

## Supplementary information for:

### Dopant-Free and Low-cost molecular “Bee” Hole-Transporting Materials for Efficient and Stable Perovskite Solar Cells†

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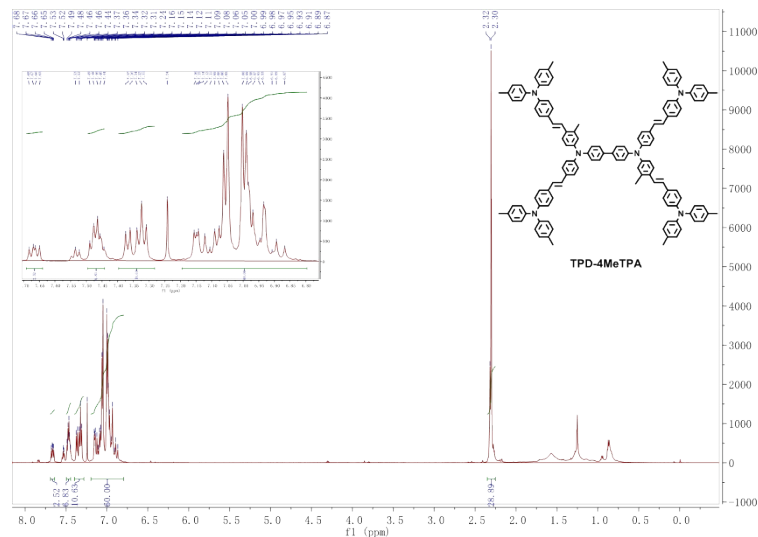
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† X. C. Liu and F. Zhang have equivalent contribution.

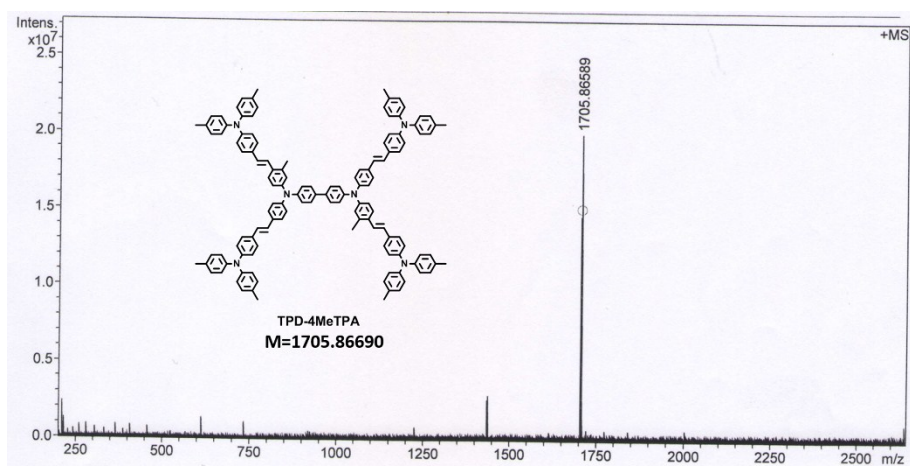
#### 1. Structural characteristics

The structure of as-synthesized HTMs (TPD-4MeTPA, TPD-4MeOTPA, and TPD-4EtCz) were confirmed *via* <sup>1</sup>H NMR and HRMS, which agreed well with the proposed molecular structure (**Fig. S1**).

