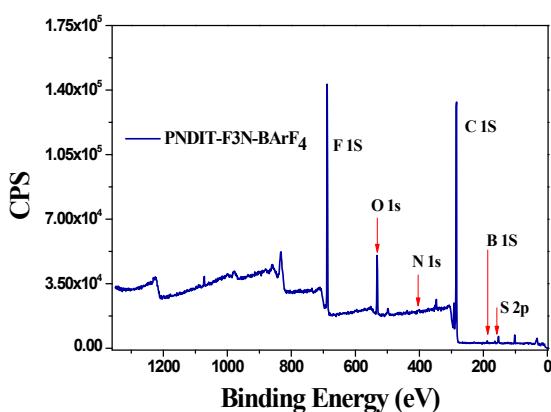
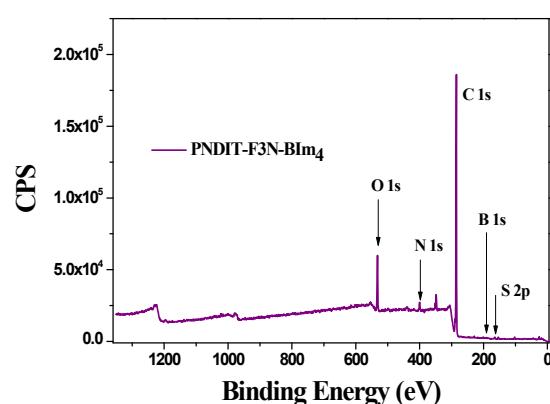
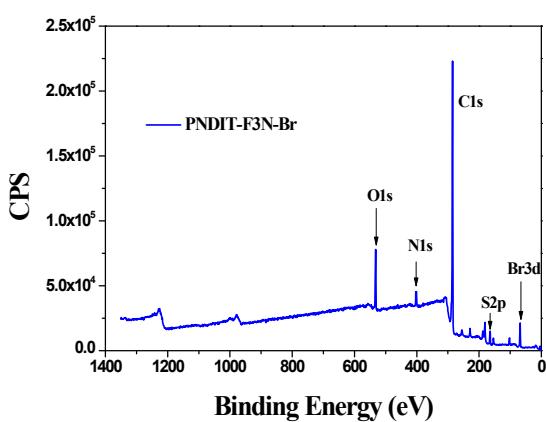
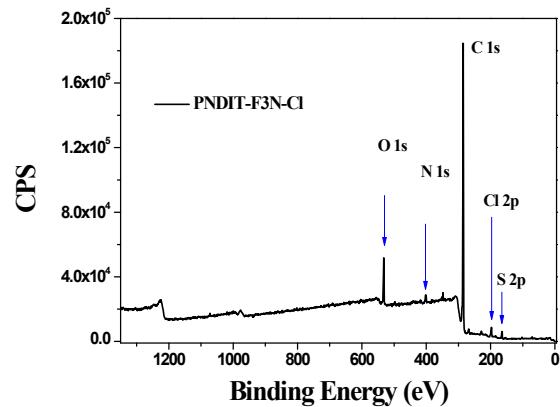
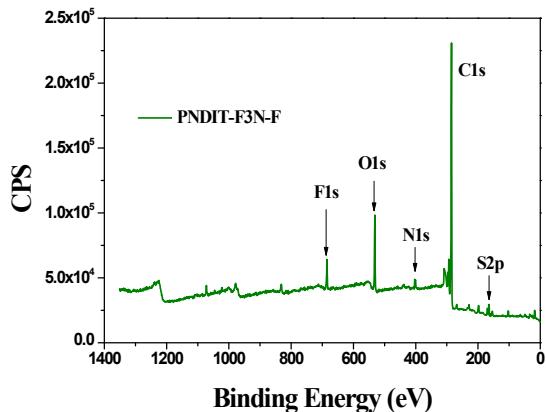


# Counterions-Tunable N-Type Conjugated Polyelectrolytes for the Interface Engineering of High-Performance Polymer Solar Cells

