

Supplementary Information

**Ultrasensitive detection of sub-ppm-level benzene using Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub> yolk-shell micro-reactors with catalytic Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> overlayer for monitoring air quality**

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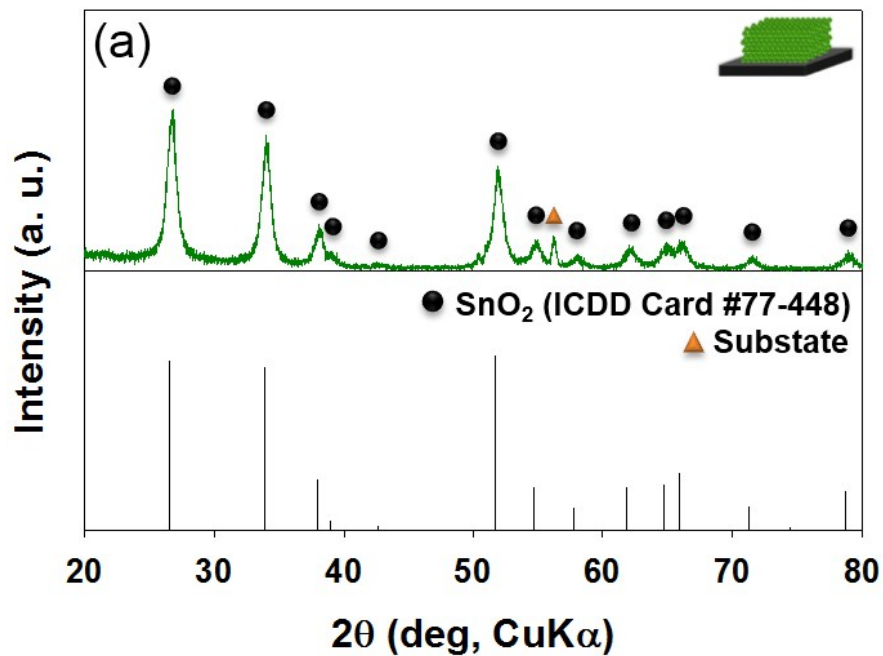
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**SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES**

**Figure S1**



**Figure S1** XRD pattern of the Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub> film.

Figure S2

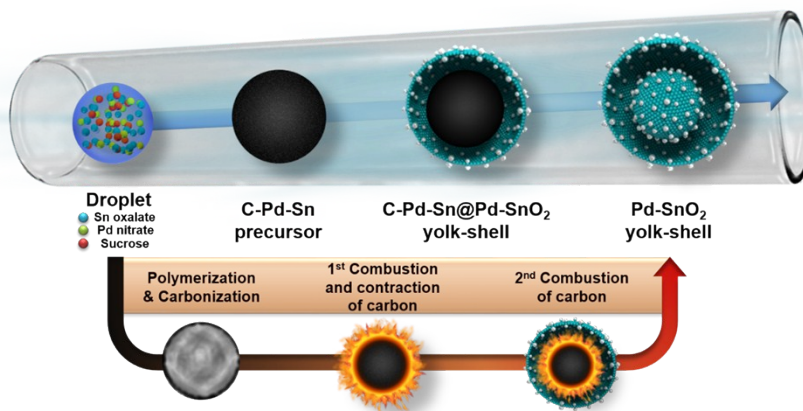
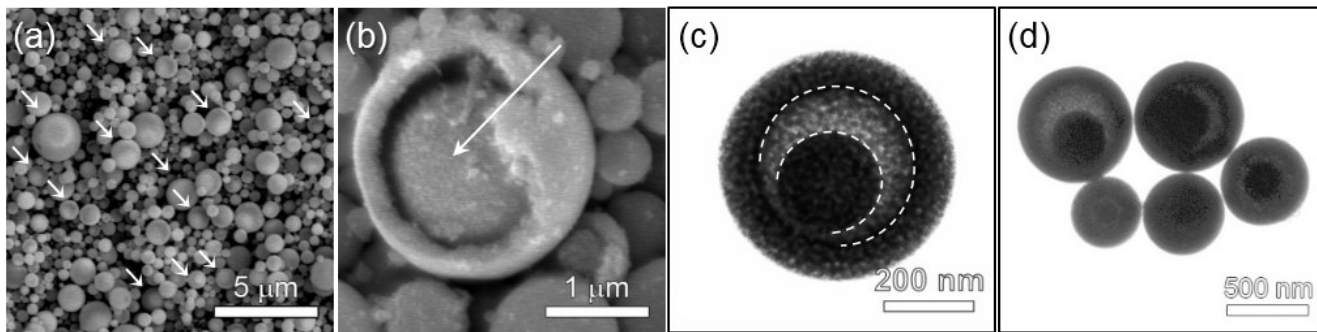