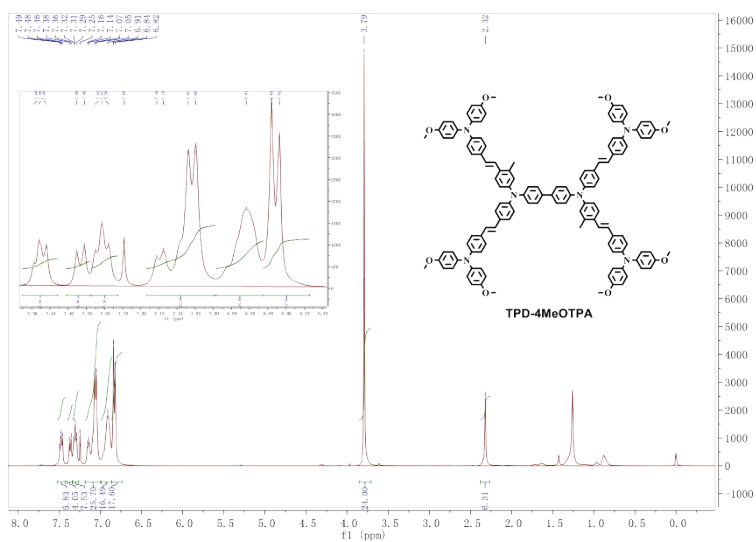
<sup>1</sup>H NMR of TPD-4MeTPA



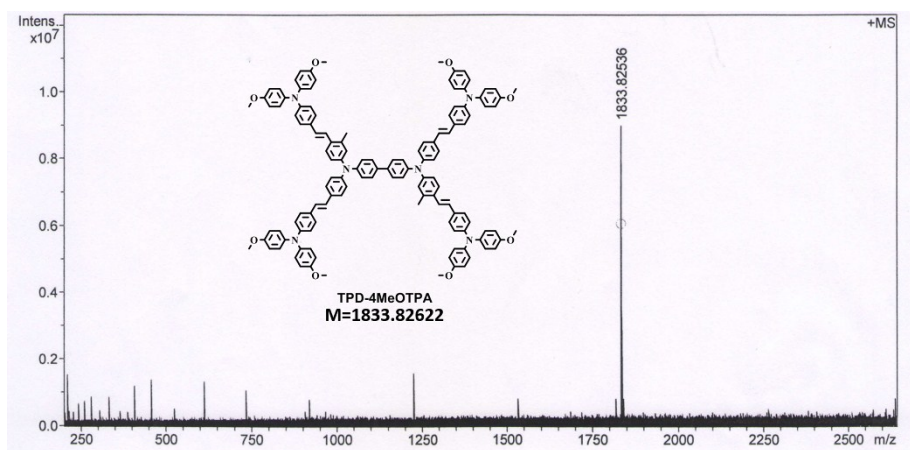
### HRMS of TPD-4MeTPA



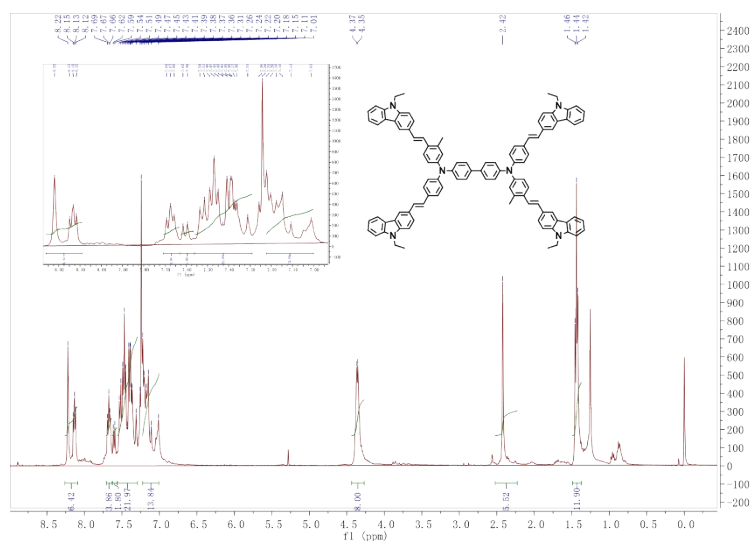
### $^1\text{H}$ NMR of TPD-4MeOTPA



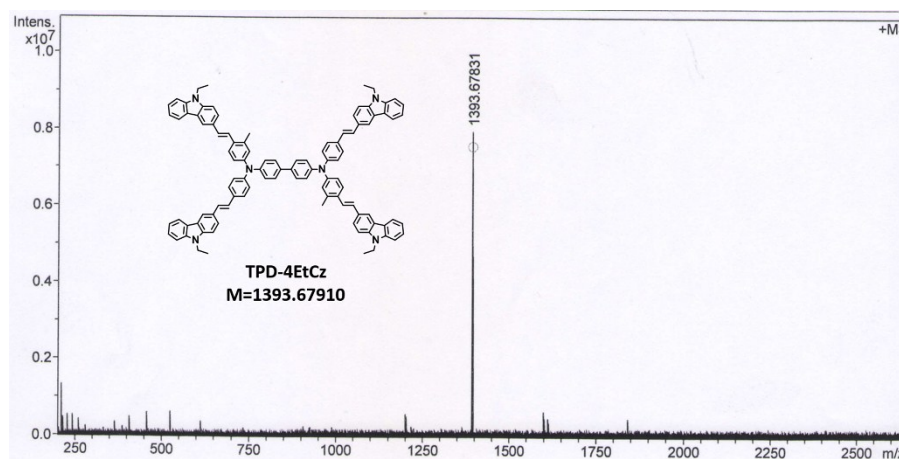
### HRMS of TPD-4MeOTPA



## <sup>1</sup>H NMR of TPD-4EtCz



## HRMS of TPD-4EtCz



**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR and HRMS of the as-synthesized HTMs.

## 2. Synthesis cost estimation of as-synthesized HTMs

We roughly estimated the synthesis cost of as-synthesized HTMs according to the cost model that was described by Pablo *et al*<sup>1</sup>. and Osedach *et al*<sup>2</sup>. The estimated synthesis cost is 55.59 \$/g, 64.47 \$/g and 29.66 \$/g for TPD-4MeTPA, TPD-4MeOTPA and TPD-4EtCz, respectively. Since these tables do not take into account several important parameters (e.g. energy consumption, waste treatment and labor), it was multiplied by a factor of 1.5 to get a more realistic estimation of lab synthesis costs of 83.39 \$/g, 96.71 \$/g and 44.49 \$/g as reported in the main text ( $55.59 \times 1.5 = 83.39$  \$/g,  $64.47 \times 1.5 = 96.71$  \$/g,  $29.66 \times 1.5 = 44.49$  \$/g)<sup>3</sup>, which is much cheaper than that of *spiro*-OMeTAD (581.52 \$/g).

