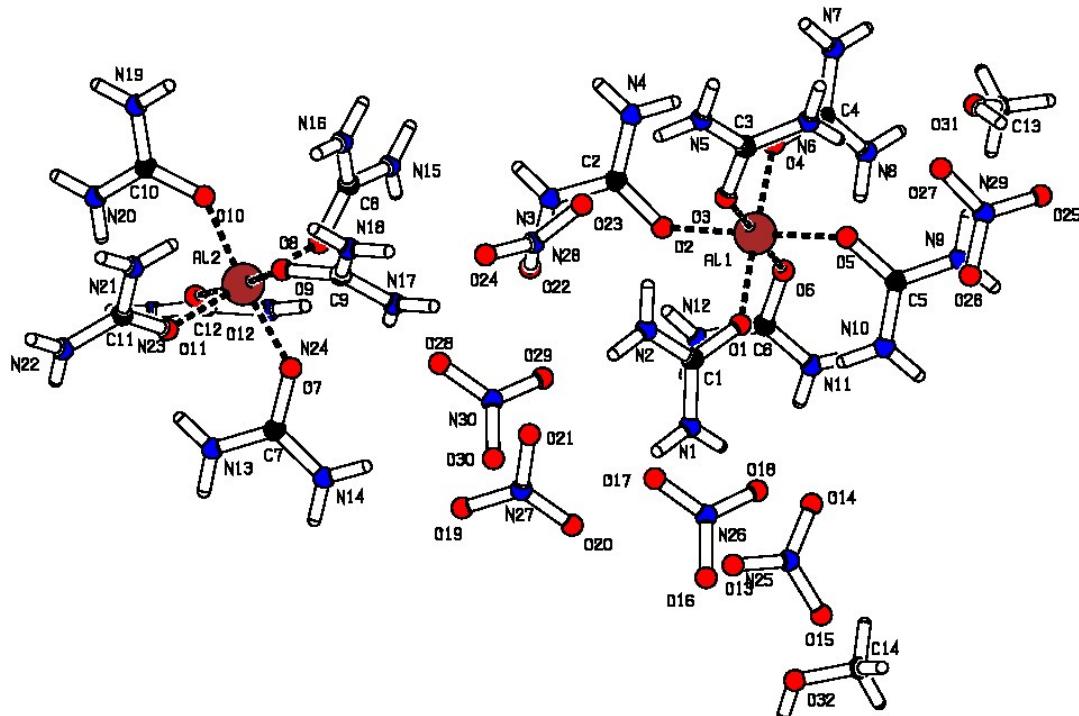


## Supplementary information

**Synthesis, oxide formation, dielectric properties and transistor properties of yttrium oxide and amorphous aluminium oxide using a chimie douce solution precursor route**



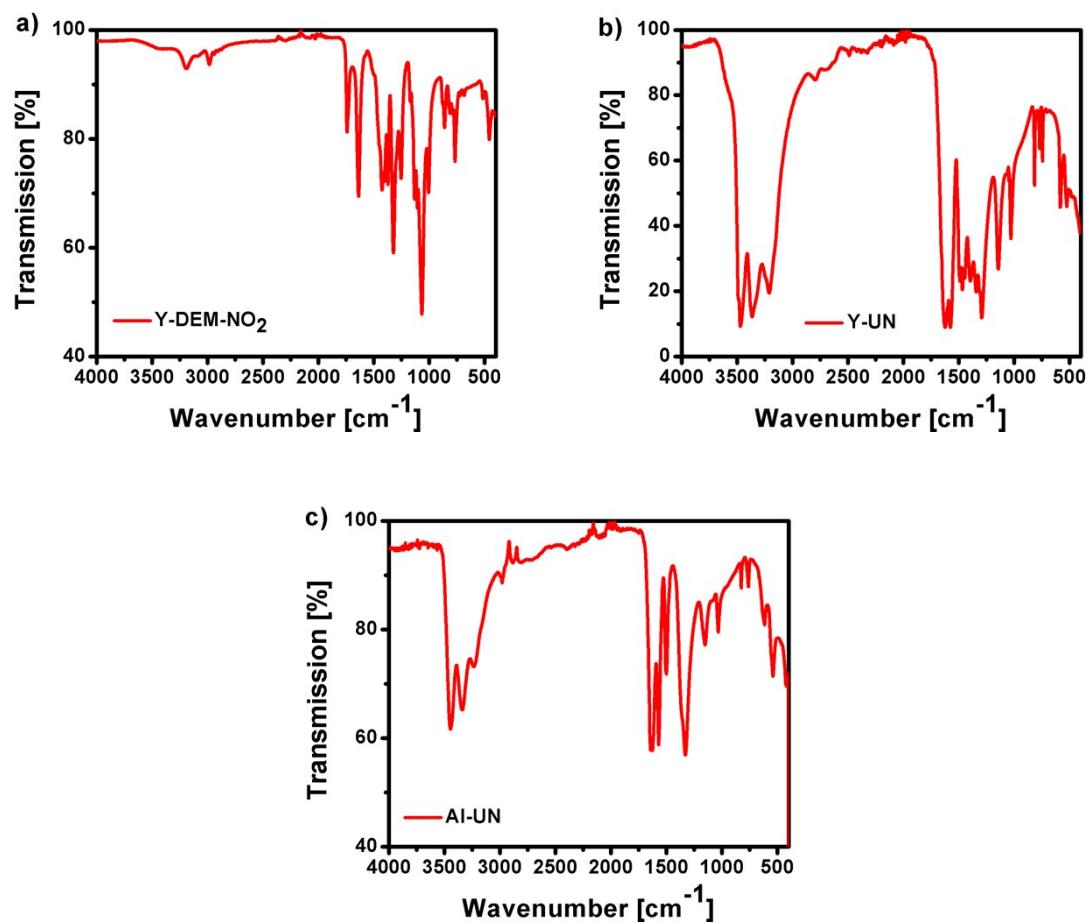
**Fig.S1** Single crystal structure of Al-UN 3. “ball and stick” illustration.

