.517 152.7	43.791 0.338 757.8	16.5	25.3
<b>ND9</b> <i>Center (rad)</i> <i>FWHM(rad)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.555 0.557 213.1	43.811 0.340 1011.5	15.3	25.1
<b>ND15</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.654 0.309 73.4	-	-	27.7
<b>ND20</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.775 0.338 88.4	-	-	25.3
<b>ND35</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.932 0.370 65.6	-	-	23.2
<b>ND35-R8HCl</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.364 0.457 38.1	43.724 0.332 352.4	18.7	25.8
<b>ND35-OXDHCl</b> <i>Center (deg)</i> <i>FWHM(deg)</i> <i>Ampl.</i>	43.383 0.455 44.1	43.710 0.310 349.4	18.8	27.4

Table-SII: Raman peak summary

Sample		Peak1	Peak2	Peak3	Peak4	Peak5	Peak6	Peak7
ND0	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1331.8	1351.5	1482.3	1578.7	1615.7	1688.2	
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	5.9	62.3	15.6	83.5	22.6	20.7	
	Ampl.	7154.0	1545.4	213.1	3155.3	466.9	267.3	
	Area	63770	108338	4077	340281	11229	7423	
	% Content	12.4	21.2		66.4			
ND9	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1330.8	1350.8		1583.4	1614.9	1704.4	1798.1
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	6.17	53.0		80.2	21.8	59.0	66.7
	Ampl.	17940.9	3431.4		4921.6	795.0	968.3	2125.1
	Area	168099	221103		519696	26083	77703	109067
	% Content	18.5	24.3		57.2			
ND20	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1332.5	1354.1	1472.9	1584.4	1619.9		
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	5.1	62.3	40.0	75.5	24.9		
	Ampl.	8381.8	1455.4	283.7	1886.5	389.9		
	Area	65322	101288	13900	180071	14005		
	% Content	18.8	29.2		51.9			
ND35	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1331.5	1354.9		1586.8	1618.2	1737.8	
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	5.4	41.0		78.7	18.2	188.6	
	Ampl.	5438.7	1208.4		1662.7	385.2	2074.8	
	Area	44902	65447		167108	10518	271365	
	% Content	16.2	23.6		60.2			
ND35-R8HCL	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1332.7	1340.9	1461.6	1569.5			1227.1
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	5.1	74.0	107.7	80.9			54.7
	Ampl.	34947.3	2972.9	2747.4	3937.9			1779.4
	Area	277912	310740	401831	427637			129470
	% Content	27.3	30.6		42.1			
ND35-OXDHCL	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1332.3	1344.3		1576.1			
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	4.7	65.0		70.2			
	Ampl.	73315.1	2374.8		1853.9			
	Area	542284	218668		182997			
	% Content	57.4	23.2		19.4			
ND0-IRR	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1331.9	1338.6	1368.9	1579.6	1608.6		
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	3.5	86.5	4.04	63.5	41.3		
	Ampl.	1371.1	10310.0	3155.5	6313.9	7291.9		
	Area	7466	1237256	199958.8	426512.7	320858.5		
	% Content	0.4	66.1	10.7	22.8			
ND35- R8 HCLIRR	Center( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1332.5	1340.5	1494.1	1595.9	1690.9		
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	5.8	73.7	87.2	32.9	23.2		
	Ampl.	3423.6	15939.1	7378.5	14838.05	3223.7		
	Area	21256	3342994	1761906	1225006	217282		
	% Content	0.5	72.8		26.7			
ND35-OXD HCLIRR	Center ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	1331.6	1345.7	1479.6	1580.3			
	FWHM ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	4.64	55.6	71.4	70.46			
	Ampl.	19380.05	5159.2	2451.9	7719.2			
	Area	139895	402604	247595	578979			
	% Content	12.5	35.9		51.6			
Assignment		D-band		Poly-acetylene	G-band	D'-band	M	M <sup>+</sup>