**Table S1** Materials quantities and cost for the synthesis of TPD-4MeTPA

Chemical name	Price of Chemical / \$	Weight or amount reagent	Material cost / \$
<i>N,N'</i> -diphenyl- <i>N,N'</i> -di( <i>m</i> -tolyl)benzidine (TPD)	163.80 / 10 g	0.8 g	13.10
Imidazole	12.25 / 25 g	0.5 g	0.25
Acetonitrile	3.06 / 500 mL	30 mL	0.18
Trifluoroacetic Anhydride	45.64 / 750 g	2 mL	0.12
Tetrahydrofuran	3.98 / 500 mL	60 mL	0.48
Hydrochloric Acid	2.76 / 500 mL	10 mL	0.06
4-(di- <i>p</i> -tolylamino) benzaldehyde	272.84 / 5 g	0.5 g	27.28
Sodium Borohydride	10.72 / 25g	0.5 g	0.21
Triphenylphosphine Hydrobromide	45.64 / 500 g	3.5 g	0.32
Dichloromethane	11.33 / 5 L	150 mL	0.34
Ether	3.98 / 500 mL	50 mL	0.40
Potassium <i>tert</i> -Butanolate ( <i>t</i> -BuOK)	21.90 / 100 g	2.5 g	0.55
Sodium Hydroxide	4.43 / 500 g	2.0 g	0.02
Silica gel (300-400mesh)	13.52 / kg	0.44 kg	5.95
Petroleum ether	7.35 / 5 L	3 L	4.41
Ethyl acetate	11.49 / 5 L	800 mL	1.84
Ethanol	7.66 / 5 L	50 mL	0.08
Total			55.59 \$

**Table S2** Materials quantities and cost for the synthesis of TPD-4MeOTPA

Chemical name	Price of Chemical / \$	Weight or amount reagent	Material cost / \$
<i>N,N'</i> -diphenyl- <i>N,N'</i> -di( <i>m</i> -tolyl)benzidine (TPD)	163.80 / 10 g	0.8 g	13.10
Imidazole	12.25 / 25 g	0.5 g	0.25
Acetonitrile	3.06 / 500 mL	30 mL	0.18