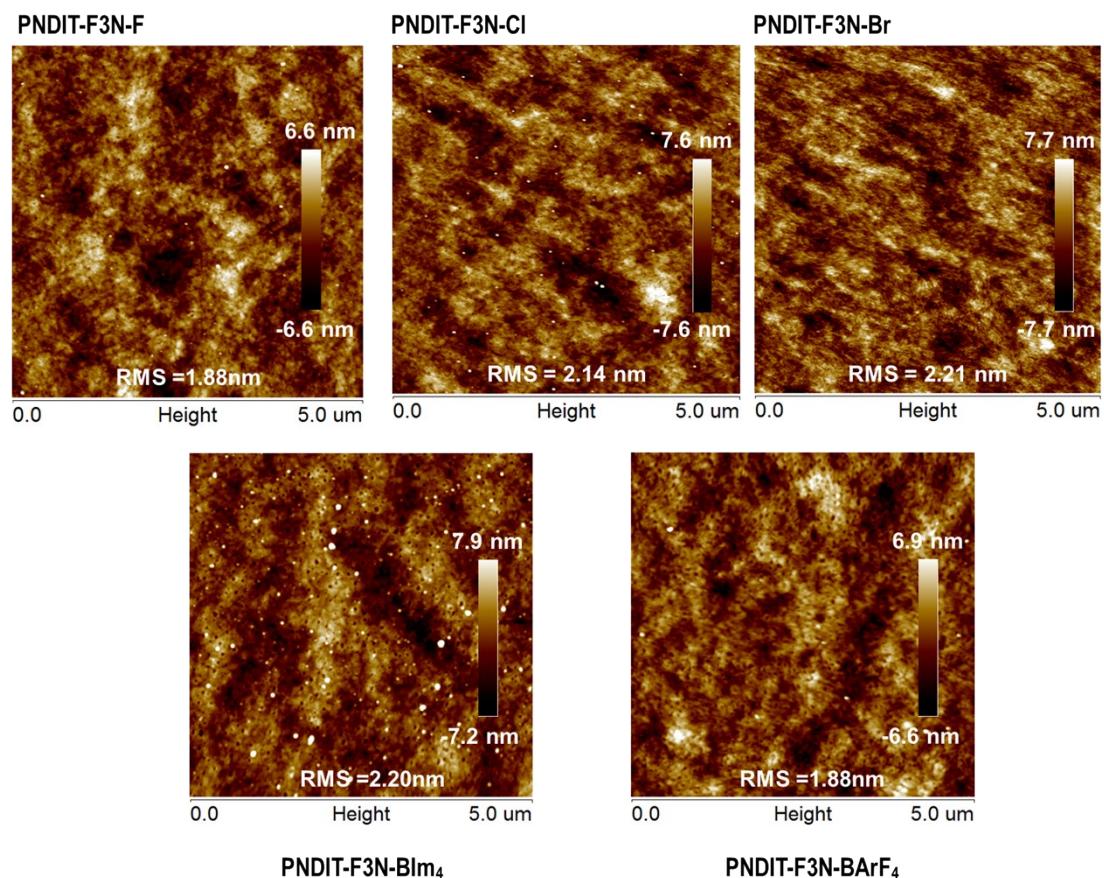
Zhiming Chen<sup>†</sup>, Zhicheng Hu<sup>†</sup>, Zhihong Wu<sup>†</sup>, Xiang Liu, Yaocheng Jin, Manjun Xiao, Fei Huang\*, Yong Cao

Institute of Polymer Optoelectronic Materials and Devices, State Key Laboratory of Luminescent Materials and Devices,  
South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510640, P. R. China

