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Supporting information for manuscript

Highly efficient aqueous phase reduction of nitroarenes catalyzed by phosphinedecorated PEG-modified polymer immobilized ionic liquid stabilized PdNPs

Simon Doherty, Julian G. Knight, Thomas Backhouse, Alexander P. Bradford,

Frederick C. Saunders, Richard A. Bourne, Thomas W. Chamberlain, Rebecca Stones,

Adam Clayton, and Kevin R. J. Lovelock

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#### Experimental

General Comments. All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Na<sub>2</sub>[PdCl<sub>4</sub>] was generated *in situ* immediately prior to use as previously described. Monomers 1,2-dimethyl-3-(4-vinylbenzyl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium chloride (I) and 2-methyl-1-(2,5,8,11,14,17,20,23octaoxapentacosan-25-vl)-3-(4-vinvlbenzvl)-1H-3 $\lambda$ 4-imidazolium chloride (II), polymers PPh<sub>2</sub>-PIILP (1a) and PPh<sub>2</sub>-PEGPIILP (2a), precursors [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>-PIILP (1b) and [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>-PEGPIILP (2b) and catalysts PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>-PIILP(**1c**) and PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>-PEGPIILP(**2c**) were prepared as previously described.<sup>11</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL LAMBDA-500 or ECS-400 instruments. Solid-state <sup>31</sup>P spectra were recorded at 161.87 MHz using a Varian VNMRS 400 spectrometer and a 4 mm (rotor o.d.) magic-angle spinning probe. They were obtained using cross-polarization with a 2 s recycle delay, 3 ms contact time, at ambient probe temperature (~25 °C) and at a sample spin-rate of 10 kHz. Between 1000 and 3600 repetitions were accumulated. Spectral referencing was with respect to an external sample of 85% phosphoric acid. Solid-state <sup>13</sup>C spectra were recorded at 100.562 MHz using a Varian VNMRS 400 spectrometer. They were obtained using cross-polarization with a 10 s recycle delay, 1 ms contact time, at ambient probe temperature (~25 °C) and at a sample spin-rate of 6 kHz. Spectral referencing was with respect to an external sample of neat tetramethylsilane (carried out by setting the high-frequency signal from adamantane to 38.5 ppm). Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed using a TA TGA Q600 instrument, at a heating rate of 10°C min<sup>1</sup> in air. The onset of the weight loss in each thermogram was used as a measure of the decomposition temperature. SEM images were acquired on a Tescan Vega 3LMU scanning electron microscope with digital image collection. XPS measurements were carried out using a Theta Probe system (Thermo Scientific, UK) equipped with a microfocused monochromatic AlK $\alpha$  source. The X-ray source was operated at 100 W and 15 kV. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy spectra were analysed using CasaXPS peak fitting software. The Pd3d region was fitted using Gaussian/Lorentzian peak shapes with mixing ratio of 30:70, respectively, without imposing parameter constraints on the fwhm. The background was subtracted using the Shirley background subtraction algorithm. For X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy of Pd 3d, each electronic environment of Pd gives two components due to spin-orbit coupling: Pd 3d<sub>3/2</sub> and Pd 3d<sub>5/2</sub>. Samples for transmission electron microscopy (TEM) were dispersed in ethanol using an ultrasonic bath and deposited on lacey carbon film coated copper grids. TEM images were acquired on a FEI Tecnai TF20 field emission gun microscope operating at 200 kV. NP size distribution histograms were obtained from measurements of at least 100 different NPs assuming a spherical shape and with random distribution. All FD-XAS measurements were carried out on the XMaS beamline (BM28) at the ESRF. Samples were deposited onto carbon tape, which was then mounted onto a stainless-steel sample holder. FD-XAS edge inflection points were obtained by fitting a smoothing spline to the measured spectrum, and taking the first derivative of the fitted spectrum. Powder X-ray diffraction patterns (XRD) were recorded using a PANalytical X'Pert Pro Multipurpose Diffractometer (MPD) using Cu K $\alpha/\beta$  radiation of wavelength of 1.5418 Å. The palladium loading was quantified using inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES). FT-IR spectroscopy

was performed on a Varian 800 FT-IR instrument (Varian Inc.). CHN analysis was performed on a Carlo Erba 1108 Elemental Analyser and controlled with Carlo Erba Eager 200 software.