Trifluoroacetic Anhydride	45.64 / 750 g	2 mL	0.12
Tetrahydrofuran	3.98 / 500 mL	60 mL	0.48
Hydrochloric Acid	2.76 / 500 mL	10 mL	0.06
<i>p</i> -Iodoanisole	69.17 / 10 g	2.6 g	17.98
Phenylamine	7.83 / 500 mL	3.0 mL	0.01
Copper(I) chloride	16.54 / 100 g	1.6 g	0.26
1,10-phenanthroline	3.98 / g	3.0 g	11.95
Dimethylbenzene	5.36 / 500 mL	100 mL	1.07
<i>N,N</i> -Dimethylformamide	15.00 / 100 mL	30 mL	4.50
Phosphorus oxychloride	19.60 / 500 mL	10 mL	0.39
Sodium Borohydride	10.72 / 25 g	0.5 g	0.21
Triphenylphosphine Hydrobromide	45.64 / 500 g	3.5 g	0.32
Dichloromethane	11.33 / 5 L	150 mL	0.34
Ether	3.98 / 500 mL	50 mL	0.40
Potassium <i>tert</i> -Butanolate ( <i>t</i> -BuOK)	21.90 / 100 g	2.5 g	0.55
Sodium Hydroxide	4.43 / 500 g	2.0 g	0.02
Silica gel (300-400mesh)	13.52 / kg	0.44 kg	5.95
Petroleum ether	7.35 / 5 L	3 L	4.41
Ethyl acetate	11.49 / 5 L	800 mL	1.84
Ethanol	7.66 / 5 L	50 mL	0.08
Total			64.47 \$

**Table S3** Materials quantities and cost for the synthesis of TPD-4EtCz

Chemical name	Price of Chemical / \$	Weight or amount reagent	Material cost / \$
<i>N,N'</i> -diphenyl- <i>N,N'</i> -di( <i>m</i> -tolyl)benzidine (TPD)	163.80 / 10 g	0.8 g	13.10
Imidazole	12.25 / 25 g	0.5 g	0.25
Acetonitrile	3.06 / 500 mL	30 mL	0.18
Trifluoroacetic Anhydride	45.64 / 750 g	2 mL	0.12
Tetrahydrofuran	3.98 / 500 mL	60 mL	0.48

Hydrochloric Acid	2.76 / 500 mL	10 mL	0.06
3-Formyl-9-ethylcarbazole	96.07 / 25 g	0.35 g	1.35
Sodium Borohydride	10.72 / 25g	0.5 g	0.21
Triphenylphosphine Hydrobromide	45.64 / 500 g	3.5 g	0.32
Dichloromethane	11.33 / 5 L	150 mL	0.34
Ether	3.98 / 500 mL	50 mL	0.40
Potassium <i>tert</i> -Butanolate ( <i>t</i> -BuOK)	21.90 / 100 g	2.5 g	0.55
Sodium Hydroxide	4.43 / 500 g	2.0 g	0.02
Silica gel (300-400mesh)	13.52 / kg	0.44 kg	5.95
Petroleum ether	7.35 / 5 L	3 L	4.41
Ethyl acetate	11.49 / 5 L	800 mL	1.84
Ethanol	7.66 / 5 L	50 mL	0.08
Total			29.66 \$

### 3. Thermal properties

The glass transition temperatures ( $T_g$ ) of the new HTMs were determined by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and decomposition temperatures ( $T_d$ ) were determined by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA).