**Table-SIII** Shows the fitted XPS C 1s core peaks for the different Nano diamond samples.

Sample Name	Peak1	Peak2	Peak3	Peak4	Peak5	Peak6
<b>ND0</b>						
Center(eV)	286.2	286.9				
Area	5673.6	1419.1				
FWHM (eV)	11.5	3.1				
% Content	79.9	20.0				
<b>ND35</b>						
Center(eV)	285.2	285.7				
Area	3970.3	975.7				
FWHM (eV)	1.2	2.7				
% Content	80.2	19.8				
<b>ND35-R8HCL</b>						
Center(eV)	285.0	286.2	288.8	288.8	294.4	297.0
Area	688.3	456.3	695.5	695.5	73.8	30.9
FWHM (eV)	1.5	1.8	6.9	6.9	1.7	1.5
% Content	26.1	17.3	26.3	26.3	2.8	1.2
<b>ND35-OXYHCL</b>						
Center(eV)	284.9	286.5	291.1	293.7		
Area	1583.3	289.8	140.6	35.5		
FWHM (eV)	1.6	2.3	9.3	1.8		
% Content	77.3	14.2	6.9	1.7		
<b>ND0-IRR</b>						
Center(eV)	285.3	286.5				
Area	4441.4	2462.5				
FWHM (eV)	1.3	2.6				
% Content	64.3	35.7				
<b>ND35-R8HCLIRR</b>						
Center(eV)	285.4	285.9		293.7		
Area	4729.6	1505.9		288.4		
FWHM (eV)	1.2	2.4		12.8		
% Content	72.4	23.1		4.4		
<b>ND35-OXYHCLIRR</b>						
Center(eV)	288.7	288.9		290.4		
Area	1015.9	344.1		4718		
FWHM (eV)	4.7	1.3		1.4		
% Content	16.7	5.6		77.6		
Assignment	$sp^2$	$sp^3$	<i>R-OH, RC(=O)R', R-COOH groups</i>			

**Table-SIV** Shows the fitted XPS C1s core plasmon peaks for the different Nano diamond samples.

Sample Name	Peak1	Peak2	Peak3	Peak4	Peak5	Peak6	Peak7
<b>ND0</b>							
Center(eV)					313.0	321.0	340.1
Area					2643.4	1096.8	3289.4
FWHM(eV)					20.3	9.0	48.6
<b>ND35</b>							
Center(eV)					309.0	319.5	348.1
Area					1175.1	1716.5	919.3
FWHM(eV)					11.1	11.0	19.6
<b>ND35-R8HCL</b>							
Center(eV)	306.3		347.6	351.1	356.1	368.5	374.4
Area	277.5		10364	943.0	588.2	91.3	21.1
FWHM(eV)	2.7		1.7	1.9	10.5	1.8	0.7
<b>ND35-OXYHCL</b>							
Center(eV)	307.6	318.9	347.5	351.0		368.3	374.2
Area	334.2	530.5	89.1	109.5		44.1	18.8
FWHM(eV)	9.4	12.4	1.7	2.6		1.0	0.8
<b>ND0-IRR</b>							
Center(eV)		315.9	320.5				
Area		4248.4	590.3				
FWHM(eV)		23.9	7.3				
<b>ND35-R8HCLIRR</b>							
Center(eV)	309.6		320.3	348.0			
Area	1675.3		2054.6	2821.1			
FWHM(eV)	13.5		10.7	36.4			
<b>ND35-OXYHCLIRR</b>							
Center(eV)	314.0	324.8	351.7				
Area	1339.5	1849.6	1081				
FWHM(eV)	13.7	11.1	22.3				