Table S1 Structures of Monomers and PIILP based Catalysts 1c-8c discussed in Table 3

Synthesis of tris(4-vinylphenyl)phosphine. A round bottom flask was charged with Mg turnings (1.96 g, 81.7



mmol) suspended in anhydrous THF (25 mL). 1,2-dibromoethane (20  $\mu$ L) was added in order to activate the Mg and the mixture was stirred for 10 min. After this, 4-chlorostyrene (7.49 g, 54.0 mmol) was added dropwise and the mixture was heated to 60°C and stirred for 4 hours. The mixture was then cooled to 0°C and PCl<sub>3</sub> (1.30 mL, 14.9 mmol) was added dropwise before

stirring overnight at room temperature. After this time, the THF was removed from the mixture by vacuum distillation and to the resultant solid, degassed distilled water (20 mL) was added and the product was extracted with degassed diethyl ether (3 x 30 mL). The organic phases were then combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under vacuum to yield a white crystalline solid (3.16 g, 62 %). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): -6.65. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 7.40 – 7.08 (m, 12H), 6.67 – 6.60 (m, 3H), 5.67 (d, *J*= 16.8 Hz, 3H), 5.16 (d, *J*= 10.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 136.95, 135.61 (d, *J*<sub>C-P</sub> = 10.7 Hz, 3C), 135.63 (3C), 132.84 (d, *J*<sub>C-P</sub> = 19.6 Hz, 6C) 125.28 (d, *J*<sub>C-P</sub> = 7.13, 6C), 113.65 (3C).

Synthesis of PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3a). An oven-dried Schlenk was charged with tris(4-vinylphenyl)phosphine (4.0 g,



11.7 mmol), 1,2-dimethyl-3-(4-vinylbenzyl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium chloride (5.84 g, 23.50 mmol) and AIBN (0.157 g, 0.959 mmol) and dissolved in a mixture of anhydrous ethanol (30 mL) and anhydrous THF (50 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was degassed using the freeze thaw method six times and then heated at reflux for four days. After this time, a further

equivalent of AIBN (0.27 g, 1.64 mmol) was added, the degassing process repeated and the resulting mixture heated at reflux for one more day. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, the resulting residue dissolved in dichloromethane (35 mL) and added dropwise to diethyl ether (350 mL) with vigorous stirring. The solution was stirred for 45 minutes and then allowed to settle, filtered and the solid washed with ether to afford **3a** as an off-white solid in 98% yield (9.75 g).

Synthesis of PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4a). An oven-dried Schlenk was charged with tris(4-vinylphenyl)phosphine



(2.33 g, 6.88 mmol), 2-methyl-1-(2,5,8,11,14,17,20,23-octaoxapentacosan-25yl)-3-(4-vinylbenzyl)-1H-3 $\lambda$ 4-imidazolium chloride (7.77 g, 13.75 mmol) and AIBN (0.157 g, 0.959 mmol) and dissolved in a mixture of anhydrous ethanol (30 mL) and anhydrous THF (50 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was degassed using the freeze-thaw method six times and then heated at reflux for four days. After this time, a further equivalent of AIBN (0.157 g, 0.959 mmol) was added, the degassing procedure repeated and the resulting reaction

mixture heated at reflux for a further 24 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the resulting residue

dissolved in dichloromethane (35 mL) and added dropwise to diethyl ether (350 mL) with vigorous stirring. The solution was allowed to stir for 45 minutes, left to settle, filtered and the resecting solid washed with diethyl ether to afford **4a** as an off-white solid in 91 % (9.0 g).

Synthesis of PPh<sub>2</sub>PEG styrene (5a). An oven-dried Schlenk was charged with 1-(4-vinylphenyl)-2,5,8,11,14,17,20,23,26-nonaoxaheptacosane (8.67 g, 18.6 mmol), diphenyl(4vinylphenyl)phosphine (2.8 g, 10 mmol), divinyl benzene (0.19 mL, 1.4 mmol), AIBN (0.22 g, 1.4 mmol), ethanol (35 mL) and THF (50 mL). The resulting mixture was degassed using the freeze thaw method repeatedly six times before being heated at 80 °C for 4 days. After this time, a further equivalent of AIBN (0.22 g, 1.4 mmol) was added and the degassing process repeated before heated at the same temperature for a further 24 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was dissolved

in dichloromethane (30 mL) and added dropwise to vigorous stirring diethyl ether (350 mL). The solution was left to stir for 45 minutes, allowed to settle then filtered and the resulting solid washed with ether to yield 10.21 g of yellow solid (87%).