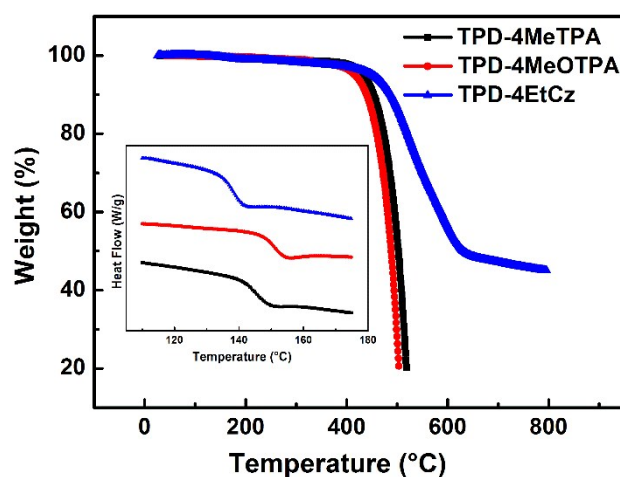
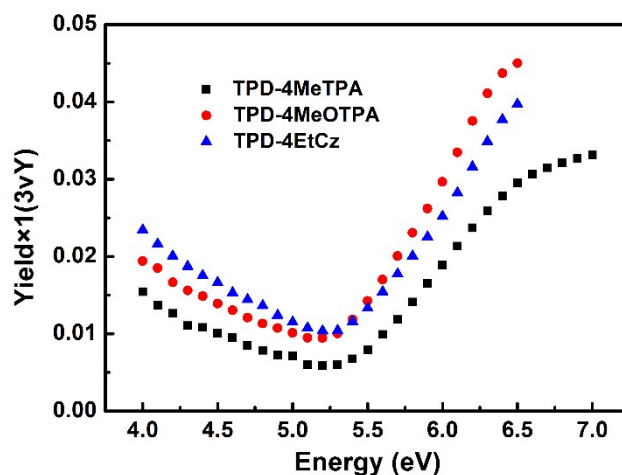


Fig. S2 TGA and DSC curves of the as-synthesized HTMs.

### 4. PYS measurement

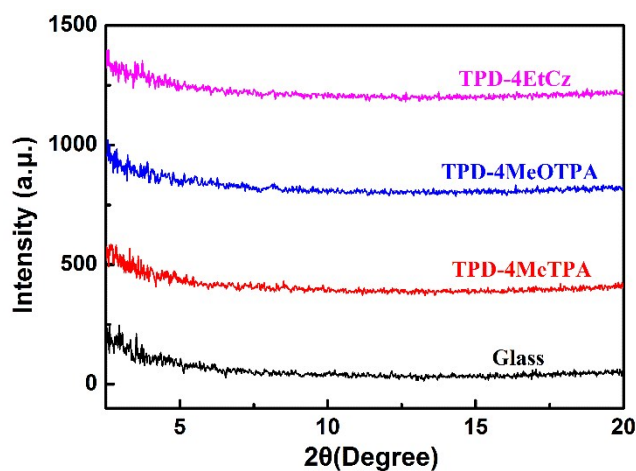
The photoelectron yield spectroscopy (PYS) method as a new tool to study the energy distribution of electronic states can determine the ionization potential ( $E_{IP}$ )

directly. The Photoelectron yield spectra of spin-coated films are shown in **Fig. S3**. As shown, the threshold energies refer to the  $E_{IP}$  of thin films spin-coated with the three new HTMs. The HOMO levels are determined as the minus of  $E_{IP}$ , which are  $-5.33$ ,  $-5.28$ , and  $-5.34$  eV for TPD-4MeTPA, TPD-4MeOTPA and TPD-4EtCz, respectively.



**Fig. S3** Photoelectron yield spectroscopy of as-synthesized HTMs.

## 5. Morphology measurements of films



**Fig. S4** X-ray diffraction spectra of the thin film samples on glass substrates.

## 6. Hole Mobilities of HTMs

The hole mobilities of the new HTMs were measured by the time-of-flight (TOF) transient photocurrent technique at room temperature. The transit times ( $t_T$ ) were obtained from the intersection point of two asymptotes in the double-logarithmic representations (insets of Fig. S5). The hole mobilities ( $\mu$ ) were calculated using the relation  $\mu = d^2 / V t_T$ , where  $d$  is the organic film thickness,  $V$  is the applied voltage, and  $t_T$  is the transit time.