**Table-SV** Shows the XPS fitted peaks for the Nitrogen 1s and Oxygen 1s core of different Nano-diamond samples.

Sample Name	Peak1	Peak2	Peak3	Peak4	Peak5	Peak6	Peak7	
<b>ND0</b>	Center(eV)	400.1	531.4	533.6		536.3		
	Area	22.3	116.5	713.2		98.7		
	FWHM(eV)	2.3	1.7	2.7		5.0		
<b>ND35</b>	Center(eV)		530.8	532.2	530.2			
	Area		788.5	1045.7	296.1			
	FWHM(eV)		1.6	2.1	0.9			
<b>ND35-R8HCL</b>	Center(eV)		531.0	532.5				
	Area		2358.7	1270.0				
	FWHM(eV)		1.8	1.9				
<b>ND35-OXYHCL</b>	Center(eV)		531.4	533.8	530.7			
	Area		1219.0	134.5	1908.8			
	FWHM(eV)		2.5	1.6	1.3			
<b>ND0-IRR</b>	Center(eV)		531.6	533.1			555.3	
	Area		62.5	818.2			179.1	
	FWHM(eV)		1.8	2.0			14.7	
<b>ND35-R8HCLIRR</b>	Center(eV)		531.8	533.5			556.2	
	Area		138.5	1247.9			245.1	
	FWHM(eV)		2.1	2.0			11.5	
<b>ND35-OXYHCLIRR</b>	Center(eV)	405.1	531.5	533.5		536.3	538.0	
	Area	14.5	102.6	323.7		152.3	463.1	
	FWHM(eV)	3.4	1.6	1.9		2.1	2.1	
<b>Assignment</b>		<i>N 1s</i>	<i>O 1s core</i>					



**Table-SVI** shows the XPS core area and the atomic percentage for the different elements present at surface (within XPS probing depth).

Sample name	Area			At. Conc. (%)		
	C 1s core	O 1s core	N 1s core	Carbon	Oxygen	Nitrogen
<b>ND0</b>	7092.7	928.7	22.3	95.7	4.1	0.2
<b>ND35</b>	4946.0	2130.3	-	87.5	12.5	-
<b>ND35-R8HCL</b>	1944.8	3628.7	-	61.9	38.1	-
<b>ND35-OXYHCL</b>	2049.2	3262.3	-	65.5	34.5	-
<b>ND0-IRR</b>	6903.9	1059.8	-	95.2	4.8	-
<b>ND35-R8HCLIRR</b>	6523.9	1631.5	-	92.4	7.6	-
<b>ND35-OXYHCLIRR</b>	6078.0	1041.7	14.5	94.5	5.3	0.1

**Table-SVII:** Photoluminescence spectra fitted with Gaussian line-shapes.

Sample	Peak1	Peak2	Peak3	Peak4	Peak5	Peak6	Peak7	Peak8
<b>ND0</b>								
Center (nm)	552	559		627			666	700
FWHM(nm)	9.2	4.7	-	122.4		-	40.0	63.1
Ampl.	201	199		3647			516	1623
<b>ND35</b>								
Center (nm)	552	558	559	609			667	707
FWHM(nm)	2.6	40.7	4.4	73.2	-	-	63.8	61.2
Ampl.	74	157	59.2	921			884	520
<b>ND35-R8HCL</b>								
Center (nm)		569		608		662		
FWHM(nm)	-	63.4	-	53.2	-	96.2	-	-
Ampl.		1566		1583		3650		
<b>ND35-OXDHCL</b>								
Center (nm)	551		575	602	638	659		683
FWHM(nm)	0.2	-	4.0	74.8	6.5	18.3	-	82.9
Ampl.	509		51.3	418	126	134		1444
<b>ND0-IRR</b>								
Center (nm)	552	559	576	605		655		695
FWHM(nm)	6.4	2.9	7.9	68.1		58.7	-	62.8
Ampl.	742	776	1099	13118		17395-		19432
<b>ND35-R8HCLIRR</b>								
Center (nm)	552	559	575	605	638	658	660	698
FWHM(nm)	2.5	1.3	6.4	64.6	5.4	8.6	57.6	61.4
Ampl.	408	285	4818	17468	3235	1838	22019	20699
<b>ND35-OXDHCLIRR</b>								
Center (nm)			575.1	600.8	637.8	658.6	675.6	715.8
FWHM(nm)			5.02	63.8	4.95	9.17	80.7	32.8
Ampl.			3186.6	12267.8	3920.8	2766.1	38595.8	2370.1
<b>Assignment</b>	<i>D-band</i>	<i>G-band</i>	<i>NV<sup>0</sup></i>	<i>NDS</i>	<i>NV</i>	<i>Fluorescence from NDS</i>		