**Synthesis of PEGPIILP (6a).** An oven dried Schlenk was charged with 1,2-dimethyl-3-(4-vinylbenzyl)-1Himidazol-3-ium chloride (2.48 g, 10 mmol), 1-(4-vinylphenyl)-2,5,8,11,14,17,20,23,26-nonaoxaheptacosane



(2.5 g, 5.4 mmol), 2-methyl-1,3-bis(4-vinylbenzyl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium chloride (0.25 g, 0.7 mmol) and AIBN (0.11 g, 0.7 mmol) and dissolved in ethanol (60 mL). The resulting mixture was degassed using the freeze thaw method repeatedly sixtimes before being he ated at 90°C for 4 days. After this time, a further equivalent of AIBN (0.11 g, 0.7 mmol) was added, the degassing process repeated and the solution heated at the same temperature for a

further 24 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue dissolved in dichloromethane (30 mL) and added dropwise to vigorous stirring diethyl ether (350 mL). The solution was stirred for 45 minutes, then left to settle, filtered and the solid washed with ether to afford **4a** as a pale yellow solid (4.22 g, 82%).

Synthesis of PPh2-polystyrene (7a). An oven-dried Schlenk was charged with diphenyl(4-



vinylphenyl)phosphine (1.5 g, 5.2 mmol), styrene (1.1 mL, 9.7 mmol), divinylbenzene (104  $\mu$ L, 0.73 mmol), AlBN (0.12 g, 0.74 mmol) and a mixture of anhydrous ethanol (30 mL) and anhydrous THF (40 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was degassed using the freeze thaw method six times and then heated at reflux for 4 days. After this time, a further

equivalent of AIBN (0.12 g, 0.74 mmol) was added and the degassing process repeated before heating at reflux for a further 24 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (20 mL) and added dropwise to diethyl ether (350 mL) with rapid stirring. The solution was left to stir for 45 minutes, then left to settle filtered and the resulting solid washed with diethyl ether to afford **7a** as an off-white solid in 78 % yield (2.02 g).

Synthesis of Styr-PIILP (8a). An oven-dried Schlenk was charged with 1,2-dimethyl-3-(4-vinylbenzyl)-1Himidazol-3-ium chloride (3.17 g, 12.76 mmol), styrene (0.79 mL, 6.93 mmol), 2methyl-1,3-bis(4-vinylbenzyl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium chloride (0.34 g, 0.97 mmol), AIBN (0.16 g, 0.97 mmol) and anhydrous ethanol (50 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was degassed using the freeze thaw method six times and then heated at refluxfor 4days. After this time, afurther equivalent of AIBN(0.16g, 0.97 mmol) was added, the degassing process repeated and the mixture heated at reflux for a further

24 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (35 mL) and added dropwise to diethyl ether (350 mL) with vigorous stirring. The solution was left to stir for 45 minutes, then allowed to settle filtered and the isolated solid was hed with diethyl ether to yield **8a** as an off-white solid in 96 % yield (4.06 g).

Synthesis of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3b). A round bottomed flask charged with charged with palladium



dichloride (0.3 g, 1.7 mmol), NaCl (2.2 g, 37.6 mmol) and water (45 mL) was heated to 80 °C for ca. 40 min to afford a clear deep red solution. The solution was allowed to cool to room temperature after which **3a** (1.42g, 1.70 mmol) was added with the resulting red/orange mixture stirred vigorously for 12 hours. The precipitate was isolated by filtration through a frit and the resulting solid washed

with distilled water (10 mL), ethanol (10 mL) and diethyl ether (10 mL) to yield **3b** as a red/brown powder (1.57 g, 82%). ICP-OES data: 3.2 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.30 mmol  $g^{-1}$ .

Synthesis of [PdCl4]@PSty 3-PEGPIILP (4b). A round bottomed flask charged with charged with palladium



dichloride (0.3 g, 1.7 mmol), NaCl (2.2 g, 37.6 mmol) and water (45 mL) was heated to 80 °C for ca. 40 min to afford a clear deep red solution. The solution was allowed to cool to room temperature after which **4a** (2.55g, 1.70 mmol) was added and the resulting red/orange mixture stirred vigorously for 12 hours. The precipitate was isolated by filtration through a frit and the resulting solid was hed with distilled water (10 mL), ethanol (10 mL) and diethyl ether (10 mL) to yield **4b** as a red/brown powder in 96% yield (2.87 g). ICP-OES data: 4.13 wt% palladium

and a palladium loading of 0.39 mmol  $g^{-1}$ .