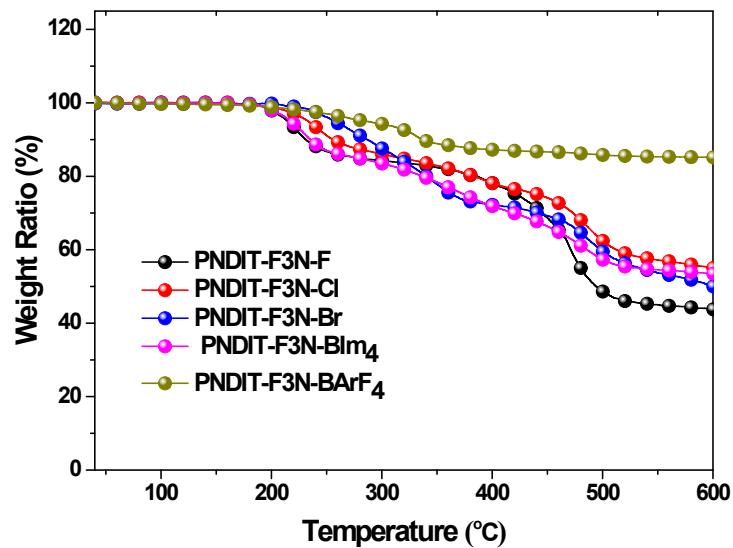
## Support Information



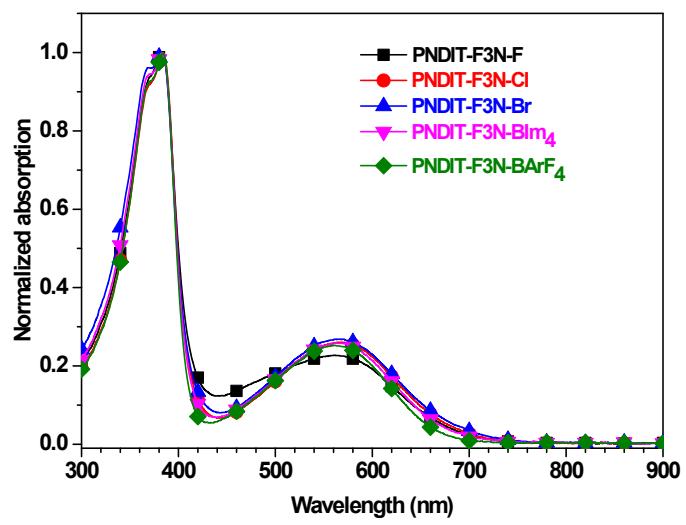
**Fig. S1** The XPS spectra of CPEs in solid state.



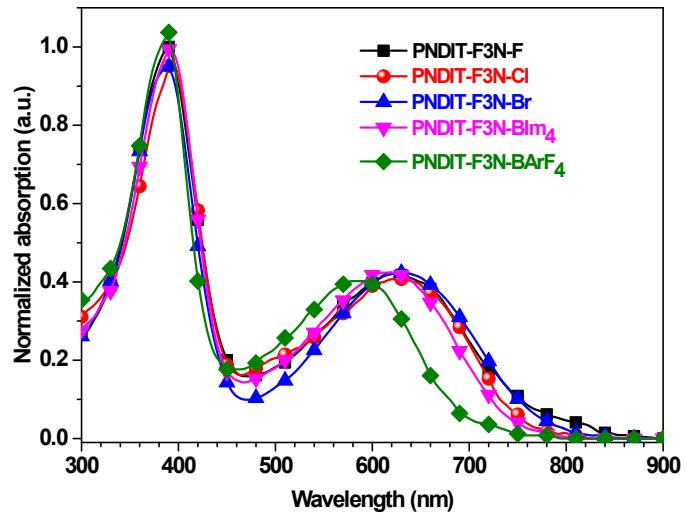
**Fig. S2** Atom force microscopy topography of CPEs



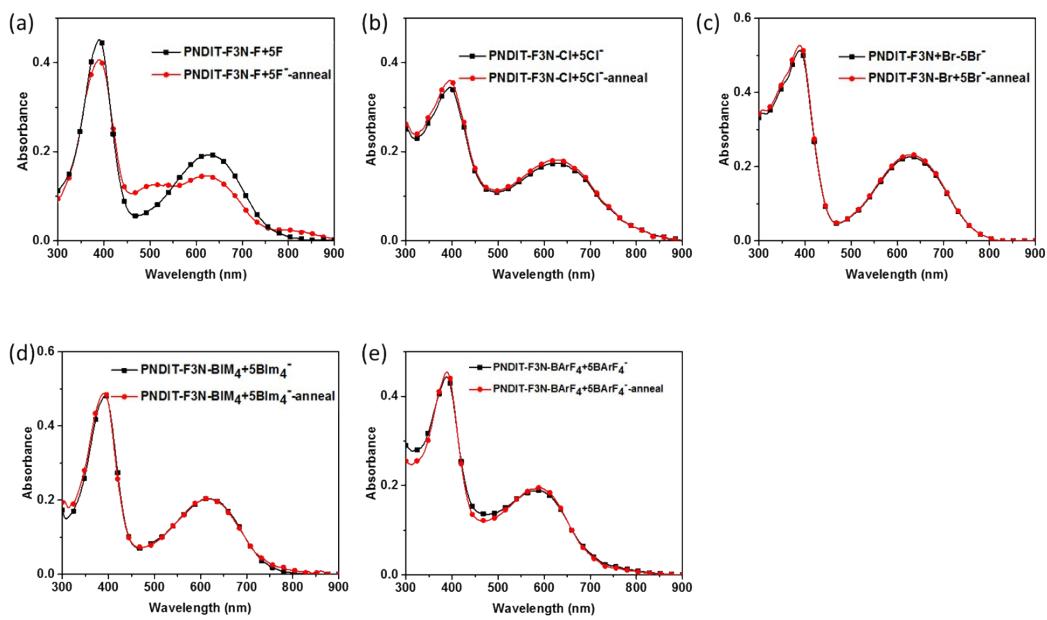
**Fig. S3** Thermogravimetric analysis of CPEs.