**Table S1** Crystal data and structure refinement of Al-UN.

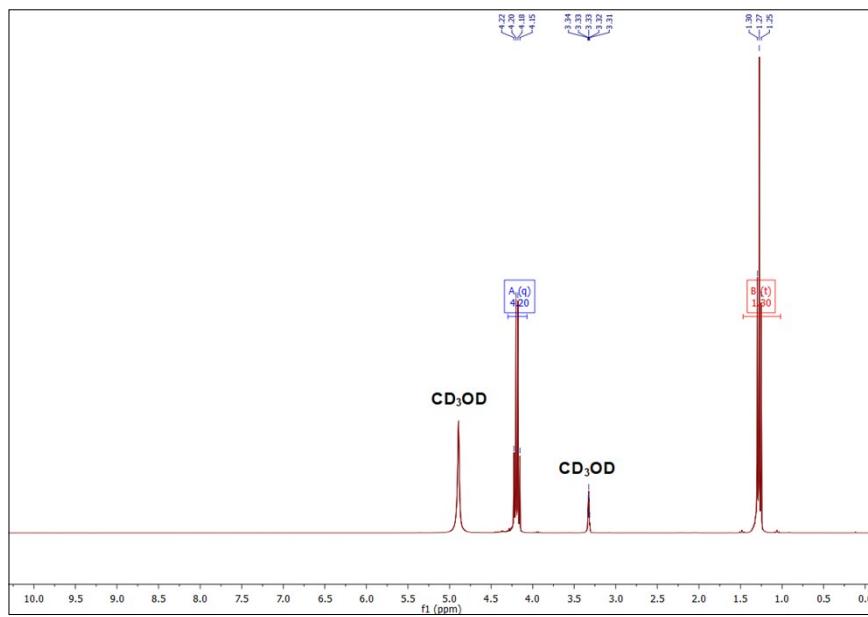
|                                   |   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Empirical formula                 | C7 H28 Al N15 O16                           |                  |
| Formula weight                    | 605.42                                      |                  |
| Temperature                       | 293(2) K                                    |                  |
| Wavelength                        | 0.71073 Å                                   |                  |
| Crystal system                    | Monoclinic                                  |                  |
| Space group                       | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c                          |                  |
| Unit cell dimensions              | a = 21.357(1) Å                             | □ = 90°.         |
|                                   | b = 17.2300(7) Å                            | □ = 106.960(7)°. |
|                                   | c = 14.1833(6) Å                            | □ = 90°.         |
| Volume                            | 4992.2(4) Å <sup>3</sup>                    |                  |
| Z                                 | 8   |                  |
| Density (calculated)              | 1.611 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>                     |                  |
| Absorption coefficient            | 0.183 mm <sup>-1</sup>                      |                  |
| F(000)                            | 2528  |                  |
| Crystal size                      | 0.400 x 0.220 x 0.220 mm <sup>3</sup>       |                  |
| Theta range for data collection   | 2.566 to 25.348°.                           |                  |
| Index ranges                      | -25<=h<=16, -20<=k<=19, -10<=l<=17          |                  |
| Reflections collected             | 18866                                       |                  |
| Independent reflections           | 9076 [R(int) = 0.0227]                      |                  |
| Completeness to theta = 25.242°   | 99.3 %                                      |                  |
| Absorption correction             | Semi-empirical from equivalents             |                  |
| Max. and min. transmission        | 0.961 and 0.930                             |                  |
| Refinement method                 | Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup> |                  |
| Data / restraints / parameters    | 9076 / 13 / 706                             |                  |
| Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup> | 1.030                                       |                  |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]     | R1 = 0.0600, wR2 = 0.1410                   |                  |
| R indices (all data)              | R1 = 0.0964, wR2 = 0.1626                   |                  |
| Largest diff. peak and hole       | 1.115 and -0.791 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>          |                  |