Synthesis of PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5b). A round bottomed flask was charged with



 $PPh_2PEG$  styrene co-polymer **3a** (2.0 g, 1.7 mmol) and dissolved in dichloromethane (8 mL). To this solution was added a solution of  $PdCl_2(MeCN)_2$  (0.48 g, 1.9 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL) dropwise. The resulting clear yellow solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours during which time a deep orange solid formed. The solid was isolated by filtration and the mother liquor concentrated and added dropwise to an excess of rapidly stirred ethanol to induce precipitation of a second

crop of orange solid (2.1 g, 1.46 mmol, 86% yield). ICP-OES data: 1.1 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.10 mmolg<sup>-1</sup>.

Synthesis of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PEGPIILP (6b).



A round bottomed flask was charged with PEGPIILP **4a** (2.0g, 2 mmol) and water (10 mL) and stirred vigorously while adding a solution of Na<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub> (0.62 g, 2.1 mmol) in water (4 mL). The solution instantly turned yellow and was left to stir at room temperature for a further 24 hrs during which time a red/brown precipitate formed. The reaction mixture was added dropwise to a large volume of acetone (ca. 250 mL) to induce complete precipitation of the product, which was isolated by filtration, washed with diethyl ether (2 x 30 mL) and dried under vacuum

for 3 hours to afford 1.84 g of product (76% yield). ICP-OES data: 6.3 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.59 mmolg<sup>-1</sup>.

Synthesis of  $[PdCl_2(MeCN)_2]$  @PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7b). A round-bottomed flask was charged with 7a (0.51 g, 1.0 mmol) and suspended in anhydrous dichloromethane (8 mL). To this, was added a solution of PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub> (0.28 g, 1.1 mmol) dissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane (5.0 mL) dropwise with rapid stirring over 5 min. resulting in the precipitation of an orange solid.

The mixture was left to stir for 5 hours at room temperature after which time the solid was isolated by filtration and washed with dichloromethane (2 x 20 mL) to afford **7b** as a free-

flowing orange solid in 70 % yield (0.53 g). ICP-OES data: 13.2 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 1.24 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>.

Synthesis of [PdCl4]@Styr-PIILP (8b). To a round-bottomed flask charged with a solution of Na2[PdCl4] (0.14



7b

g, 0.48 mmol) in distilled water (15mL) was added polymer **8a** (0.24 g, 0.43 mmol) in a single portion. The resulting red brown precipitate was left to stir for 5 hours at room temperature then isolated by filtration and washed with distilled water ( $2 \times 5 \text{ mL}$ ), ethanol ( $2 \times 5 \text{ mL}$ ) and diethyl ether ( $2 \times 5 \text{ mL}$ ) to afford **8b** as a free flowing brick red powder in 73% yield (0.25 g). ICP-OES data: 22.2 wt% palladium and a palladium

loading of 2.1 mmol  $g^{-1}$ .

Synthesis of PdNP @PSty 3-PIILP (3c). A round-bottom flask charged with 3b (0.75g, 0.69 mmol) and ethanol



(20 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere was cooled in an ice bath. Asolution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.18 g, 4.85 mmol) in water was addeddropwise to the cooled mixture during which time the orange suspension rapidly turned black. The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight after which the product was precipitated by dropwise addition to a

large excess (ca. 200 mL) of cold acetone with vigorous stirring. The solid was isolated by filtration dried and the resulting black solid was ground to a fine powder and washed with distilled water (10 mL) ethanol (10 mL) and diethyl ether (10 mL) to afford **3c** in 83% yield (0.77 g). ICP-OES data: 5.2 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.48 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>.

Synthesis of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4c). A round bottom flask charged with 4b (1.4 g, 0.8 mmol) and ethanol



(20 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere was cooled in an ice bath. A solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.21 g, 5.6 mmol) in water (2-3 ml) was added to the mixture slowly during which time the orange solution rapidly turned black. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred overnight after which the product was precipitated by dropwise addition to a large excess (ca. 200 mL) of cold acetone with vigorous stirring. The solid was isolated by filtration, dried and the resulting blacksolid ground to a fine powder and washed with distilled water

(10 mL) ethanol (10 mL) and diethyl ether (10 mL) to afford 4c in 83% yield (1.17 g). ICP-OES data: 5.4 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.51 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>.

