## **Supplemental Information**

## Mesoporous Amorphous Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Crystalline WO<sub>3</sub> Heterophase Hybrids for Electrocatalysis and Gas Sensing Applications

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**Figure S1.** Optical photographs of the mAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/WO<sub>3</sub>-*X* (X = 0, 2.0, 5.0, 10.0 and 20.0) after carbonization in N<sub>2</sub> (350 °C/500 °C) and calcination in air at 400 °C for 1 h, 450 °C for 1 h and 500 °C for 0.5 h, respectively.



Figure S2. HAADF-STEM image of  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3$ -5.0 after carbonization in  $N_2$  (350 °C/500 °C) and calcination in air at 450 °C. The corresponding EDX and elemental mapping images of  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3$ -5.0 with W, Al and O elements.



**Figure S3.** (a) XRD patterns of the various  $Al_2O_3$  content for  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3$ -*X* composites after calcination in air at 400 °C (*X* =0, 2.0, 5.0, 10.0 and 20.0). (b) XRD patterns of the various  $Al_2O_3$  content for  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3$ -*X* composites after calcination in air at 500 °C (*X* =0, 2.0, 5.0, 10.0 and 20.0).



**Figure S4.** (a) FT-IR spectra and (b) UV-DRS of the various  $Al_2O_3$  content for  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3-X$  composites after calcination in air at 450 °C.



Figure S5. Wide scan XPS spectra of pure  $mWO_3$  and  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3$ -5.0 composites after carbonization in N<sub>2</sub> at 350 °C and calcination at 450 °C in air.



Figure S6. (a) FESEM images of standard commercial  $WO_3$  nano-powders and (b)  $N_2$  adsorptiondesorption isotherms recorded at 77 K. The inset in panel (b) is the corresponding pore size distribution curve (the measured pores are from the voids among the closely packed  $WO_3$ particles).

Samples	Pore size D (nm) <sup><i>a</i></sup>	$S_{\mathrm{BET}}{}^{b}\left(\mathrm{m}^{2}\cdot\mathrm{g}^{-1} ight)$	$V_{t}^{c}(\mathrm{cm}^{3}\cdot\mathrm{g}^{-1})$	
mWO <sub>3</sub>	15.3	42.5	0.150	
mAl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /WO <sub>3</sub> -2.0	20.9	52.5	0.179	
mAl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /WO <sub>3</sub> -5.0	19.2	58.8	0.178	
mAl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /WO <sub>3</sub> -10.0	20.8	67.3	0.188	
mAl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /WO <sub>3</sub> -20.0	20.6	72.6	0.202	

**Table S1.** Textural properties of the ordered mesoporous  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3-X$  (X = 0, 2.0, 5.0, 10.0 and 20.0) samples calcination in air at 450 °C

<sup>*a*</sup>*D*: pore diameter derived from the adsorption branches at the maxima of BJH pore size distribution curves;  ${}^{b}S_{\text{BET}}$ : BET specific surface area;  ${}^{c}V_{t}$ : total pore volume was calculated from *t*-plot method.

Samples	O 1s			W 4f			
	lattice oxygen O <sup>2-</sup>	dissociative O <sup>-</sup>	adsorbed molecular oxygen	$W^{5+}  4 f_{5/2}$	$W^{5+}  4 f_{7/2}$	$W^{6+}  4 f_{5/2}$	$W^{6+}4f_{7/2}$
mWO <sub>3</sub>	530.10 eV	530.90 eV	532.45 eV	37.40 eV	35.22 eV	35.73 eV	37.88 eV
	76.44%	13.96%	9.60%	31.47%	33.88%	21.70%	12.95%
mAl <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /WO <sub>3</sub> -5.0	530.14 eV	531.05 eV	532.40 eV	37.48 eV	35.14 eV	35.81 eV	38.03 eV
	46.99%	44.05%	8.96%	24.60%	16.00%	28.36%	31.04%

**Table S2.** Relative contents of different groups of  $mWO_3$  and  $mAl_2O_3/WO_3$ -5.0 calculated from XPS analysis