**Table S2** Crystal data and structure refinement of Y-UN.

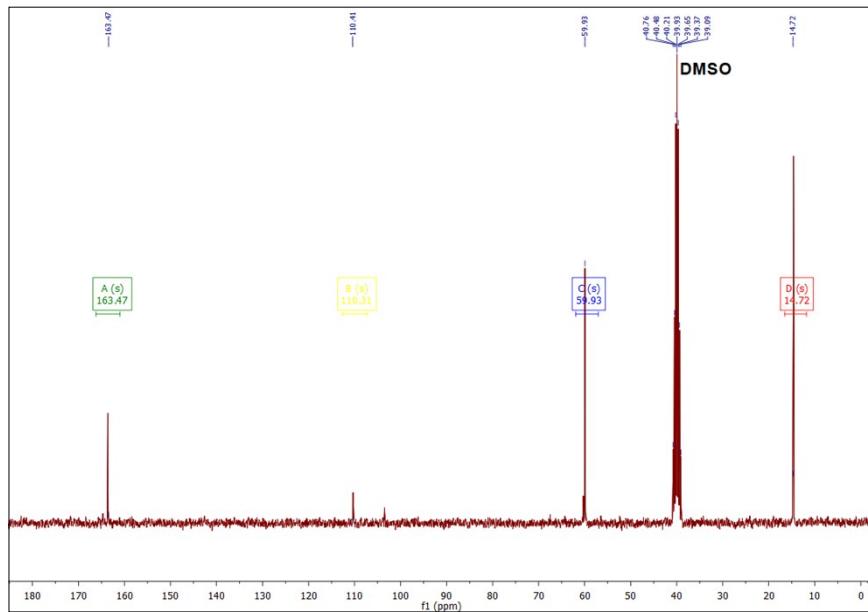
|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Identification code               | NK10 (Y-UN)  |
| Empirical formula                 | C4 H16 N11 O13 Y   |
| Formula weight                    | 515.19   |
| Temperature                       | 293(2) K   |
| Wavelength                        | 0.71073 Å  |
| Crystal system                    | Triclinic  |
| Space group                       | P-1  |
| Unit cell dimensions              | $a = 7.5428(7)$ Å $a = 112.238(8)^\circ$ .<br>$b = 11.256(1)$ Å $b = 96.414(7)^\circ$ .<br>$c = 11.976(1)$ Å $g = 94.215(7)^\circ$ . |
| Volume                            | 927.83(15) Å <sup>3</sup>  |
| Z                                 | 2  |
| Density (calculated)              | 1.844 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>  |
| Absorption coefficient            | 3.232 mm <sup>-1</sup>   |
| F(000)                            | 520  |
| Crystal size                      | 0.500 x 0.480 x 0.460 mm <sup>3</sup>  |
| Theta range for data collection   | 3.069 to 25.344°.  |
| Index ranges                      | -9<=h<=9, -13<=k<=13, -14<=l<=14   |
| Reflections collected             | 5662   |
| Independent reflections           | 3363 [R(int) = 0.0152]   |
| Completeness to theta = 25.242°   | 99.2 %   |
| Absorption correction             | Semi-empirical from equivalents  |
| Max. and min. transmission        | 0.318 and 0.295  |
| Refinement method                 | Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>  |
| Data / restraints / parameters    | 3363 / 16 / 310  |
| Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup> | 1.076  |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]     | R1 = 0.0271, wR2 = 0.0681  |
| R indices (all data)              | R1 = 0.0335, wR2 = 0.0695  |
| Largest diff. peak and hole       | 0.438 and -0.521 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>   |



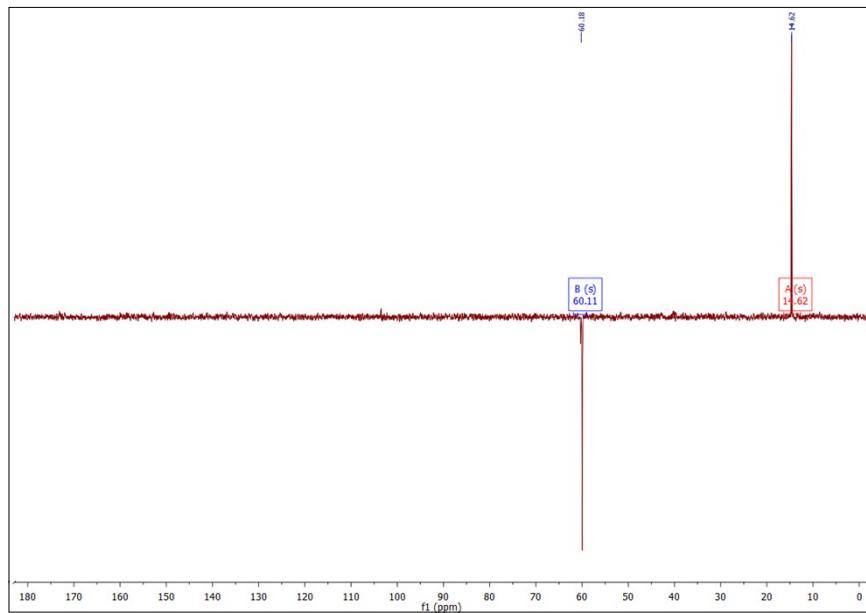
**Fig.S2** FTIR-spectrum of (a) bis(diethyl-2-nitromalonato) nitrate yttrium(III) **1**, (b) dinitrato tetra(urea) yttrium(III)-nitrate **2** and (c) hexakis(urea) aluminium(III)-nitrate **3**.