Synthesis of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5c). A round bottom flask was charged with PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN) 2@PPh 2PEGstyrene (1.0 g, 0.7 mmol) and ethanol (30 mL) and the resulting suspension treated dropwise with a solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.18 g, 4.9 mmol) in water (1 mL). The solution instantly turned from orange to black. After stirring at room temperature for 5 hr the solvent was removal under vacuum and the resulting solid was dissolved in the  $Pd^0$ minimum volume of dichloromethane and filtered through a pad of celite. After removal 5c of the solvent under vacuum the product was obtained as a black solid (0.77 g, 86%). ICP-

OES data: 4.4 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.42 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>.

Synthesis of PdNP@PEGPIILP (6c).



A solution of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PEGPIILP (0.33 g, 0.33 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was treated dropwise with solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.09 g, 2.3 mmol) in water (0.5 mL). The solution instantly turned from red/orange to black and stirring was continued for a further 5h. After this time the solvent was removed under vacuum and the solid residue dissolved in the minimum volume of dichloromethane and filtered through a pad of celite. The desired product was isolated as a black solid in 78% yield (0.22 g) by removing the solvent under vacuum and drying (0.22 g, 79%). ICP-OES

data: 6.7 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.64 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>.

Synthesis of PdNP@PPh2-polystyrene (7c). A round bottomed flask was charged with 7b (0.44 g, 0.57 mmol)



and ethanol (10 mL) and the resulting suspension treated dropwise with a solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.15 g, 4.03 mmol) dissolved in distilled water (1 mL). The orange reaction mixture instantly turned black and was left to stir overnight at room temperature. The resulting black solution was then cooled to 0 °C and filtered to yield a black powder which was washed with distilled water (2 x 5 mL) ethanol (2 x 5 mL) and diethyl ether (2 x 5 mL) to

afford **7c** as a fine black powder in 89% yield (0.31 g). ICP-OES data: 6.0 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 0.57 mmol  $g^{-1}$ .

Synthesis of PdNP@Styr-PIILP (8c). A round bottomed flask was charged with 8b (0.55 g, 0.69 mmol)



suspended in ethanol (15 mL) and treated dropwise over 5 min with a solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.18 g, 4.81 mmol) dissolved in distilled water (1.5 mL). The red brown solution instantly turned black and was then left to stir overnight at room temperature. After this time the solution was cooled to 0 °C, filtered and the resulting solid washed with distilled water (2x5mL), ethanol (2x5mL) and diethyl

ether  $(2 \times 5 \text{ mL})$  to afford **8c** as a fine black powder in 90% yield (0.41 g). ICP-OES data: 31.6 wt% palladium and a palladium loading of 3.0 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>.

#### General procedures for the catalytic reduction of nitroarenes with sodium borohydride

A Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer was charged with catalyst (0.5 µmol, 0.05 mol%) and distilled water (2 mL). NaBH<sub>4</sub> (95.4 mg, 2.5 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred vigorously for 2 min during which time rapid evolution of gas was observed. The reaction was initiated by slow addition nitroarene (1 mmol) and the resulting yellow solution stirred at room temperature for two hours. The products were extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed underreduced pressure to yield a yellow oil which was analysed by <sup>1</sup>HNMR using 1,4-dioxane as internal standard and GC analysis using n-decane as internal standard to quantify the composition of starting material and products.

#### General procedure for the catalytic hydrogenation of nitroarenes

All hydrogenation reactions were conducted in a 50 mL temperature controlled Parr reactor equipped with amagnetically coupled stirrer and gas ballast. Reactions were conducted in aglass insert for 1 hour with 1 mmol substrate, 0.5-1 mol% catalyst loading, 13 mL solvent, 20 °C and 70 psi unless otherwise stated. After assembling the apparatus, the reactor was pressurized to 70 psi of hydrogen and left to stand for 10 s before

releasing the gas through an outlet valve. After this sequence had been repeated ten times the reactor was pressurized to 70 psi and the solution stirred vigorously at the desired temperature. For reactions conducted in organic solvent, the pressure was released, the reaction mixture diluted with ethyl acetate (5 ml) and passed through a short silica plug and the solvent removed. Conversion and selectivity were determined using <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy and gas chromatography. For reactions conducted in water, the product was extracted into ethyl acetate (3x25mL) the organic fractions combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed. The resulting residue was analysed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy and GC to quantify the composition of starting material and products and to determine the selectivity; for each substrate tested an internal standard of decane was initially employed for the GC analysis to ensure mass balance. All <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded using dioxane as internal standard with relaxation delays of 10, 20 and 30 sec to establish the optimum time to ensure accurate integration of the signals chosen to determine the selectivity and conversion. Gas chromatography was performed on a Shimadzu 2010 series gas chromatograph equipped with a split-mode capillary injection system and flame ionization detection using a Supelco Beta DEXcolumn. (injection temp 200°C; column conditions 90 °C for 4min rampto 120 at4 °C/min hold for 20 min ramp to 180 at 7 °C/min hold for 15 min total run time = 56 min).

