Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Soft Matter. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2017

Supplementary Video captions:

Supplementary Video 1: Colloidal strings in the narrow microfluidic channel at a flow rate of 3.0  $\mu$ L/min. The average diameter of particles is 1.36  $\mu$ m. The field of view of the video is 128.9  $\times$  96.4  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. The duration of the video is 2 s.

Supplementary Video 2: Colloidal strings in the wide microfluidic channel at a flow rate of 9.0  $\mu$ L/min. The video was taken at the center of the wide channel. The average diameter of particles is 1.36  $\mu$ m. The field of view of the video is 96.7  $\times$  128.9  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. The duration of the video is 2 s.

Supplementary Video 3: Kinetics of the formation of a stable particle pair in the wide microfluidic channel at a flow rate of 3.0  $\mu$ L/min. The field of view of the video is 107.1  $\times$  18.1  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. The duration of the video is 2.31 s.

Supplementary Video 4: Kinetics of the formation of a stable short colloidal strings of three particles in the wide microfluidic channel at a flow rate of 3.0  $\mu$ L/min. The field of view of the video is 46.6 × 14.8  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. The duration of the video is 7.5 s.

Supplementary Video 5: Kinetics of the formation of a stable short colloidal strings of four particles in the wide microfluidic channel at a flow rate of 3.0  $\mu$ L/min. The field of view of the video is 46.6  $\times$  14.8  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. The duration of the video is 4 s.

Supplementary Video 6: Colloidal strings in the ITO microfluidic channel under a transverse AC electric field. The average diameter of particles is 1.36  $\mu$ m. The field of view of the video is 120.2  $\times$  74.9  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. The duration of the video is 1.38 s.