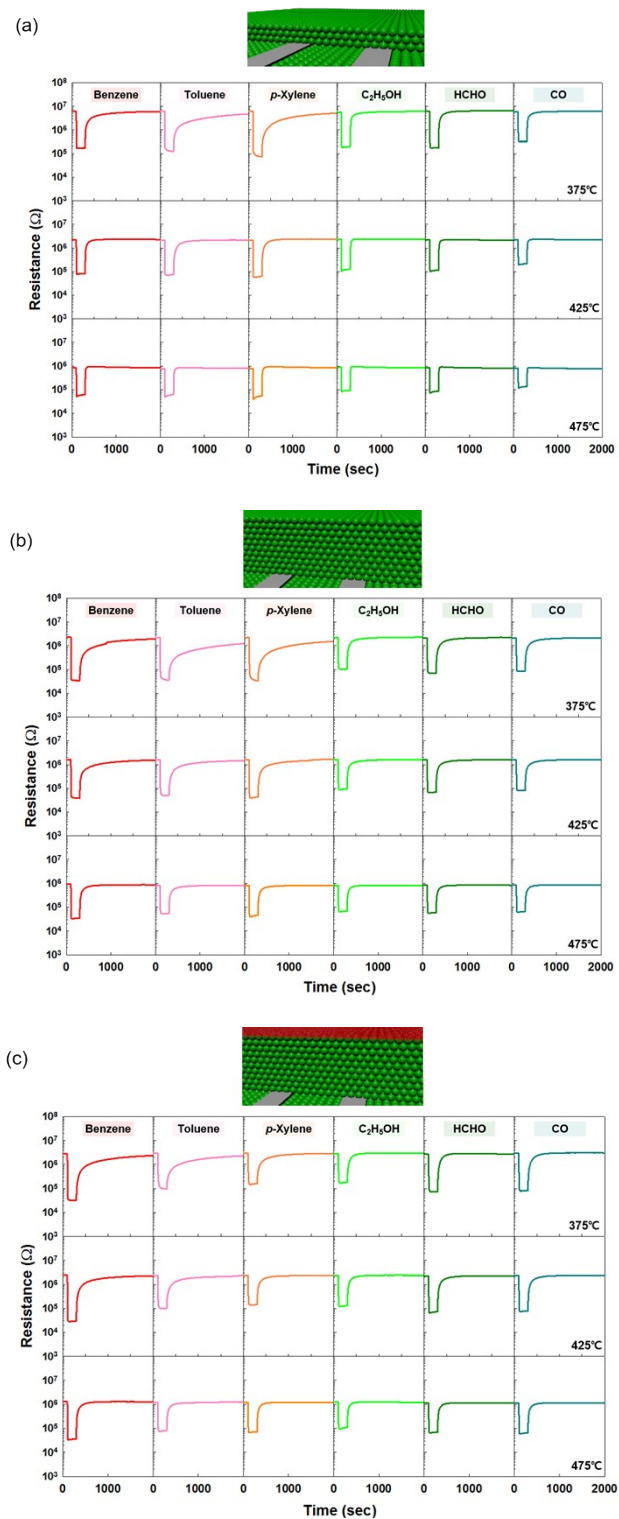
Figure S2 The formation mechanism of the Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub> yolk-shell spheres.