#### General procedure for the recycle sodium borohydride reductions

A Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer was charged with catalyst (0.5  $\mu$ mol, 0.05 mol%) and distilled water (2 mL). NaBH<sub>4</sub> (95.4 mg, 2.5 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred vigorously for 2 min during which time rapid evolution of gas was observed. The reaction was initiated by slow addition nitroarene (1.0 mmol) and the resulting yellow solution stirred at room temperature for two hours. The products were extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 10 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, the solvent removed under reduced pressure and the residue analysed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR using 1,4-dioxane as internal standard and GC analysis using *n*-decane as internal standard. The aqueous layer was then added back into the Schlenk flask, recharged with 1 mmolofaryl nitroarene and stirred for a further 2 h; this procedure was repeated 6 times.

#### Catalyst poisoning studies using pyridine

A Schlenk flask was charged with catalyst (0.05 mol %) and suspended in distilled water (7 mL). NaBH<sub>4</sub>(0.336 g,8.75 mmol) was addeds lowly and the mixture stirred rapidly for 2 minduring which time there was rapid evolution of gas. After this, nitrobenzene (0.360 mL, 3.5 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (0.298 mL, 3.5 mmol) were addeds lowly and the resulting yellow solution stirred at room temperature for two hours. Conversion and selectivity were analysed by <sup>1</sup>HNMR spectroscopy by sampling 50  $\mu$ L portions at 20 minute intervals and extracting the product into ethyl acetate and dissolving the crude residue in d-chloroform (0.5 mL).

## Continuous flow reduction of nitrobenzene

Solution reservoirs for the pumps were prepared by dissolving nitrobenzene (6.1555 g, 50 mmol) in ethanol (250 mL); and sodium borohydride (4.7288 g, 125 mmol) in 1M NaOH<sub>(eq)</sub> (250 mL). Reagents were pumped using JASCO PU980 dual piston HPLC pumps and pump streams were mixed using a Swagelok SS-100-3 teepiece. The sodium borohydride solution was stirred on a hotplate. A 2.5 mL aluminium tube was packed with PdNP@ PEGPPh<sub>2</sub> catalyst **2c** (92 mg, 3.8075 wt% Pd) and sand (3.915 g). The packed column was placed in an aluminium block, which was heated by nickel element inserts controlled using a Eurotherm temperature controller. The reactor was maintained under a fixed back pressure using an Upchurch Scientific 100 psi back pressure regulator. SS tubing (1/16" OD, 1/32" ID) was used throughout the reactor. A0.5mLaliquot was collected from the reactor outlet and diluted with 0.5mLofa 0.02Msolution of 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene in ethanol for HPLC analysis. HPLC analysis was performed on an Agilent 1100 series LC instrument using an Ascentis Express C18 reverse phase column (5 cm length, 4.6 mm ID and 2.7 µm particle size), a water/acetonitrile (A/B) mobile phase and a multiple wavelength detector. Quantitative analysis was conducted based on normalisation of response factors using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. The method used was 10% to 90% B 12mins, 90% to 10% B0.1 min, 10% B 1 min, flow rate 1.5 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>, column temperature 20 °C.



Figure 1. Photo of continuous flow reactor



Figure 2. Photo of packed bed reactor (deconstructed)

Characterization Data for Polymers and Palladium Loaded Polymers



## Figure S4 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3a)



Figure S5 SEM image of freshly prepared PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP co-polymer (3a)





Figure S6 TGA curve for PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP co-polymer (3a); wt% v temperature (green) and (b) derivative wt% v temperature (blue). Heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in air





## Figure S7 FT-IR spectrum offreshly prepared PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP co-polymer (3a)

## Figure S8 Solid State <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4a)





Figure S10 SEM image of freshly prepared PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEG PIIL P co-polymer (4a)





Figure S11 TGA curve for PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP co-polymer (4a); wt% v temperature (green) and (b) derivative wt% v temperature (blue). Heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in air