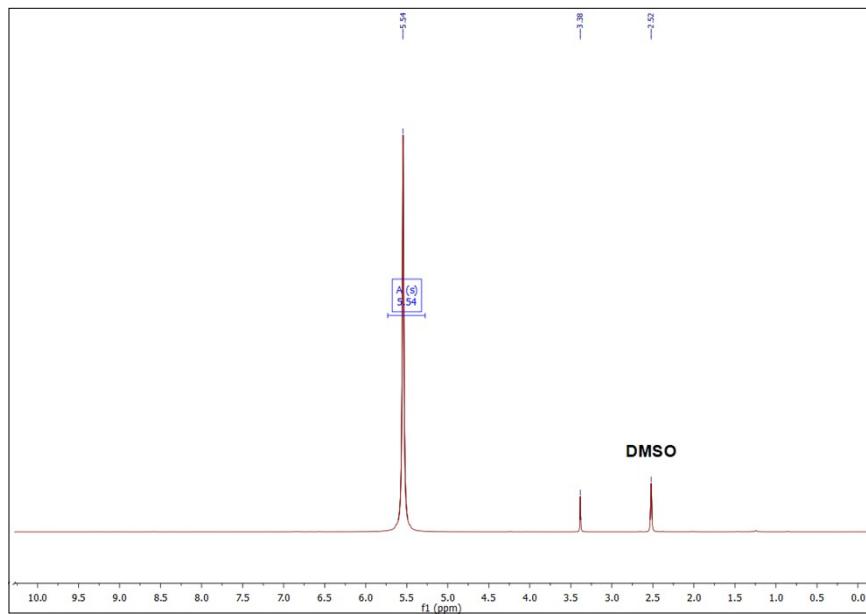
**Fig.S3**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR-spectrum ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ) of bis(diethyl-2-nitromalonato) nitrato yttrium(III) **1**.



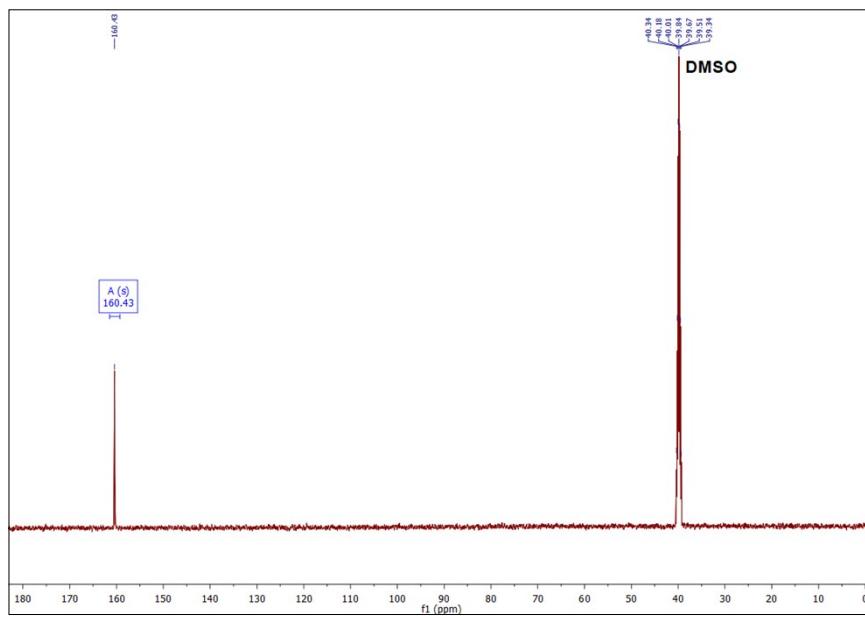
**Fig.S4**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR-spectrum (DMSO) of bis(diethyl-2-nitromalonato) nitrato yttrium(III) **1**.



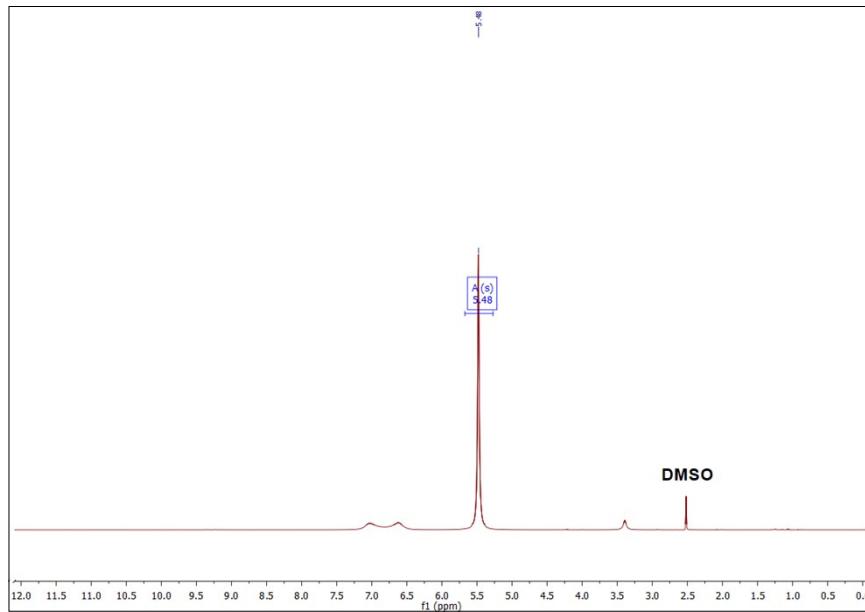
**Fig.S5** DEPT-spectrum (DMSO) of bis(diethyl-2-nitromalonato) nitrato yttrium(III) **1**.