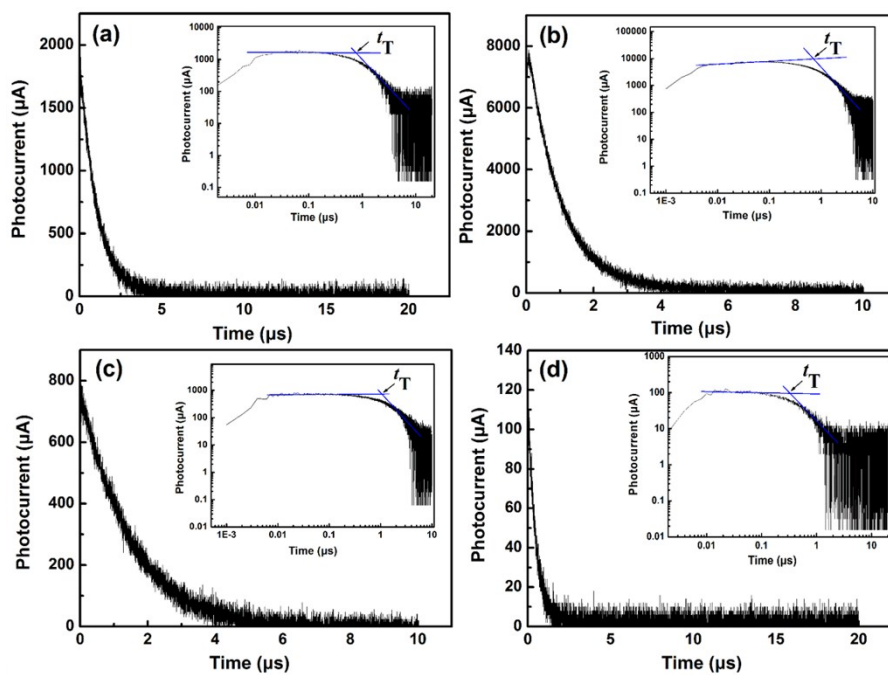


Fig. S5 Representative TOF transients for holes at room temperature ( $E = 1.5 \times 10^5 \text{ V cm}^{-1}$ ). Insets are double-logarithmic plots of the data.

## 7. Characteristics of PSC

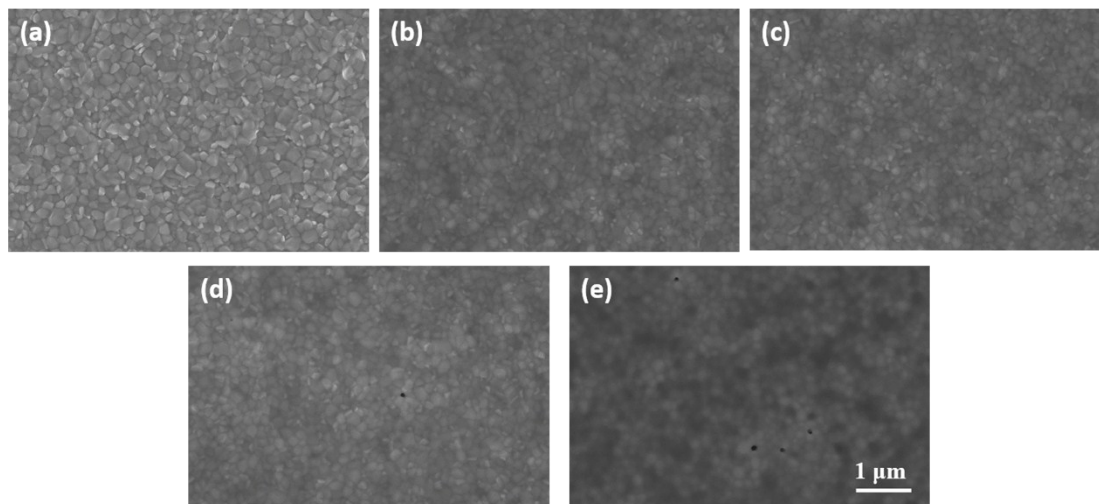
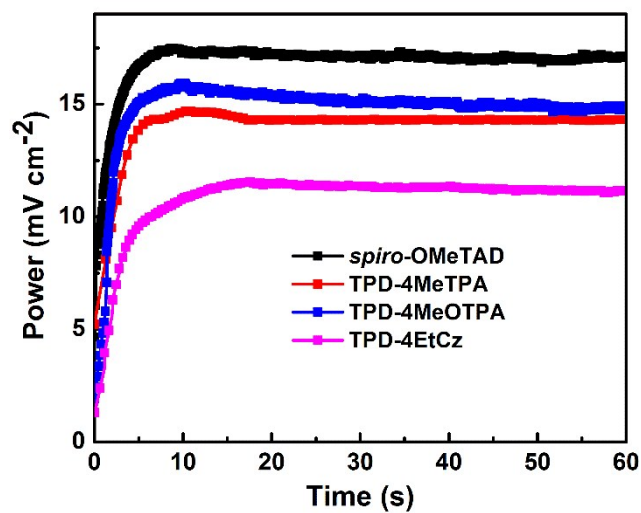
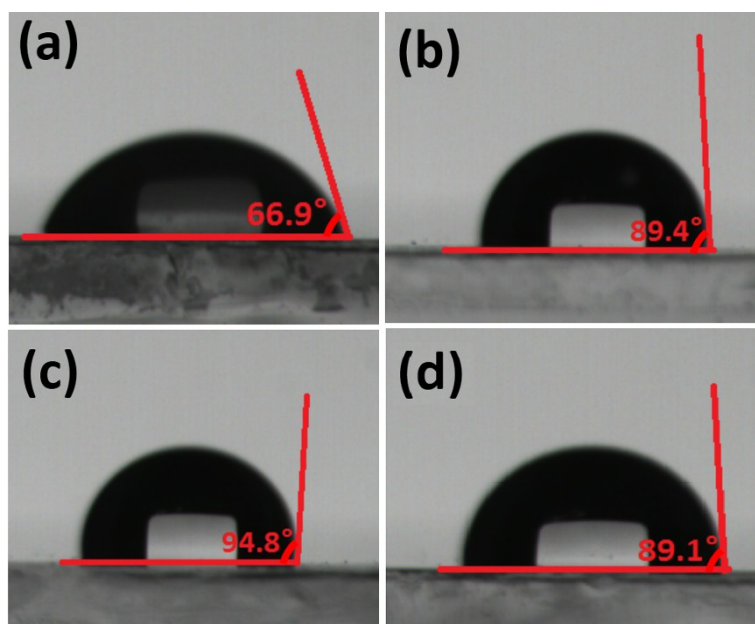