# Figure S13 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5a)



## Figure S14 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5a)



## Figure S15 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5a)







Figure S17 TGA curve for PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5a); wt% v temperature (green) and (b) derivative wt% v temperature (blue). Heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in air





## Figure S19 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PEGPIILP co-polymer (6a)


#### Figure S20 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PEGPIILP co-polymer (6a)







Figure S22 TGA curve for PEGPIILP copolymer (6a); wt% v temperature (green) and (b) derivative wt% v temperature (blue). Heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in air





Figure S24 Solution <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PPh<sub>2</sub> polystyrene (7a)



## Figure S25 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7a)



## Figure S26 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7a)



Figure S27 SEM images of freshly prepared PPh<sub>2</sub> polystyrene (7a)





Figure S28 TGA curve for PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7a); wt% v temperature (green) and (b) derivative wt% v temperature (blue). Heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in air







## Figure S30 Solution <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Styr-PIILP (8a)





# Figure S32SEM images of freshly prepared Styr-PIILP (8a)





Figure S33 TGA curve for Styr-PIILP (8a); wt% v temperature (green) and (b) derivative wt% v temperature (blue). Heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> in air



# Figure S34 FT-IR spectrum of freshly prepared Styr-PIIL P (8a)



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#### Figure S35 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3b)



## Figure S36 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3b)



[PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP- <sup>31</sup>P shows almost all phosphine is coordinated to Pd, small amount (6%) of uncoordinated phosphine (\*)







## Figure S39 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3b) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



### Figure S40 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4b)



### Figure S41 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4b)



[PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP- <sup>31</sup> P shows almost all phosphine is coordinated to Pd, small amount (14%) of uncoordinated phosphine (\*)

Figure S42 SEM images of freshly prepared [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4b)







Figure S43 FT-IR spectrum of freshly prepared [PdCI<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4b)

## Figure S44 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4b) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



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## Figure S45 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5b)



## Figure S46 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5b)



### Figure S47 SEM images of freshly prepared [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5b)







### Figure S49 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEG styrene (5b) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s





### Figure S51 SEM images of freshly prepared [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@PEGPIILP (6b)







# Figure S53 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of [PdCl4]@PEGPIILP (6b) referenced to the hydrocarbon C 1s



## Figure S54 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7b)



## Figure S55 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7b)


Figure S56 SEM images of freshly prepared [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7b)









Figure S58 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(MeCN)<sub>2</sub>]@PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7b) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



# Figure S59 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@Styr-PIILP (8b)



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Figure S60 SEM images offreshly prepared [PdCl4]@Styr-PIILP (8b)









### Figure S62 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of [PdCl<sub>4</sub>]@Styr-PIILP (8b) referenced to the hydrocarbon C 1s



#### Figure S63 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3c)



# Figure S64 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3c)



\* Uncoordinated phosphine

Figure S65 SEM images of freshly prepared PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3c)







Figure S66 FT-IR spectrum of freshly prepared PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3c)

### Figure S67 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3c) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



Figure S68 (a-b) TEM images of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3c), (c) histogram of particle size (diameter, nm). Scale bars are 20 nm (black) and 5 nm (white)



Figure S69 Powder X-ray Diffraction Pattern of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PIILP (3c)



#### Figure S70 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4c)



# Figure S71 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4c)



\* Uncoordinated phosphine

Figure S72 SEM images of freshly prepared PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4c)







Figure S73 FT-IR spectrum of freshly prepared PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4c)

### Figure S74 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4c) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



Figure S75 (a-b) TEM images of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEG PIILP (4c) and (c) histogram of particle size (diameter, nm). Scale bars are 20 nm (black) and 5 nm (white)



Figure S76 Powder X-ray Diffraction Pattern of PdNP@PSty<sub>3</sub>-PEGPIILP (4c)



# Figure S77 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5c)



# Figure S78 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEG styrene (5c)



#### Figure S79 SEM images of freshly prepared PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5c)







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### Figure S81 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEG styrene (5c) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



Figure S82 (a-d) TEM image of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>PEGstyrene (5c) and (e) histogram of particle size (diameter, nm). Scale bars are 25 nm (black) and 5 nm (white)



Figure S83 Powder X-ray Diffraction Pattern of PdNP@PPh2PEGstyrene (5c)



#### Figure S84 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PdNP@PEGPIILP (6c)



### Figure S85 SEM images of freshly prepared PdNP@PEGPIILP (6c)









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Figure S89 Powder X-ray Diffraction Pattern of PdNP@PEGPIILP (6c)



# Figure S90 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7c)



# Figure S91 Solid state <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7c)



S10
Figure S92SEM images offreshly prepared PdNP@PPh2-polystyrene (7c)









## Figure S94 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of PdNP@PPh<sub>2</sub>-polystyrene (7c) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



Figure S95 (a-d) TEM images of PdNP@PPh<sub>z</sub> polystyrene (7c) and e) histogram showing the distribution of particle sizes (average NP diameter =  $1.39 \pm 0.19$  nm). Scale bars 25 nm (black) and 5 nm (white).



Figure S96 Powder X-ray Diffraction Pattern of PdNP@PPh2-polystyrene (7c)



## Figure S97 Solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PdNP@Styr-PIILP (8c)











## Figure S100 Pd 3d core level XPS spectrum of PdNP@Styr-PIILP (8c) referenced to the hydrocarbon C1s



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Figure S101 (a-d) TEM images of of PdNP@Styr-PIILP (8c) and e) histogram showing the distribution of particle sizes (average NP diameter =  $3.01 \pm 0.63$  nm). Scale bars 25 nm (black) and 5 nm (white).



Figure S102 Powder X-ray Diffraction Pattern of PdNP@Styr-PIILP (8c)



Figure S103 FD-XAS spectra showing the Pd  $L_{III}$  edges of 1a(red), 1b(green) and 1c(blue). The raw data (black) has been overlaid on the smoothed versions.



**Figure S104** FD-XAS spectra showing the Pd L<sub>III</sub> edges of **2a**(red), **2b**(green) and **2c**(blue). The raw data (black) has been overlaid on the smoothed versions.



Figure S105 FD-XAS spectra showing the Pd L<sub>III</sub> edges of **3a**(red), **3b**(green) and **3c**(blue). The raw data (black) has been overlaid on the smoothed versions. The raw data (black) has been overlaid on the smoothed versions.



Figure S106 FD-XAS spectra showing the Pd  $L_{III}$  edges of 4a (red), 4b (green) and 4c (blue). The raw data (black) has been overlaid on the smoothed versions.



Figure S107 FD-XAS data for 1b-4b and 1c-4c showing the Pd L<sub>III</sub> edge and white line energies.

Sample	Edge energy / KeV	White line energy / KeV	Shift from Na <sub>2</sub> [PdCl <sub>4</sub> ] / eV	Sample	Edge energy / KeV	White line energy / KeV	Shift from Pd/C / eV
1b	3.175706	3.176722	+0.51	1c	3.174740	3.176730	+0.12
2b	3.175440	3.176433	+0.22	2c	3.175874	3.176880	+0.27
3b	3.175624	3.176591	+0.38	3с	3.175883	3.177000	+0.39
4b	3.175646	3.176590	+0.38	4c	3.176035	3.176982	+0.37
Na <sub>2</sub> [PdCl <sub>4</sub> ]	3.175202	3.176215	-	Pd/C	3.175485	3.176614	-

Figure S108 FD-XAS spectra showing the Pd  $L_{III}$  edges for 1b (red), 2b (blue), 3b (green), 4b (yellow) and  $Na_2$  [PdCl<sub>4</sub>] (purple). The raw data (black) has been overlaid on the smoothed versions.



Figure S109 FD-XAS spectra showing the Pt L<sub>III</sub> edges for 1c (red), 2c (blue), 3c (green), 4c (yellow) and Pd/C (purple). The raw data (black) has been overlaid on the smoothed versions.



Figure S110 (a-d) TEM images of 2c formed in situ and e) histogram showing the distribution of particle sizes (average NP diameter =  $3.36 \pm 0.61$  nm). Scale bars 25 nm (black) and 5 nm (white).



**Figure S111** (a-d) TEM images of **4c** formed in situ and e) histogram showing the distribution of particle sizes (average NP diameter =  $2.55 \pm 0.97$  nm). Scale bars 25 nm (black) and 5 nm (white).



**Figure S112** (a-d) TEM images of **2c** after recycling and e) histogram showing the distribution of particle sizes (average NP diameter =  $3.05 \pm 0.86$  nm). Scale bars 25 nm (black) and 5 nm (white).



## References

1 S. Doherty, J. G. Knight, T. Backhouse, E. Abood, H. Alshaikh, I. J. S. Fairlamb, R. A. Bourne, T. W. Chamberlain and R. Stones, *Green Chem.*, 2017, **19**, 1635-1641.