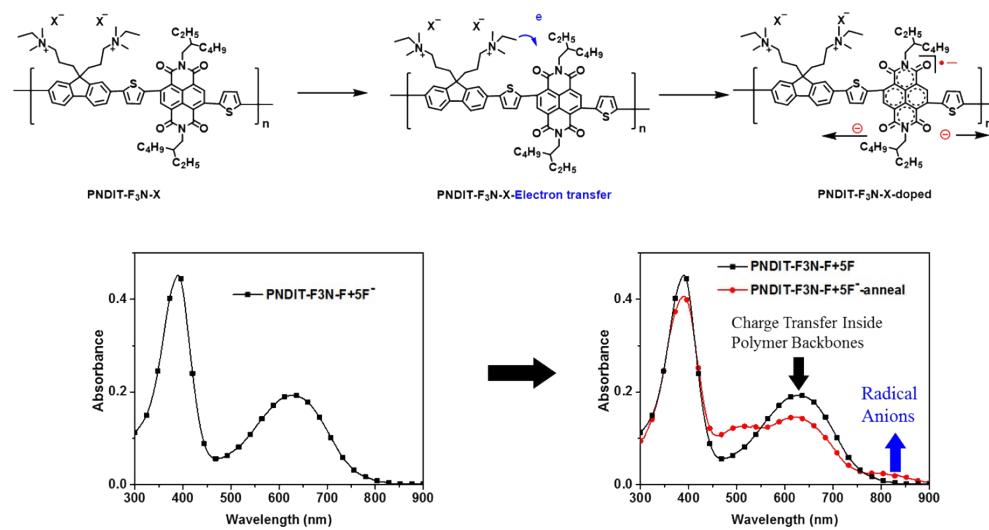
**Fig. S4** The UV-vis-NIR absorption spectra of CPEs in methanol solution.



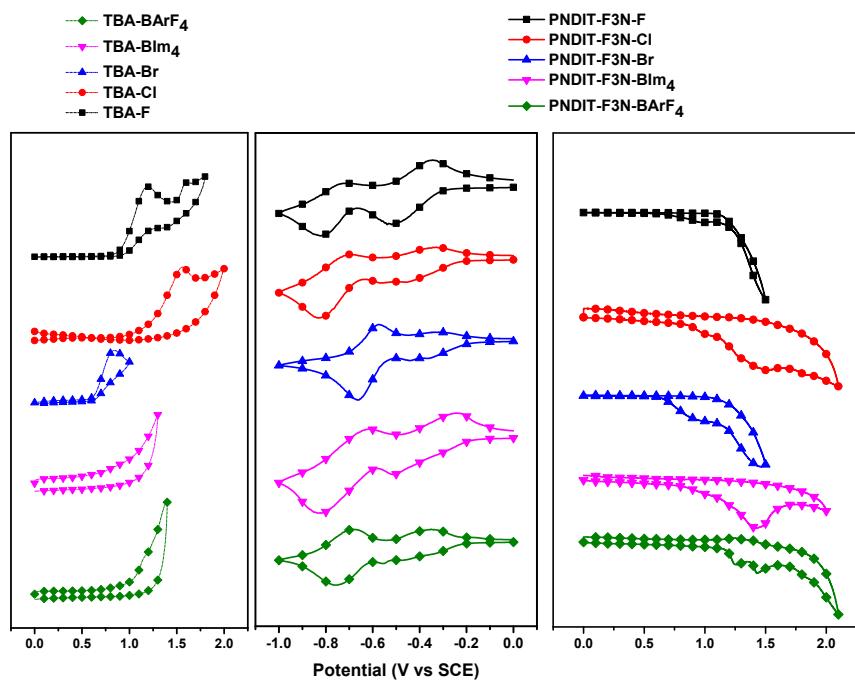
**Fig. S5** The UV-vis-NIR absorption spectra of CPEs in heated film.