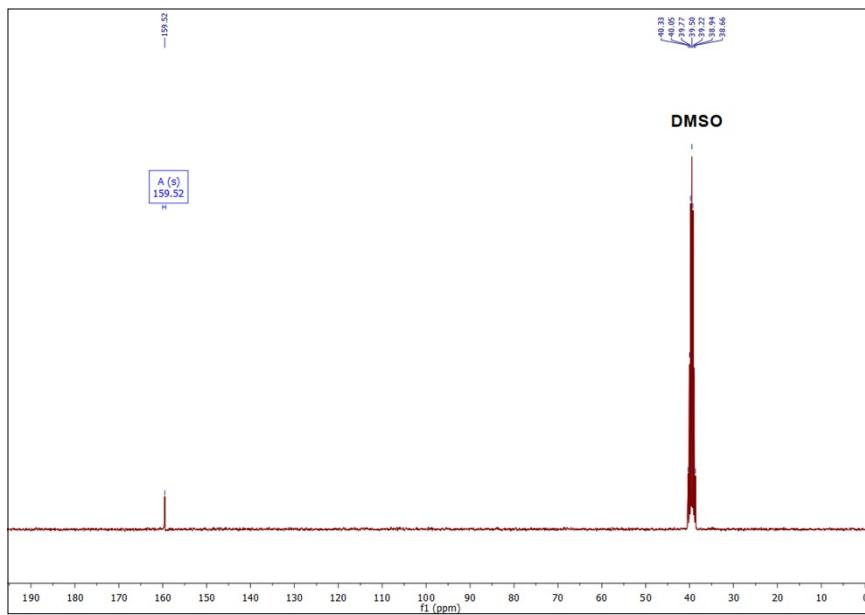
**Fig.S6** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR-spectrum (DMSO) of dinitrato tetra(urea) yttrium(III)-nitrate **2**.



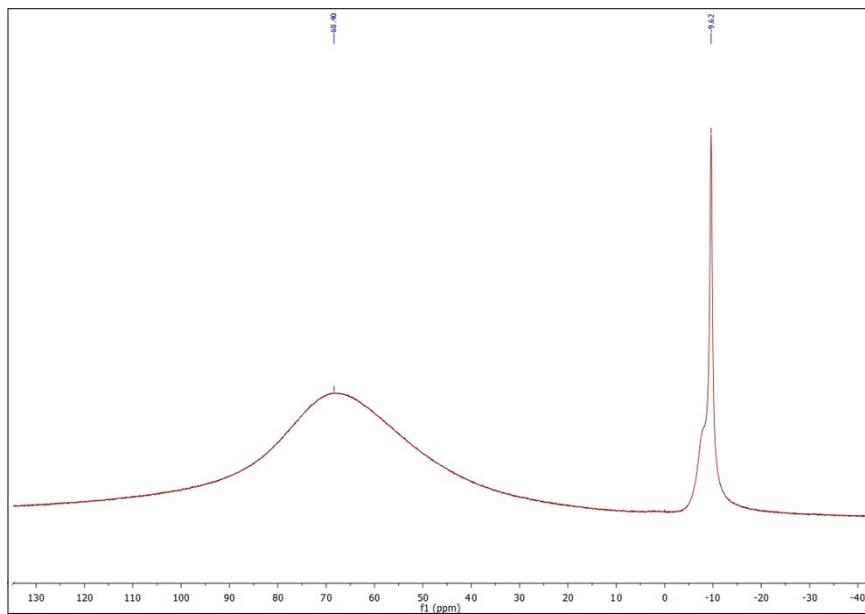
**Fig.S7** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR-spectrum (DMSO) of dinitrato tetra(urea) yttrium(III)-nitrate **2**.



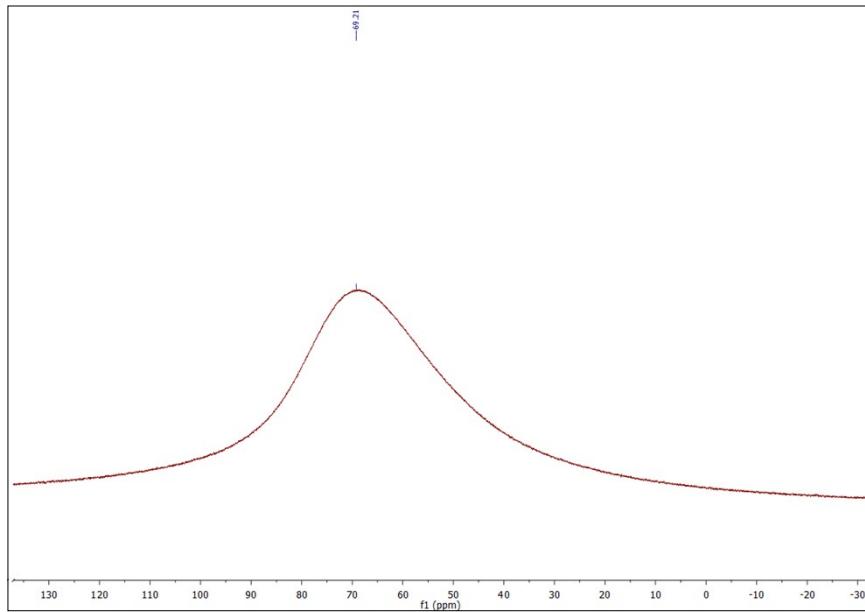
**Fig.S8** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR-spectrum (DMSO) of hexakis(urea) aluminium(III)-nitrate **3**.