**Figure S3**



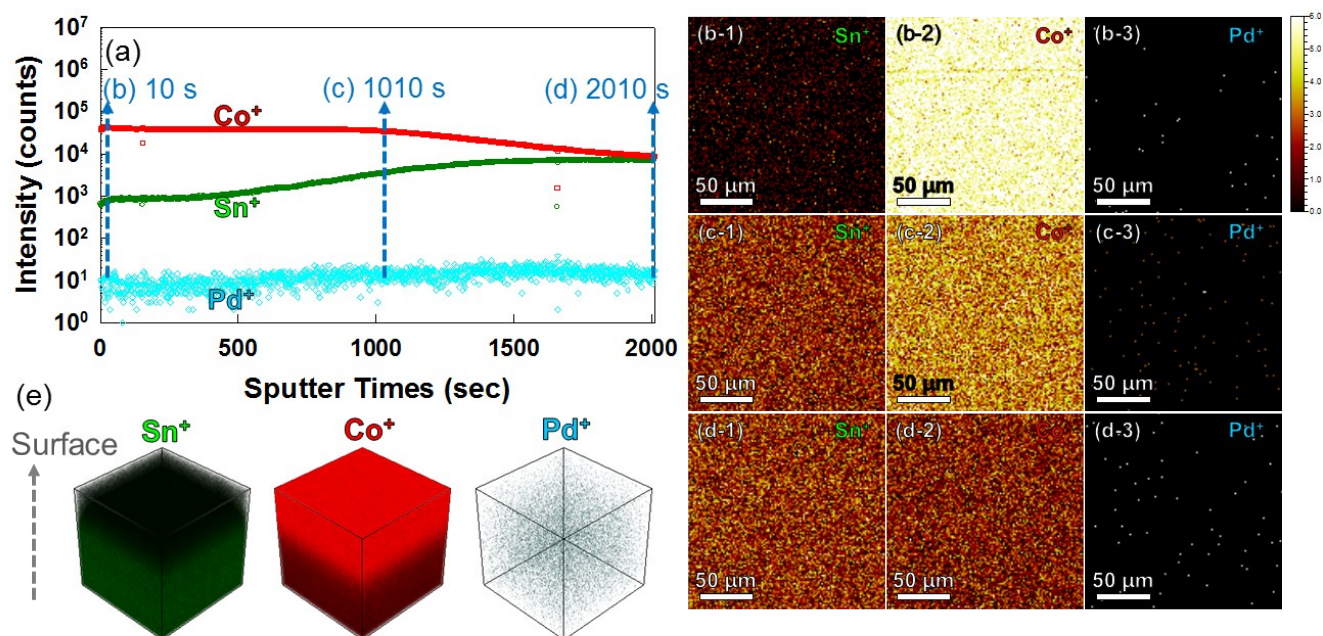
**Figure S3** (a,b) SEM and (c,d) TEM images of Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub> yolk-shell spheres.

Figure S4



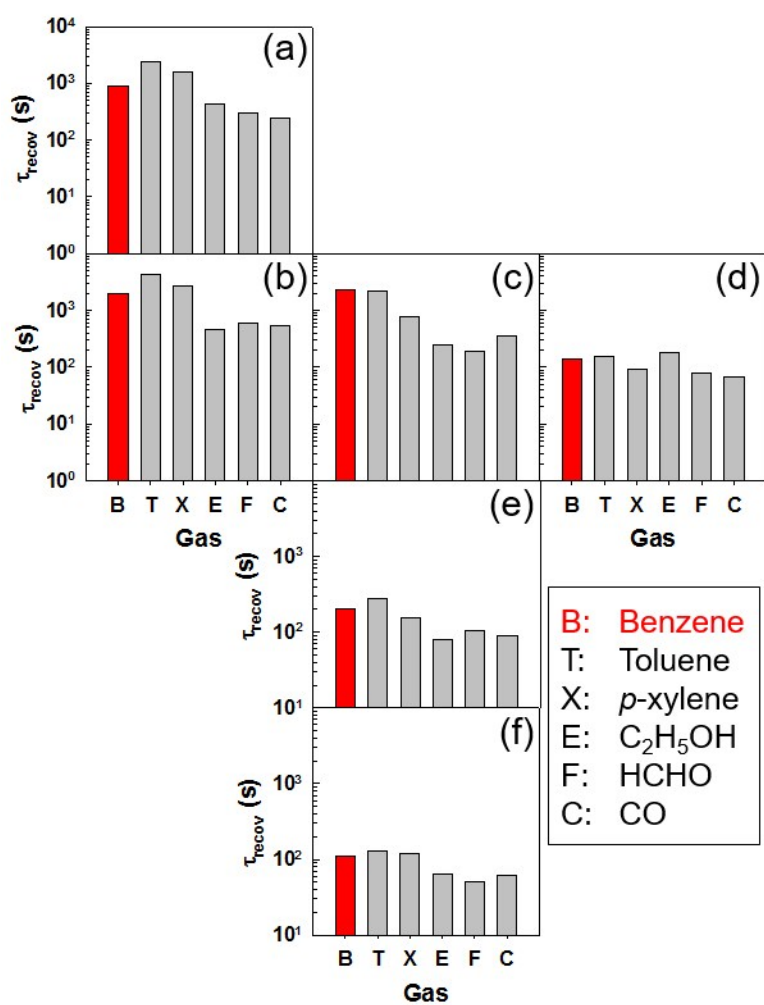
**Figure S4** Gas -sensing transients of the (a) Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(1) sensor, (b) Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(3) sensor, and (c) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(20)/Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(3) sensor (Concentration of the analyte gas: 5 ppm).