**Fig. S6** The UV-vis-NIR absorption spectra of CPEs with excess counterions in heated film.(a) PNDIT-F3N-F + 5TBAF (tetrabutylammonium fluoride); (b) PNDIT-F3N-Cl + 5TBACl (tetrabutylammonium chloride); (c) PNDIT-F3N-Br + 5TBABr (tetrabutylammonium bromide); (d) PNDIT-F3N-BIm<sub>4</sub> + 5NaBIm<sub>4</sub> (sodium tetrakis(1-imidazolyl)borate); (e) PNDIT-F3N-BArF<sub>4</sub> + 5NaBArF<sub>4</sub> (sodium tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]borate).



**Scheme S1** The schematic diagram of doping process between the counterions and n-type backbones (Taking the UV-vis-NIR spectrum of PNDIT-F3N-F as example).



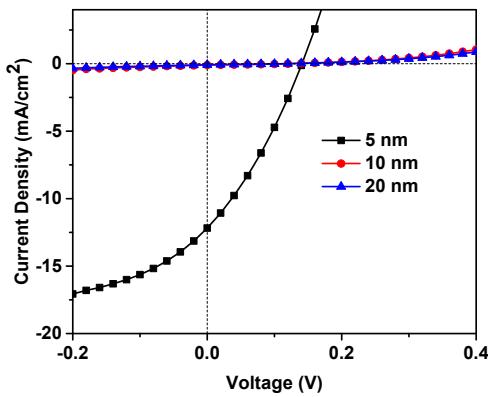
**Fig. S7** The cyclic voltammetry curves of these CPEs and tetrabutylammonium salts (TBA-X, X=F, Cl, BIm<sub>4</sub> and BArF<sub>4</sub>). The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital level ( $E_{LUMO}$ ) of NDIT-F3N-BArF<sub>4</sub> backbone was calculated to be -3.9 eV.

**Table S1** The work function (WF) of Ag electrode modified by CPEs with different thickness

	Thickness	PNDIT-F3N-F	PNDIT-F3N-Cl	PNDIT-F3N-Br	PNDIT-F3N-BIm <sub>4</sub>	PNDIT-F3N-BArF <sub>4</sub>
WF of Ag (eV)	5 nm	4.08	4.08	3.99	4.13	5.63
	40 nm	3.81	3.97	3.90	3.99	5.83
	80 nm	3.96	3.98	3.88	3.99	5.85

**Table S2** Electron mobility calculated from electron-only devices with structure of ITO/Al/PC<sub>71</sub>BM/CPEs (5 nm)/Al

	PC <sub>71</sub> BM/P NDIT-F3N-F	PC <sub>71</sub> BM/P NDIT-F3N-Cl	PC <sub>71</sub> BM/P NDIT-F3N-Br	PC <sub>71</sub> BM/P NDIT-F3N-BIm <sub>4</sub>	PC <sub>71</sub> BM/P NDIT-F3N-BArF <sub>4</sub>	PC <sub>71</sub> BM
Electron mobility ( $\times 10^{-3}$ cm $^2$ V $^{-1}$ s $^{-1}$ )	0.39	1.22	2.22	1.10	0.06	0.31



**Fig. S8**  $J$ - $V$  curves of photovoltaic devices with structure of ITO/ PNDI-F3N-BArF<sub>4</sub> (5-20 nm)/NT812:PC<sub>71</sub>BM/ PNDI-F3N-Br/Al.

**Table S3** Device parameters of PSCs based on NT812/PC<sub>71</sub>BM with 5-20 nm PNDI-F3N-BArF<sub>4</sub> CPEs as HTMs.

HTMs	$V_{oc}$ (V)	$J_{sc}$ (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	FF (%)	PCE (%)
PNDIT-F3N-BArF <sub>4</sub> (5 nm)	0.14 ± 0.00	11.83 ± 0.42	30.43 ± 0.49	0.52 ± 0.02 (0.53) <sup>a</sup>
PNDIT-F3N-BArF <sub>4</sub> (10 nm)	0.12 ± 0.01	0.12 ± 0.02	27.43 ± 3.44	0.0038 ± 0.001 (0.0039)
PNDIT-F3N-BArF <sub>4</sub> (20 nm)	0.11 ± 0.00	0.08 ± 0.01	26.52 ± 1.59	0.0023 ± 0.0003 (0.0025)

<sup>a</sup> the best PCE of photovoltaic devices