Fig. S6 Surface view SEM images of (a) pristine perovskite ; (b) perovskite /dopant-free TPD-4MeTPA; (c) perovskite / dopant-free TPD-4MeOTPA; (d) perovskite/dopant-free TPD-4EtCz; (e) perovskite / doped TPD-4MeOTPA. Scale bar is  $1 \mu\text{m}$ .





**Fig. S7** The stabilized power output of the cell based on the new HTMs and *spiro*-OMeTAD.



**Fig. S8** Contact angles between HTMs and water, (a) *spiro*-OMeTAD doped; (b) ~ (d) TPD-4MeTPA, TPD-4MeOTPA, and TPD-4EtCz dopant-free, respectively.

**Table S4** *J-V* curves of doped-HTMs based device under different scan directions

HTM	$J_{sc}$ (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	$V_{oc}$ (V)	<i>FF</i>	PCE (%)
TPD-4MeTPA++	17.500	0.959	0.447	7.50
TPD-4MeOTPA++	18.540	0.949	0.415	7.29

TPD-4EtCz++	18.830	0.948	0.453	8.09
<i>spiro</i> -OMeTAD	18.132	0.949	0.389	6.69
HTM-free	14.470	0.896	0.475	6.16

++ = samples include LiTFSI and tBP additives.

**Table S5** PL lifetimes of TiO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>NH<sub>3</sub>PbI<sub>3</sub>/HTM films

HTM	$\tau_2$ (ns)	$\tau_1$ (ns)
TPD-4MeTPA	74.53	8.50
TPD-4MeOTPA	63.70	7.55
TPD-4EtCz	92.58	12.26
<i>spiro</i> -OMeTAD++	30.26	3.59
HTM-free	171.70	22.14

++ = samples include LiTFSI and tBP additives.

## References

- 1 M. L. Petrus, T. Bein, T. J. Dingemans and P. Docampo, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2015, **3**, 12159-12162.
- 2 T. P. Osedach, T. L. Andrew and V. Bulovic, *Energy Environ. Sci.*, 2013, **6**, 711-718.
- 3 M. Saliba, S. Orlandi, T. Matsui, S. Aghazada, M. Cavazzini, J. Correa-Baena, P. Gao, R. Scopelliti, E. Mosconi, K. Dahmen, F. D. Angelis, A. Abate, A. Hagfeldt, G. Pozzi, M. Graetzel and M. K. Nazeeruddin, *Nat. Energy*, 2016, **1**, 15017.