Figure S5



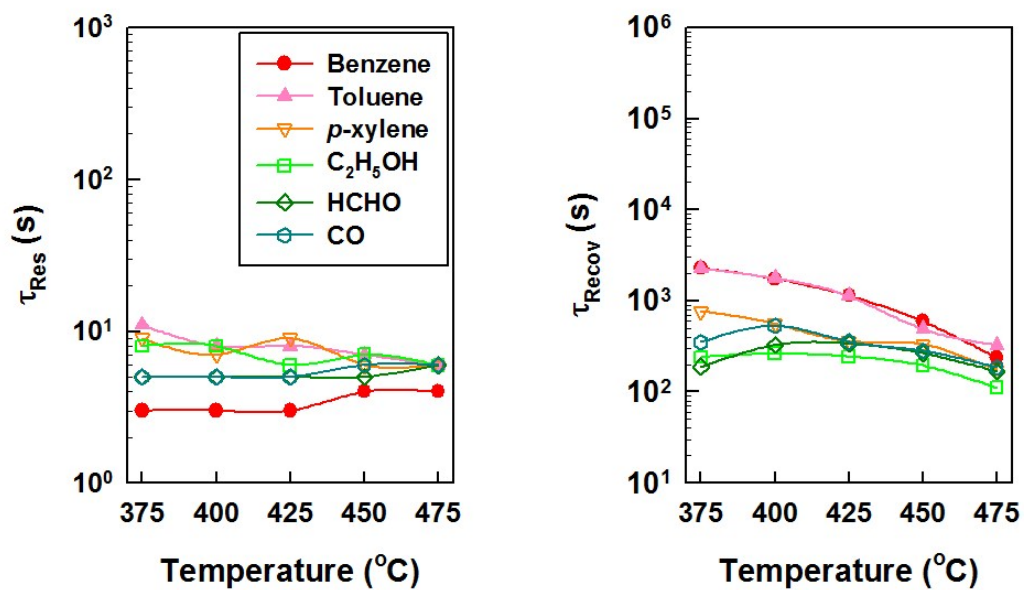
**Figure S5** (a) TOF-SIMS depth profile of the  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4(20)/\text{Pd-SnO}_2(3)$  sensing film and Sn, Co, Pd elemental mapping at sputter times of (b) 10 s, (c) 1010 s, and (d) 2010 s; (e) three-dimensional composition image with sputter time.

Figure S6



**Figure S6** 90% recovery time of the (a) Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(1) sensor, (b) Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(3) sensor, (c) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(20)/Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(3) sensor, (d) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(80)/Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(3) sensor, (e) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(20)/Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(5) sensor, and (f) Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(20)/Pd-SnO<sub>2</sub>(8) sensor upon exposure to air after sensing of 5 ppm benzene (B), toluene (T), *p*-xylene (X),  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  (E), HCHO (F), and CO (C) at 375 °C

Figure S7



**Figure S7** (a) 90% response time ( $\tau_{\text{res}}$ ) and (b) 90% recovery time ( $\tau_{\text{recov}}$ ) of the  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4(20)/\text{Pd-SnO}_2(3)$  sensor at temperatures in the range of 375–475  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .