

Supporting Information

Occurrence of Excited State Charge Separation in *N*-Doped Graphene-Perylenediimide Hybrid Formed via ‘Click’ Chemistry

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1. Supplementary Figures and Tables

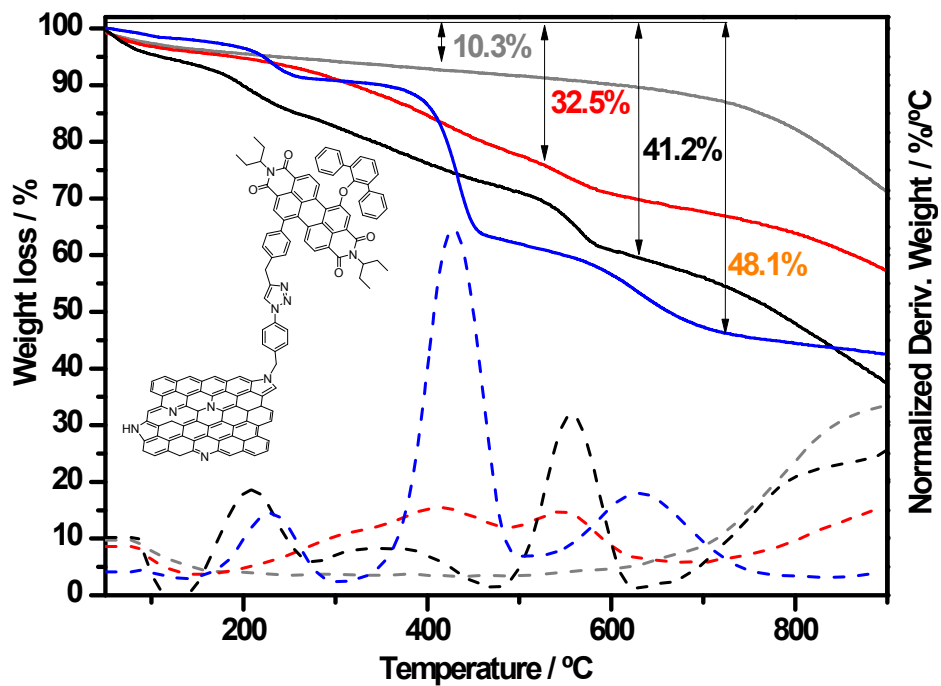


Figure S1. TGA profiles of NG (—), NG-TMS (—), PDI 5 (—), NG-PDI 1 (—) along with their respective first derivatives (dashed lines) obtained under a nitrogen atmosphere.

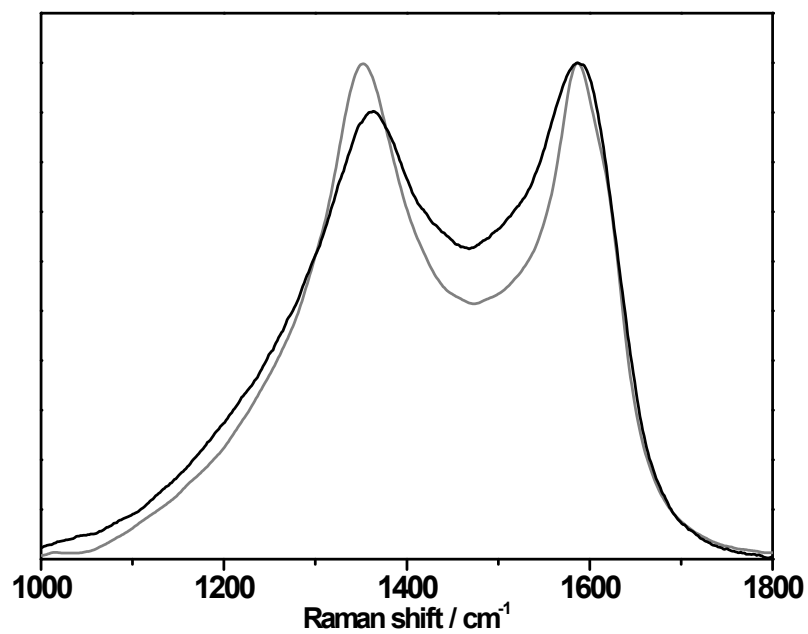


Figure S2. Details of the G-band Raman region (from 1000 to 1800 cm⁻¹) for NG (—) compared with **NG-TMS** derivative (—).

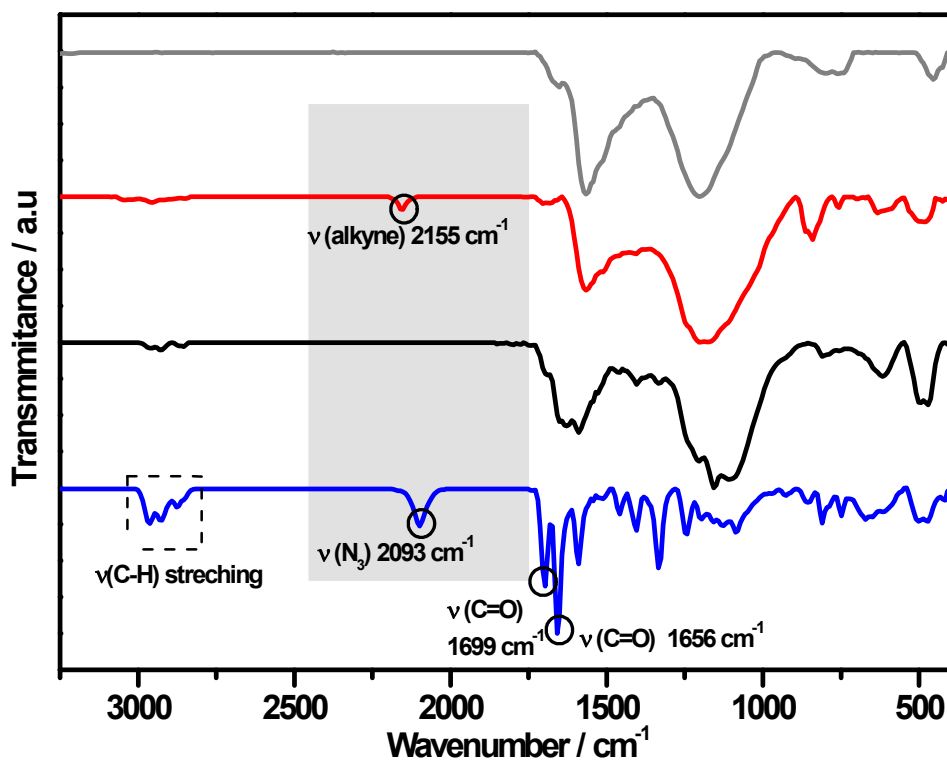
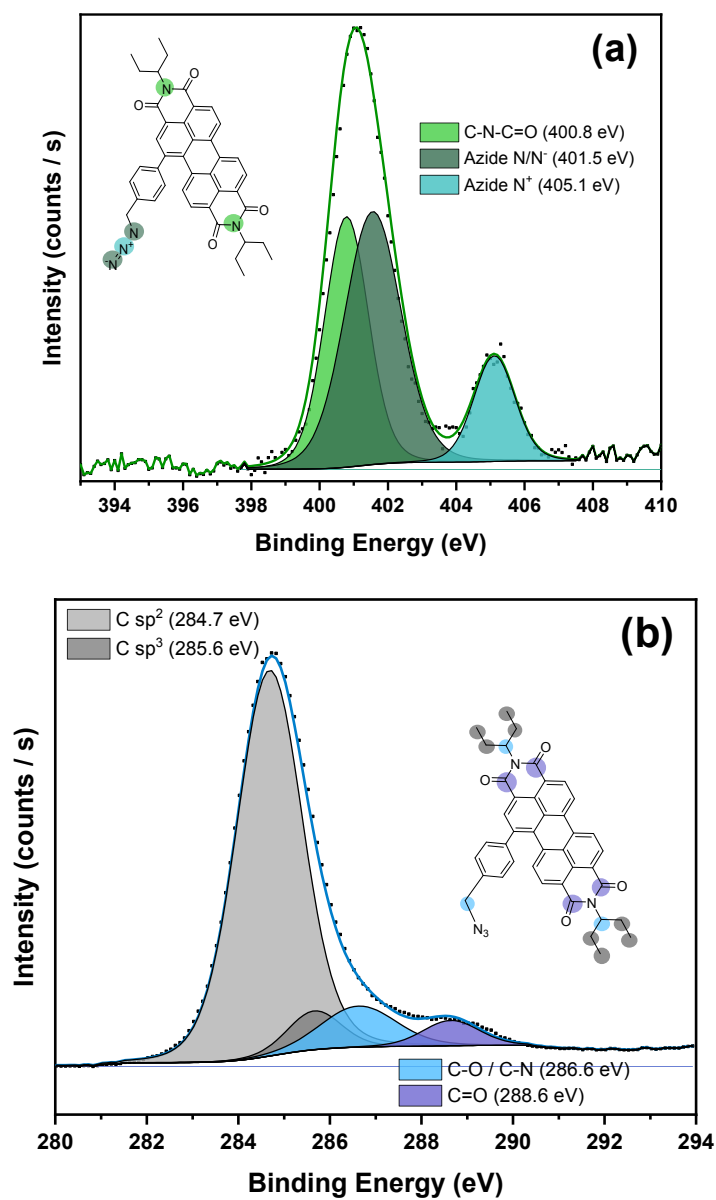
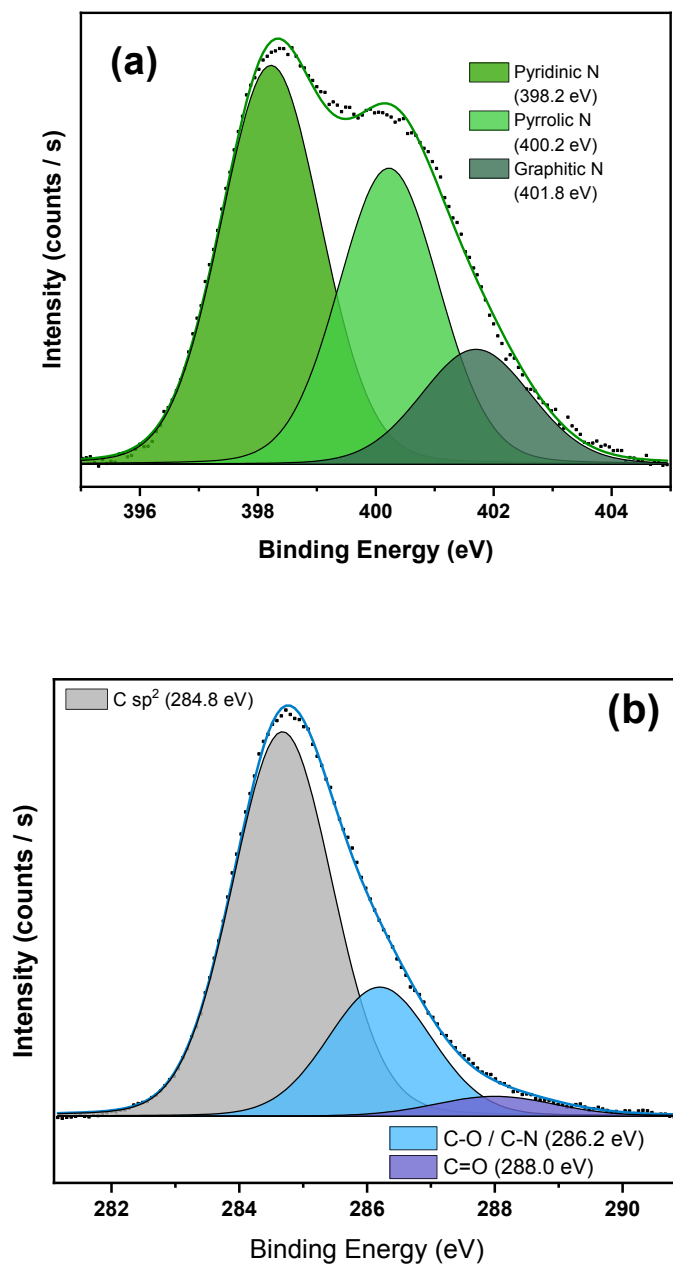


Figure S3. FTIR spectra of **NG-PDI 1** (—) compared with the corresponding spectra of **NG** (—), **NG-TMS** (—) and **PDI 5** (—). Coloured area highlight typical region for $\nu(\text{N}_3)$ and $\nu(\text{alkyne})$ vibrations.



<i>C 1s</i>	BE (eV)	at. %	<i>N 1s</i>	BE (eV)	at. %
C sp ²	284.7	80	C-N-C=O	400.8	40
C sp ³	285.6	6	Azide N/N ⁻	401.5	41
C-O / C-N	286.6	10	Azide N ⁺	405.1	19

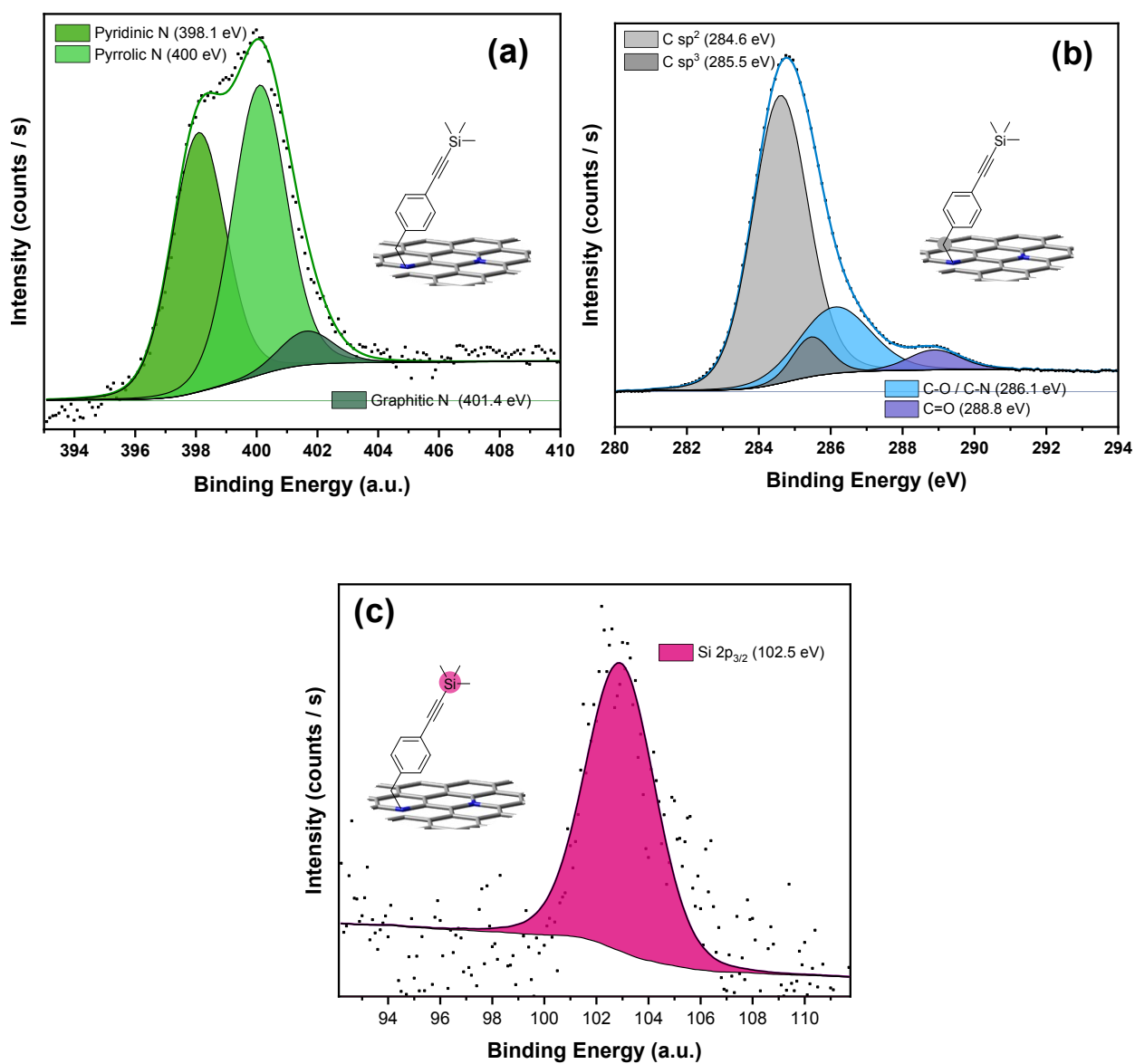
Figure S4. N1s (a) and C1s (b) core level regions of **5** and their deconvolutions.



C 1s	BE (eV)	at. %
C sp^2	284.8	72
C-O / C-N	286.2	23
C=O	288.0	5

N 1s	BE (eV)	at. %
Pyridinic N	398.2	49
Pyrrolic N	400.2	36
Graphitic N	401.8	15

Figure S5 . N1s (a) and C1s (b) core level regions of starting material **NG** and their deconvolutions.



<i>C 1s</i>	BE (eV)	at. %	<i>N 1s</i>	BE (eV)	at. %	<i>Si 2p_{3/2}</i>	BE (eV)	at. %
C sp ²	284.6	70	Pyridinic N	398.1	43	Si	102.5	100
C sp ³	285.5	6	Pyrrolic N	400	51			
C-O / C-N	286.1	20	Graphitic N	401.4	6			
C=O	288.8	4						

Figure S6. N1s (a), C1s (b) and Si 2p core level regions of **NG-TMS** and their deconvolutions.

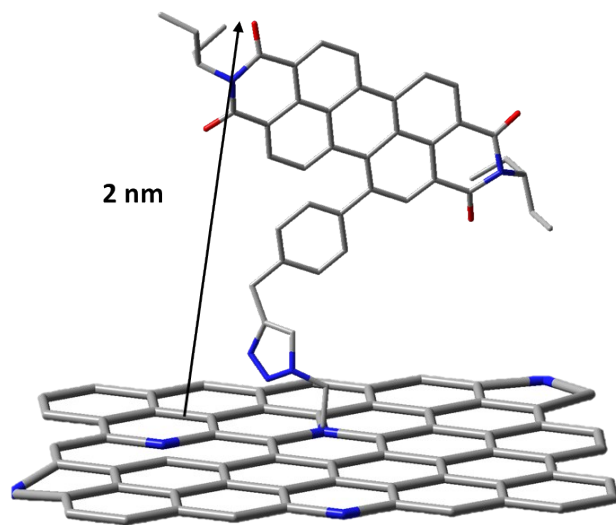


Figure S7. Modelling structure optimized using semiempirical PM3 method implemented on HyperChem 8.0 program package for NG-PDI **1**.

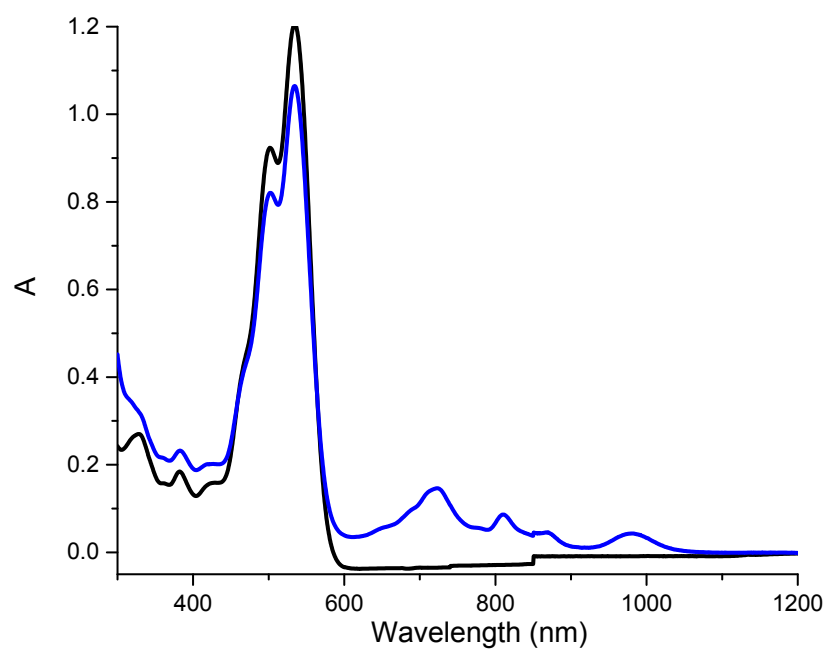


Figure S8. Absorption spectrum of **5** (—) and **5⁻** (—) generated by bulk electrolysis at an applied voltage of -0.9 V in DMF containing 0.2 M (TBA)ClO₄.

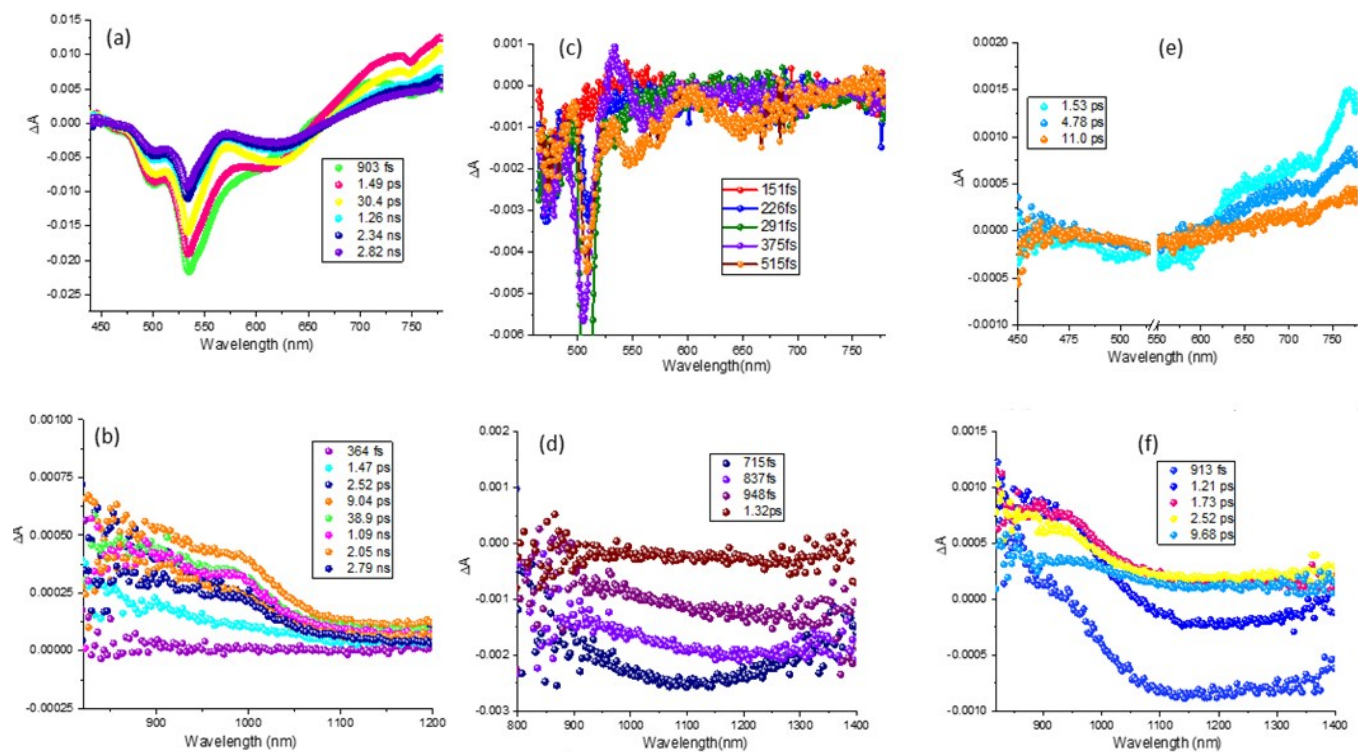


Figure S9. Femtosecond transient absorption spectra at the indicated delay times of (a and b) **5**, (c and d) **NG**, and (e and f) **1** in degassed DMF. **5** and **1** were excited at 535 nm corresponding to PDI excitation while **NG** was excited at 440 nm.

Table S1. Composition of atomic ratios of NG functionalized samples and precursors **NG** and **5**, determined from the XPS survey spectra.

Sample	Core	Atomic (%)
5	C1s	86.5
	N1s	2.6
	O1s	10.9
NG	C1s	95.5
	N1s	2.8
	O1s	1.7*
NG-TMS	C1s	88.9
	N1s	2.7
	O1s	6.9**
	Si2p	1.5
NG-PDI 1	C1s	83.1
	N1s	3.1
	O1s	13.8

* The O1s peak is observed in NG sample, which is possibly due to physisorbed oxygen on the graphene surface, due to the good oxygen adsorption ability in this material.²

** Due to the ultrasonication process in liquid exfoliation, the oxidative processes increase, resulting in a higher content of oxidized carbon atoms.³

2. Synthetic details and characterization

Synthesis of *N,N'*-di(1'-ethylpropyl)-1-(4''-hydroxymethylphenyl)perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxydiimide (**3**)

A solution of Na₂CO₃ in Milli-Q water (17.9 mg in 1.55 mL) is added to a mixture of **2**¹ (100 mg, 0.16 mmol), 4-(hydroxymethyl)phenylboronic acid (28 mg, 0.19 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (18 mg, 0.016 mmol) and dry THF (13 mL). This solution is stirred 12 h at 70 °C under N₂. After cooling at room temperature some dichloromethane is added and the solution is dried with sodium sulfate. After the solvent is distilled off the reaction crude is purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, chloroform/acetone: 30/1) to afford **3** (89 mg, 87%) as a dark red solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): 8.69-8.55 (5H, m, 5xPDI-*H*), 8.11 (1H, d, *J*=8.2 Hz, 1xPDI-*H*), 7.86 (1H, d, *J*=8.2 Hz, 1xPDI-*H*), 7.55-7.26 (4H, m, 4xAr-*H*), 5.11-4.97 (2H, m, 2xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂), 4.85 (2H, s, Ar-CH₂-OH), 2.34-2.15 (4H, m, 2xPDI-CH(CHHCH₃)₂), 2.02-1.84 (4H, m, 4xPDI-CH(CHHCH₃)₂), 1.63 (1H, brs, -OH), 0.93 (6H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂) and 0.87 (6H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 141.82, 141.58, 141.45, 134.80, 134.67, 134.41, 132.53, 129.93, 128.71, 128.69, 128.56, 128.07, 127.54, 123.49, 122.64, 64.79, 57.76, 57.64, 25.03, 25.00 and 11.28 ppm; IR-FT (KBr) ν/cm⁻¹: 3449, 2965, 2933, 2876, 1697, 1654, 1590, 1460, 1421, 1406, 1364, 1332, 1247, 1200, 1085, 811, 789, 750; UV/vis (CH₂Cl₂), λ_{max}/nm (logε): 507 (4,60), 536 (4,66); HR-MS (MALDI-TOF, dithranol): *m/z*=636.2695, [M]⁻, calcd for C₄₁H₃₆N₂O₅: 636.2624

Synthesis of *N,N'*-di(1'-ethylpropyl)-1-(4''-bromomethylphenyl)perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxydiimide (**4**)

A solution of **3** (168 mg, 0.264 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (32 mL) is stirred for a few minutes under nitrogen. Then, PPh₃ (226 mg, 0.861 mmol) is added and, finally, CBr₄ (285 mg, 0.861 mmol) is thrown in. The mixture is heated for 1h at 50°C. Then, the solution is cooled at room temperature and washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. The resulting organic solution is dried with sodium sulfate. After distilling off the solvent, the reaction crude is purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, dichloromethane) yielding **4** (85.4 g, 46%) as a dark pink solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): 8.69-8.54 (5H, m, 5xPDI-*H*), 8.13 (1H, d, *J*=8.2, 1xPDI-*H*), 7.81 (1H, d, *J*=8.2, 1xPDI-*H*), 7.58-7.44 (4H, m, 4xAr-*H*), 5.12-4.98 (2H, m, 2xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂), 4.60 (2H, s, Ar-CH₂-Br), 2.35-2.16 (4H, m, 2xPDI-CH(CHHCH₃)₂), 2.01-1.84 (4H, m, 4xPDI-CH(CHHCH₃)₂), 0.93 (6H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂) and 0.90 ppm (6H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): 142.58, 140.85, 140.81, 138.45, 138.03, 134.69, 134.38, 134.25, 132.47, 130.97, 130.47, 129.95, 129.08, 128.95, 128.89, 128.52, 127.95, 127.40, 123.49, 122.66, 57.67, 57.55, 45.56, 32.56, 29.64, 24.95, 24.93 and 11.28 ppm; IR-FT (KBr) ν/cm⁻¹: 3422, 2963, 2932, 2875, 1698, 1655, 1591, 1460, 1406, 1331, 1247, 1201, 1084, 847, 811, 748, 612; UV/vis (CH₂Cl₂), λ_{max}/nm (logε): 503 (4.39), 536 (4.53); HR-MS (MALDI-TOF, dithranol): *m/z*=698.1783, [M]⁻, calcd for C₄₁H₃₅BrN₂O₄: 698.1780.

Synthesis of *N,N'*-di(1'-ethylpropyl)-1-(4''-azidomethylphenyl)perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxydiimide (5). Sodium azide (741.1 mg, 114 mmol) and **4** (79.6 mg, 0.114 mmol) were dissolved in DMF-H₂O (10:1, 10 mL) and heated to 70°C for 4 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the solvent was removed. The reaction crude was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, dichloromethane) yielding **1** (57.4g, 76%) as a dark pink solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): 8.71-8.56 (5H, m, 5xPDI-*H*), 8.12 (1H, d, *J*=8.2, 1xPDI-*H*), 7.78 (1H, d, *J*=8.2, 1xPDI-*H*), 7.55-7.48 (4H, m, 4xAr*H*), 5.13-4.92 (2H, m, 2xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂), 4.49 (2H, s, Ar-CH₂-N₃), 2.35-2.16 (4H, m, 2xPDI-CH(CHHCH₃)₂), 2.01-1.84 (4H, m, 4xPDI-CH(CHHCH₃)₂), 0.93 (6H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂ and 0.87 (6H, t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 1xPDI-CH(CH₂CH₃)₂)ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): 142.59, 140.89, 135.73, 134.78, 134.44, 134.30, 132.58, 130.18, 129.96, 129.13, 129.05, 128.58, 128.00, 127.46, 123.52, 122.70, 64.53, 57.71, 57.58, 54.34, 24.99, 24.96 and 11.30 ppm; IR-FT (KBr) ν/cm⁻¹: 2964, 2932, 2875, 2099, 1698, 1657, 1460, 1406, 1331, 1246, 1200, 1161, 1084, 866, 851, 812, 789, 749; UV/vis (CH₂Cl₂), λ_{max}/nm (logε): 505 (4.57), 535 (4.66); HR-MS (MALDI-TOF, dithranol): *m/z*=661,2691, [M]⁻, calcd for C₄₁H₃₅N₅O₄: 661.2689.

Characterization

N,N'-di(1'-ethylpropyl)-1-(4''-hydroxymethylphenyl)perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxydiimide (**3**)

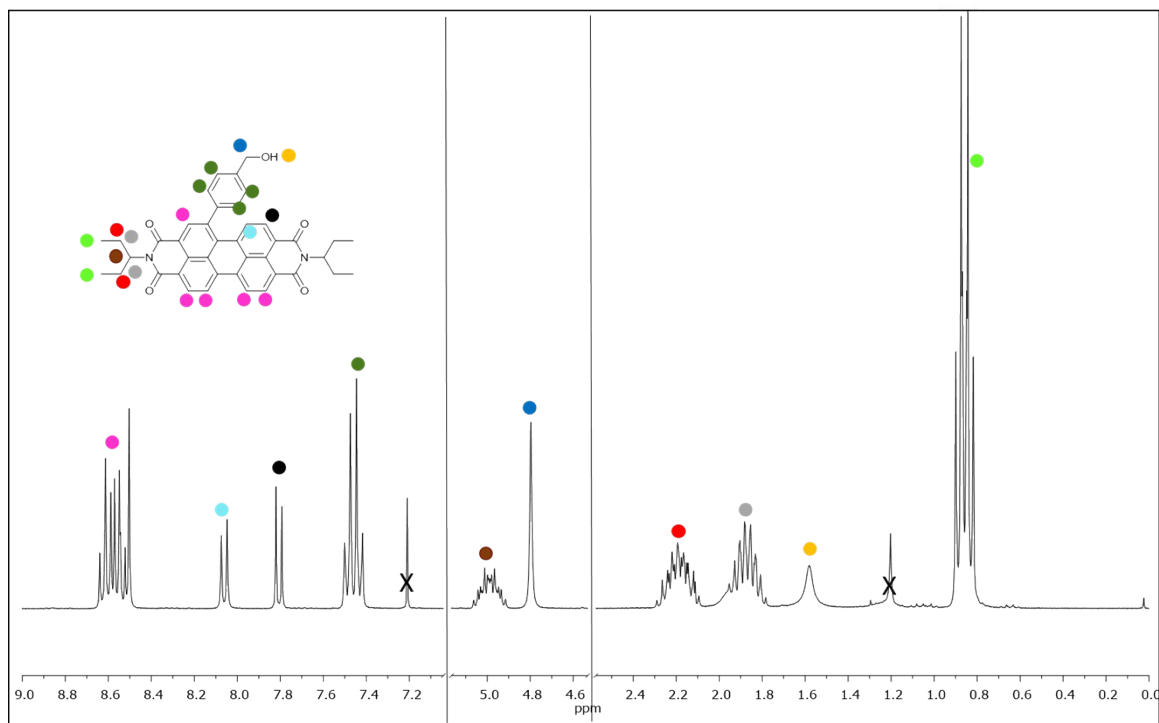


Figure S10: ¹H-NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl₃

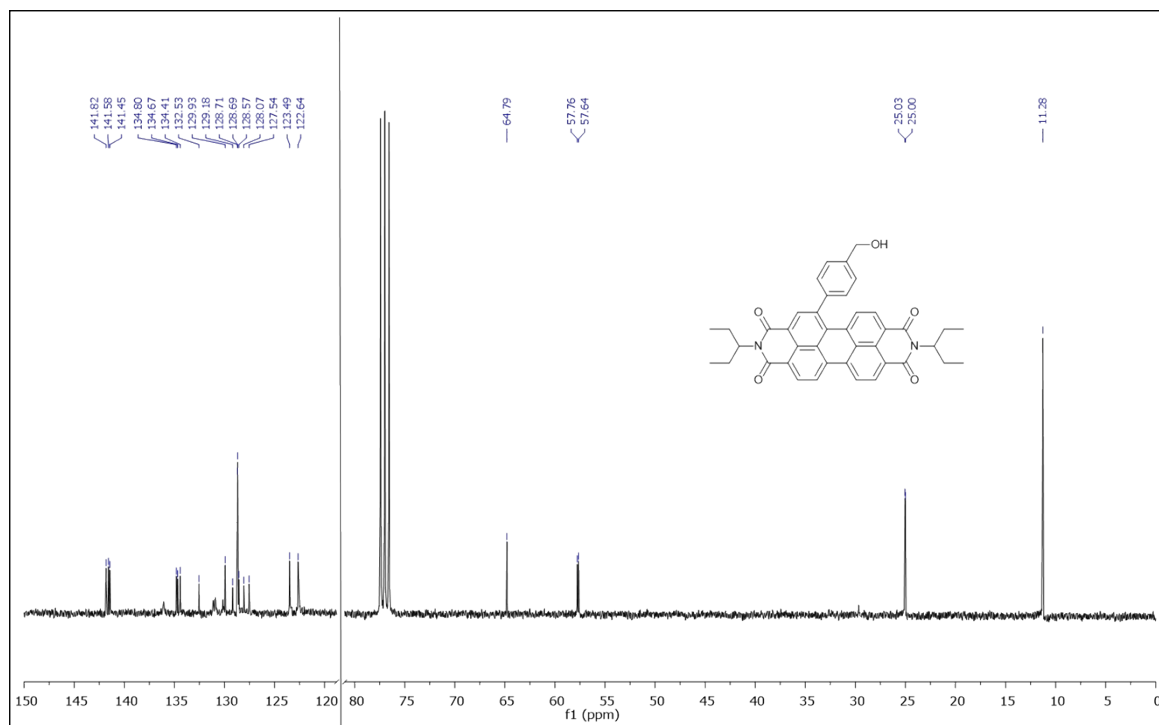


Figure S11: ¹³C-NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl₃

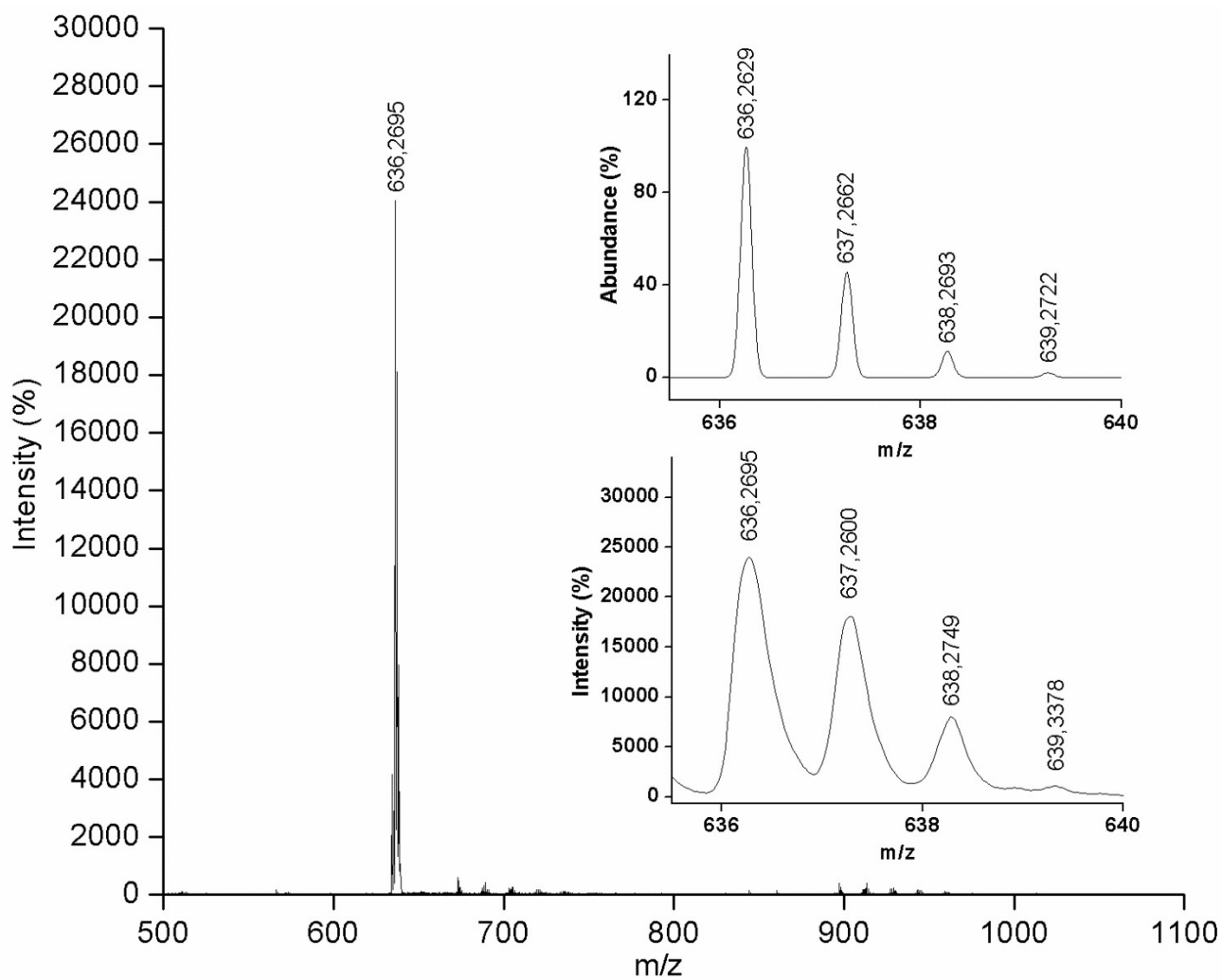
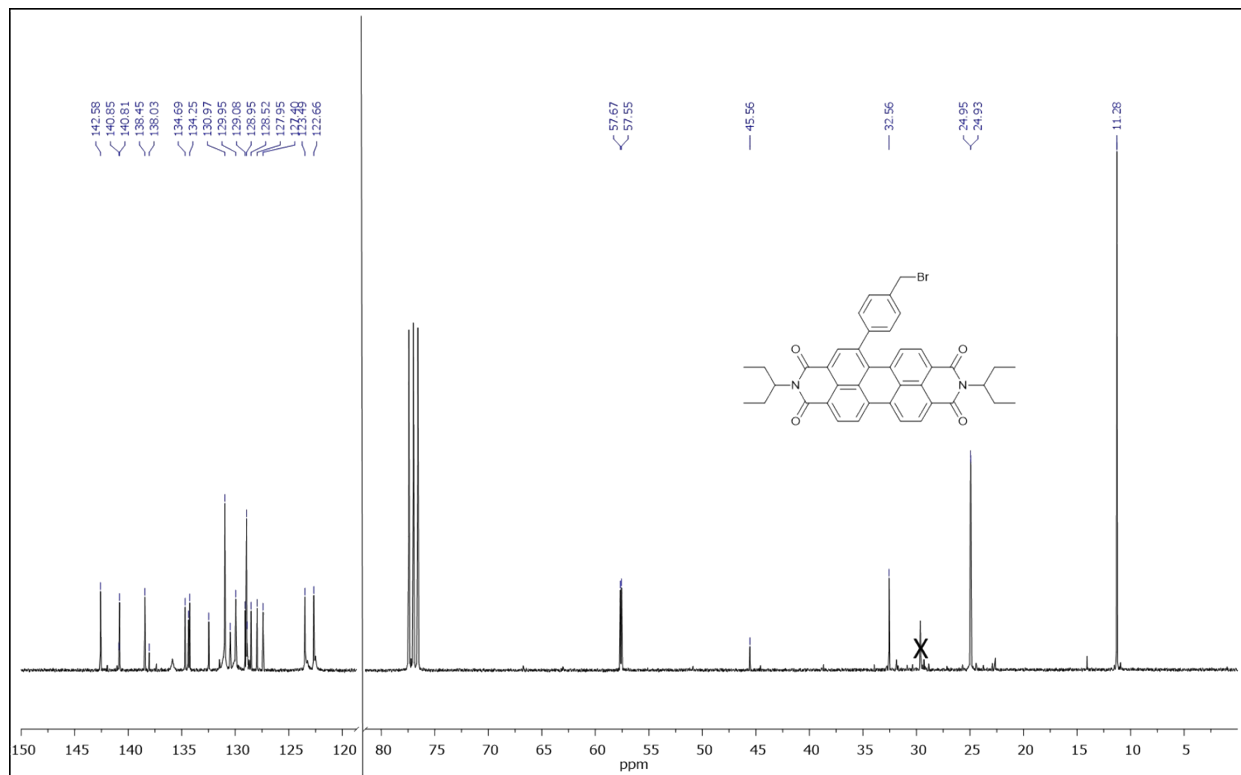
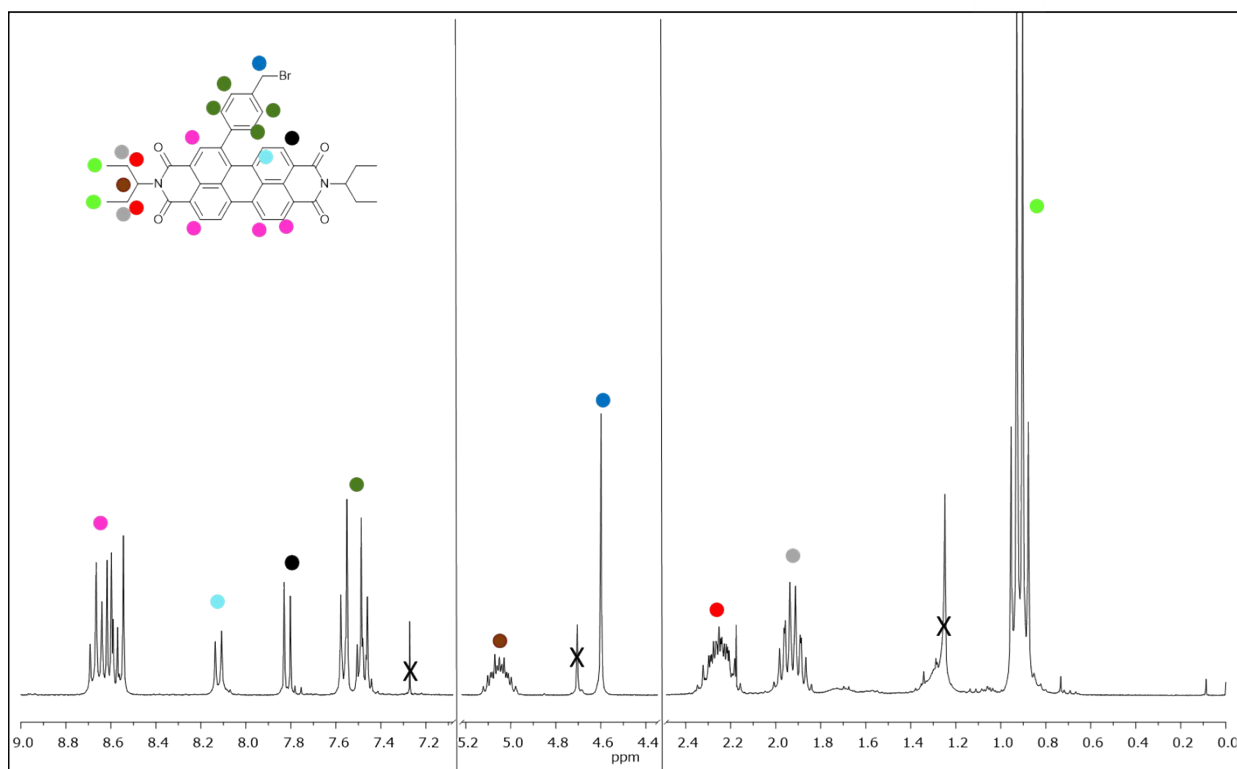