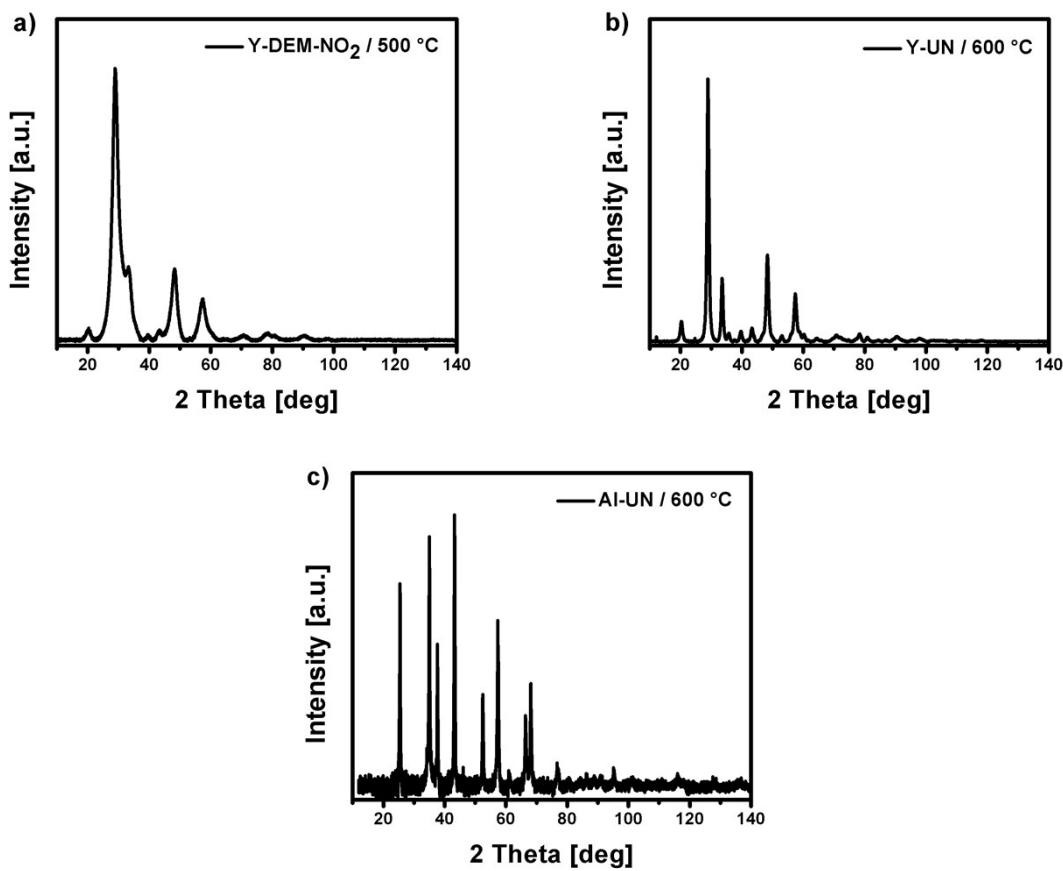
**Fig.S9**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR-spectrum (DMSO) of hexakis(urea) aluminium(III)-nitrate **3**.



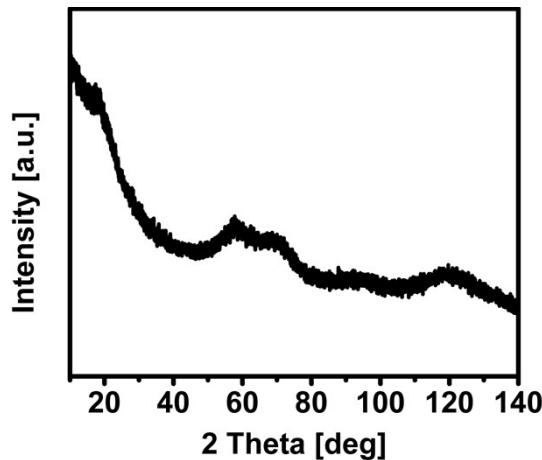
**Fig.S10**  $^{27}\text{Al}$ -NMR-spectrum ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ) of hexakis(urea) aluminium(III)-nitrate **3**.



**Fig. S11**  $^{27}\text{Al}$ -NMR-spectrum of empty crucible.



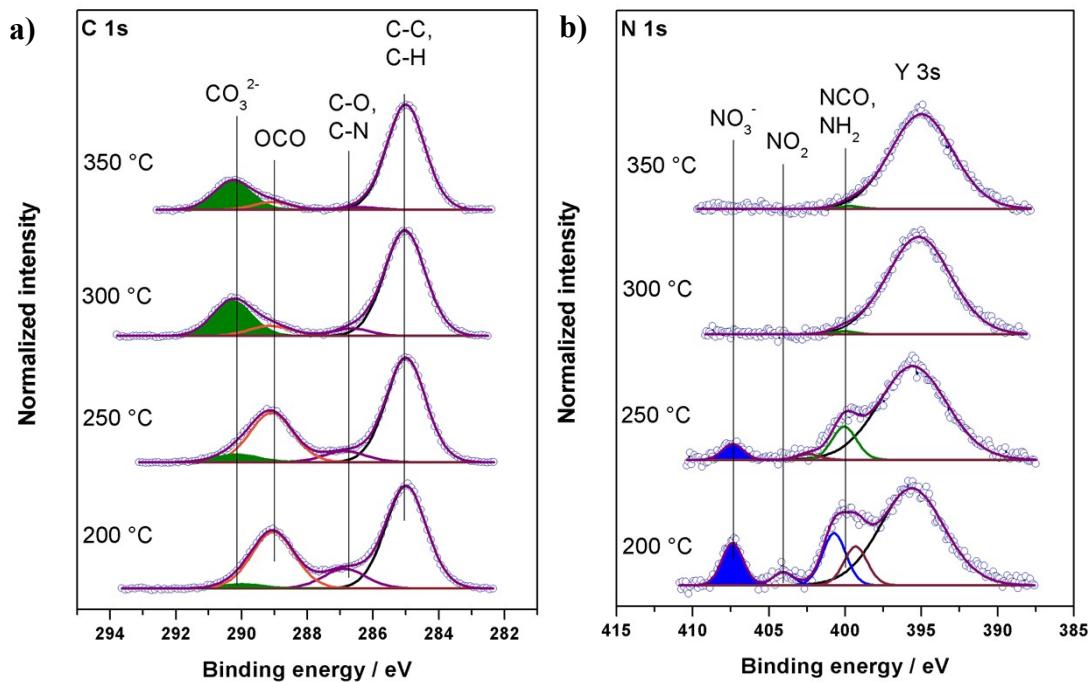
**Fig. S12** XRD of (a) bis(diethyl-2-nitromalonato) nitroato yttrium(III) **1** annealed at 500 °C, (b) dinitrato tetra(urea) yttrium(III)-nitrate **2** annealed at 600 °C and (c) hexakis(urea) aluminium(III)-nitrate **3** annealed at 600 °C.



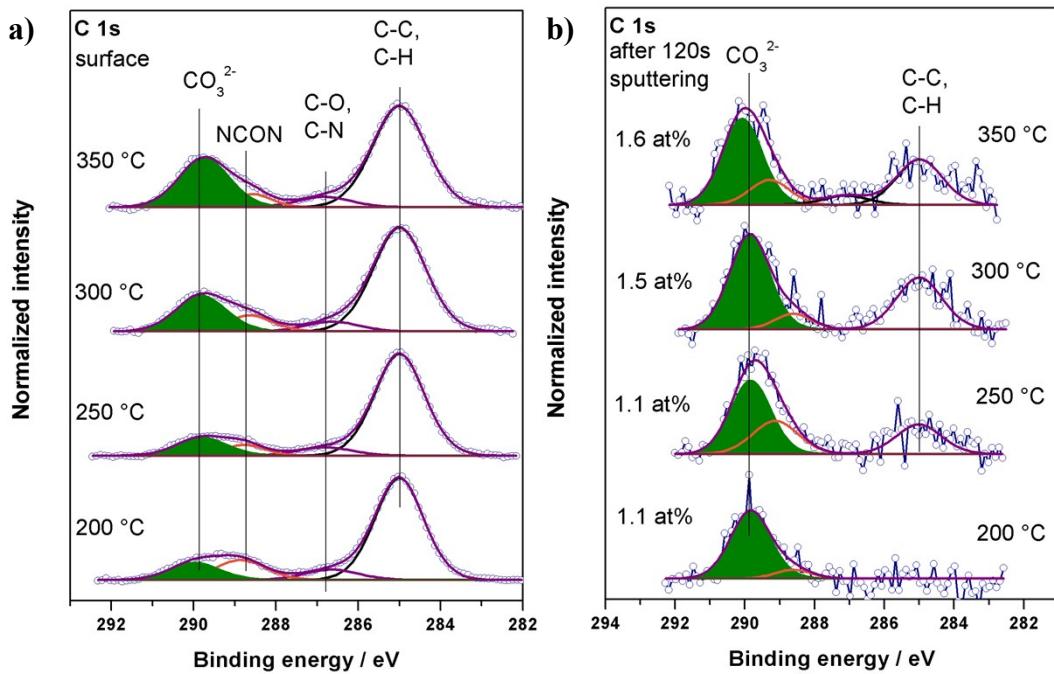
**Fig. S13** XRD of empty crucible.

**Table S3** Summary of spectroscopic ellipsometry measurements.

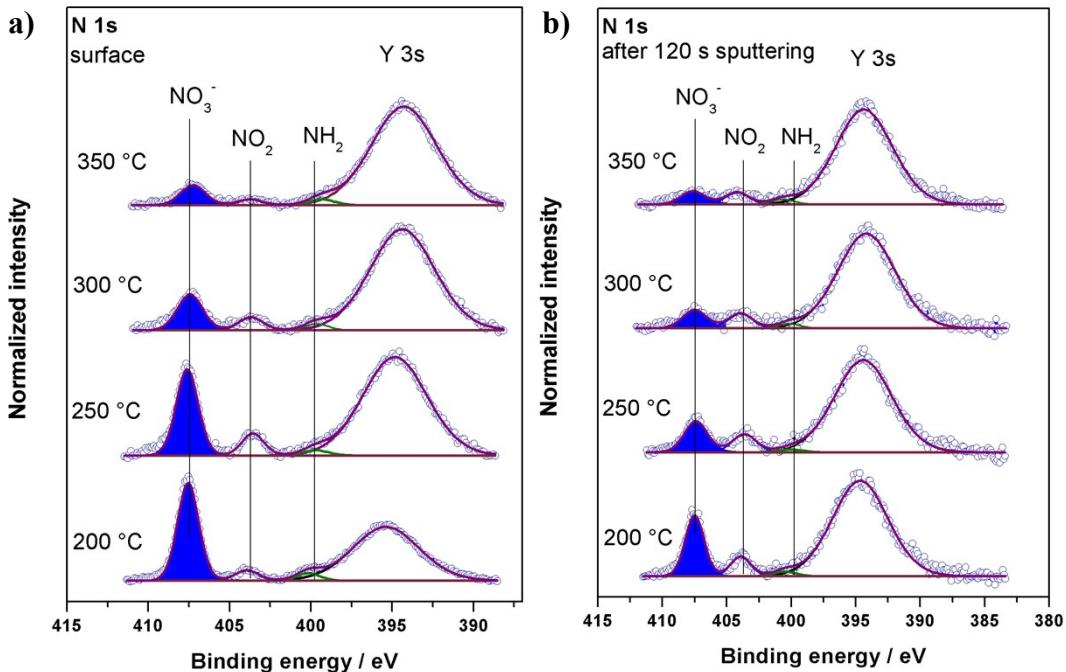
| Temperature<br>(°C) | Y-DEM-NO <sub>2</sub><br>(nm) | Y-UN<br>(nm) | Al-UN<br>(nm) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 350                 | 156                           | 82           | 59            |
| 300                 | 163                           | 87           | 61            |
| 250                 | 248                           | /            | 74            |
| 200                 | 286                           | /            | 130           |



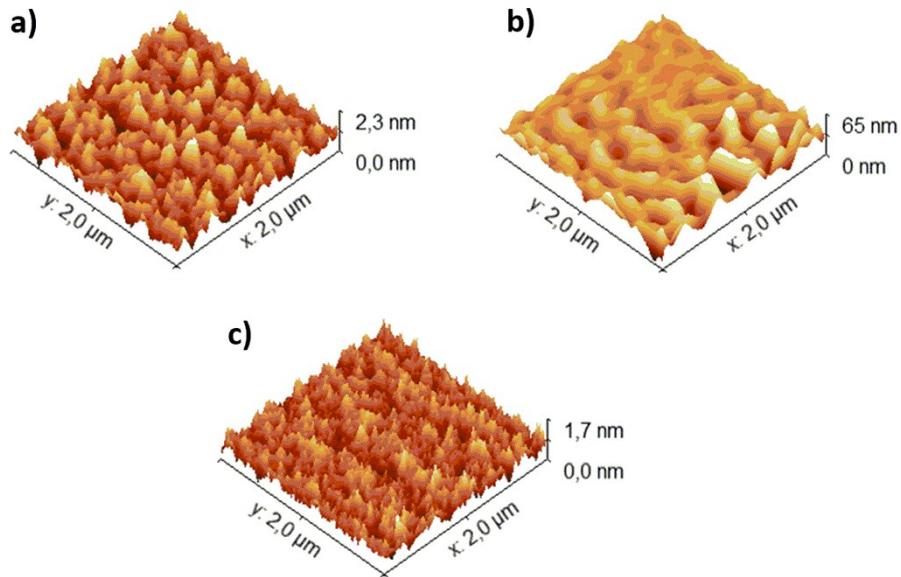
**Fig. S 14** C 1s (a) and N 1s (b) XPS core spectra of samples obtained from Y-DEM-NO<sub>2</sub> precursor **1** annealed for 2 hours each at 200 °C, 250 °C, 300 °C and 350 °C.



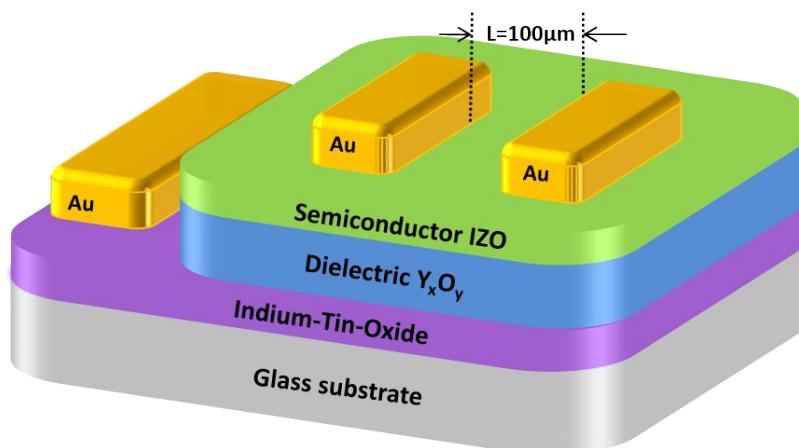
**Fig. S 15** C 1s XPS core spectra of samples obtained from Y-UN precursor **2** annealed for 2 hours each at 200 °C, 250 °C, 300 °C and 350 °C. (a) initial sample without sputtering and (b) after 120 s of surface sputtering (cluster size of 300 atoms with 8000 eV).



**Fig. S 16** N 1s XPS core spectra of samples obtained from Y-UN precursor **2** annealed for 2 hours each at 200 °C, 250 °C, 300 °C and 350 °C. (a) initial sample surface without sputtering and (b) after 120 s sputtering (cluster size of 300 atoms with 8000 eV).



**Fig. S 17** a-c) AFM images of precursor **1**, **2** and **3** prepared at 350 °C.



**Fig. S 18** Schematic illustration of the fabricated  $Y_xO_y$  based thin film transistor.