Figure S12: HR-MALDI-TOF spectrum of **3**

***N,N'*-di(1'-ethylpropyl)-1-(4''-bromomethylphenyl)perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxydiimide (4)**



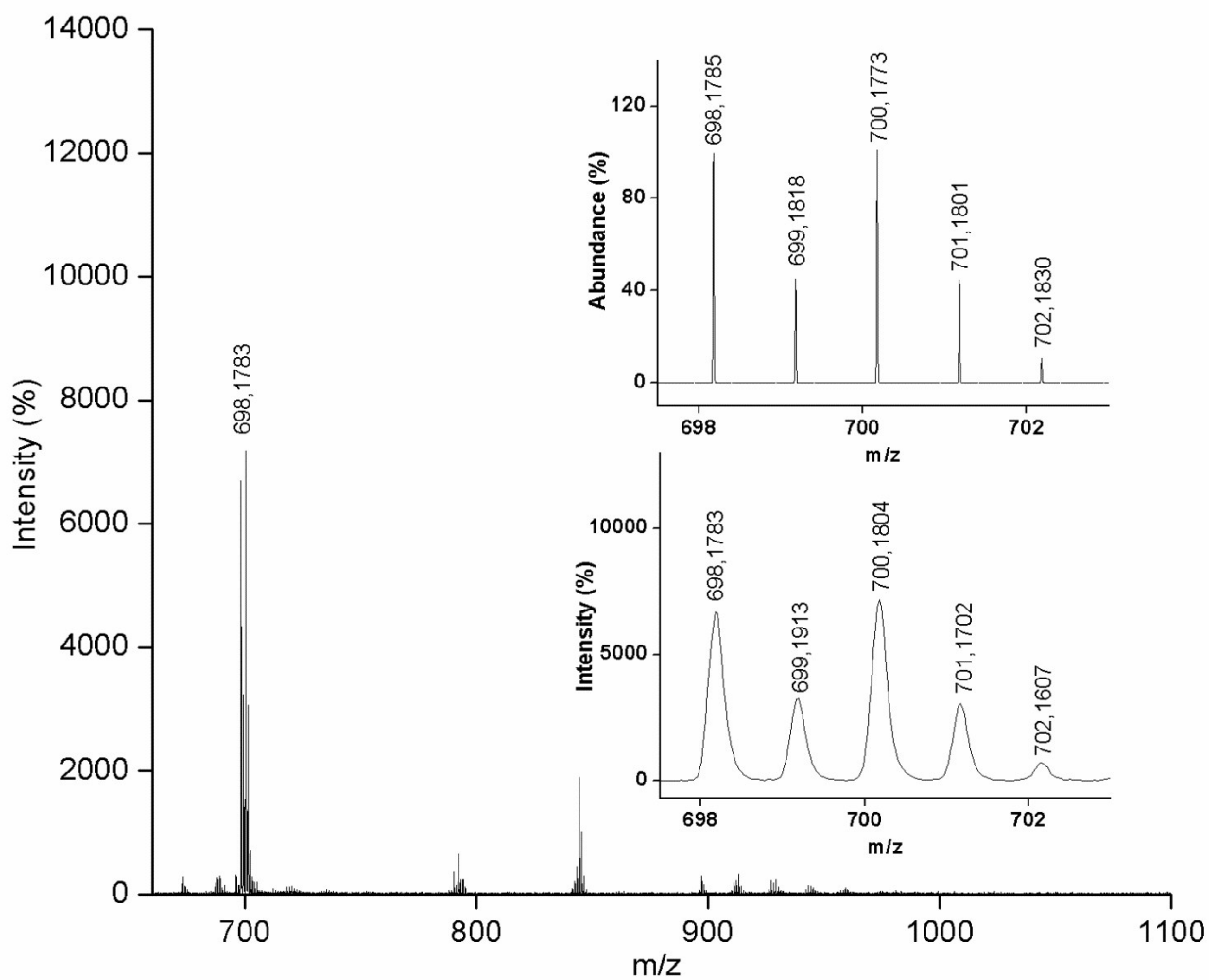


Figure S15: HR-MALDI-TOF spectrum of **4**

***N,N'*-di(1'-ethylpropyl)-1-(4''-azidomethylphenyl)perylene-3,4,9,10-tetracarboxydiimide (5)**

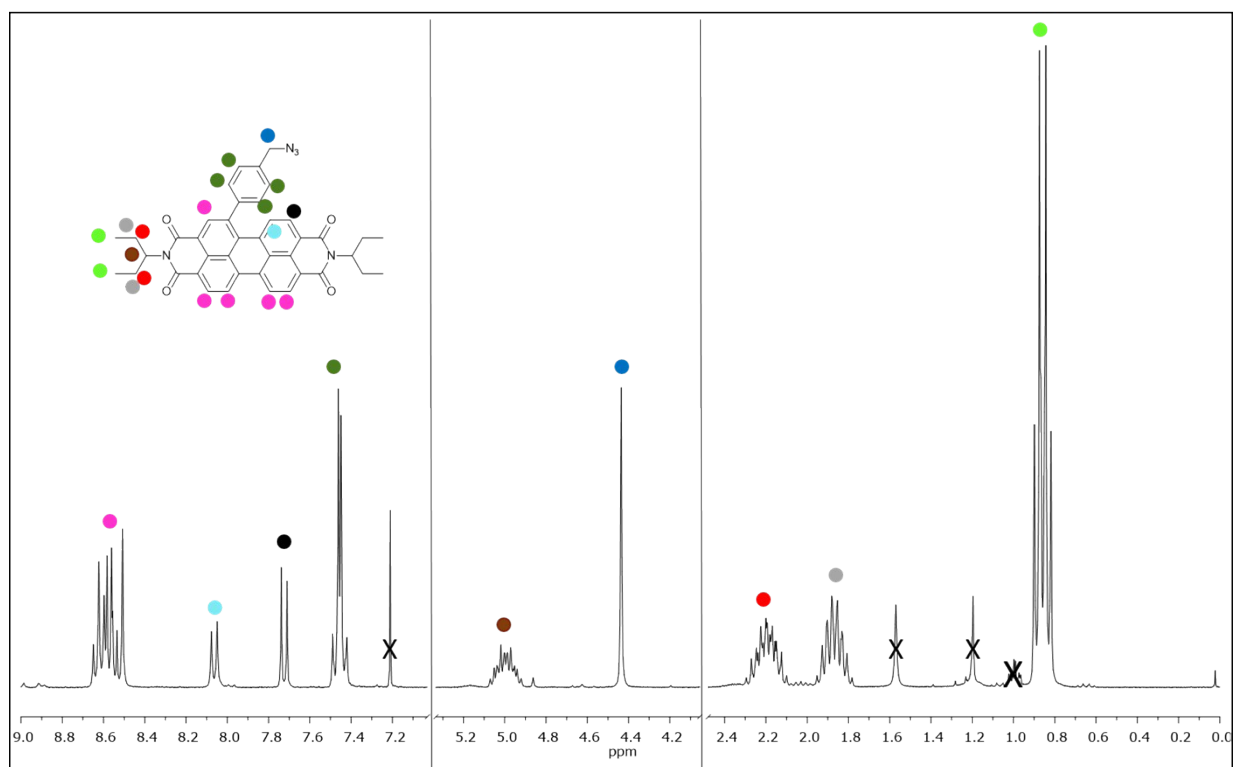


Figure S16: ¹H-NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl₃

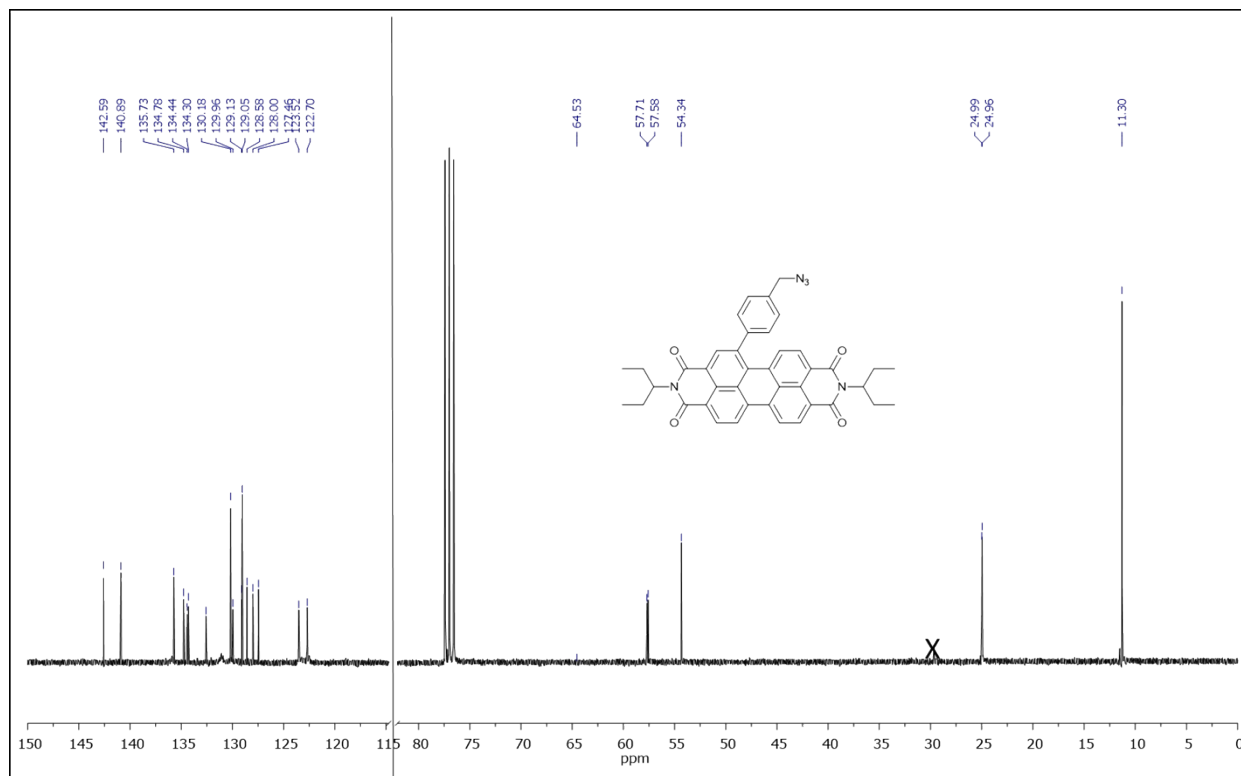


Figure S17: ¹³C-NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl₃

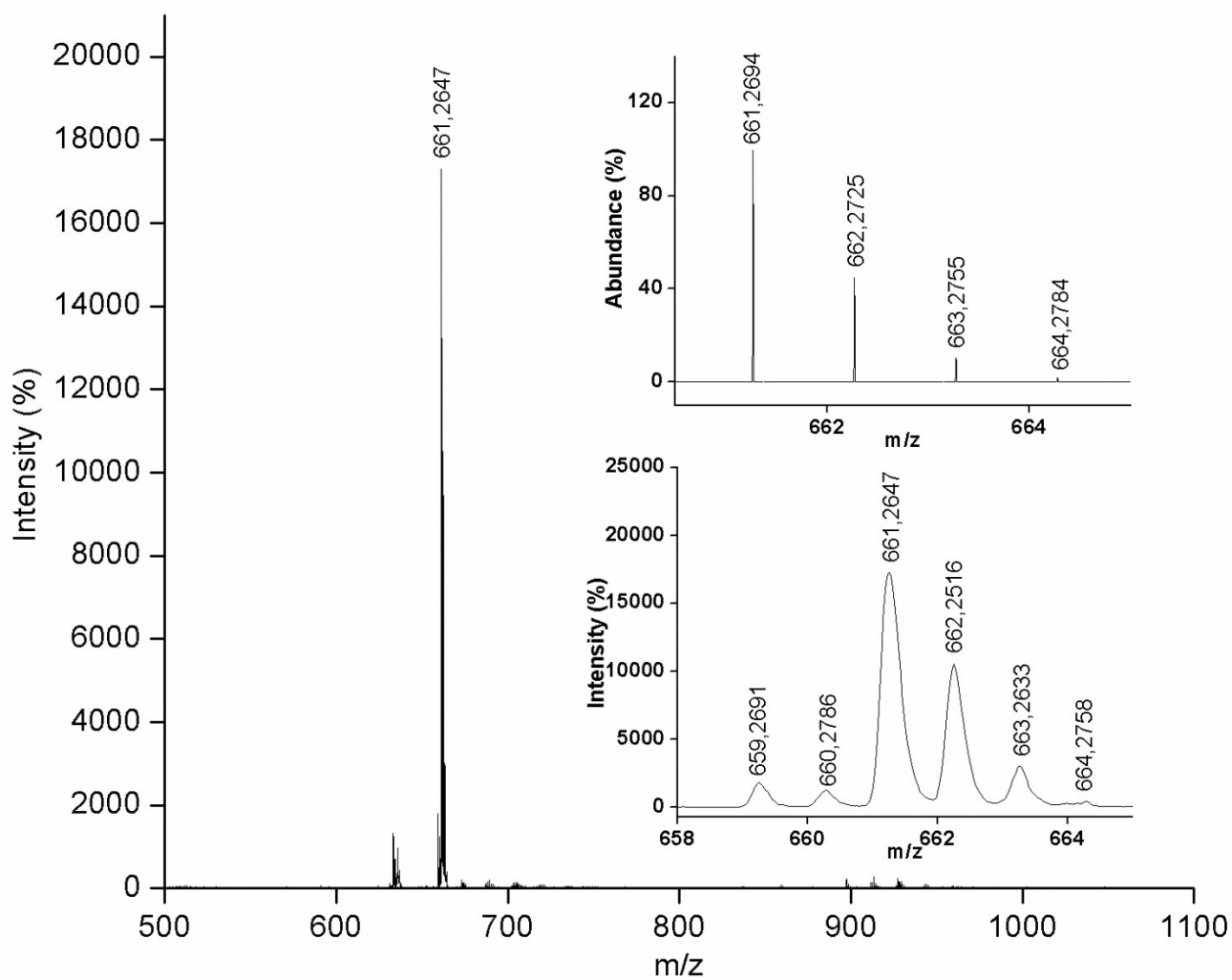


Figure S18: HR-MALDI-TOF spectrum of **5**

References

- H. M. Osorio, S. Catarelli, P. Cea, J. B. Gluyas, F. Hartl, S. J. Higgins, E. Leary, P. J. Low, S. Martin, R. J. Nichols, J. Tory, J. Ulstrup, A. Vezzoli, D. C. Milan and Q. Zeng, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2015**, *137*, 14319.
- 2 a) L. T. Qu, Y. Liu, J. B. Baek and L. M. Dai, *ACS Nano*, **2010**, *4*, 1321; b) A. L. M. Reddy, A. Srivastava, S. R. Gowda, H. Gullapalli, M. Dubey and P. M. Ajayan, *ACS Nano*, **2010**, *4*, 6337.
3. A. O'Neil, U. Khan, P. N. Nirmalraj, J. Boland and J. N. Coleman, *J. Phys. Chem. C*, **2011**, *115*, 5422.