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Supplementary Information

Biofunctionalization of fluorescent-magnetic-bifunctional nanospheres and their applications

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Figure SI-1. The trifunctional avidin-nanospheres bind to biotin-FITC. The trifunctional nanospheres were mixed with biotin -FITC. After washing off biotin-FITC, the nanospheres were irradiated for about 20 min with a Hg-lamp to excite the complex of trifunctional avidin-nanospheres-biotin-FITC (**A**). The strong green color indicates the binding of biotin-FITC. After FITC was photobleached, the complex returned to orange-red colour of the nanospheres themselves (**B**). Control experiments: No green fluorescence (from FITC) except the orange-red fluorescence of the nanospheres themselves was seen when the nanospheres were coupled with avidin without oxidation (thus no coupling of avidin to the nanosphere) (**C**) or when the bifunctional nanospheres were used in the binding reaction with biotin-FITC directly (**D**).

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Figure SI-2. The trifunctional biotin-nanospheres bind to streptavidin-phycoerythrin. The trifunctional biotin-nanospheres were mixed with streptavidin-phycoerythrin. After washing off unbound streptavidin-phycoerythrin, the nanospheres were irradiated for about 40 min with a Hg-lamp to excite the complex. The orange-red fluorescence of the complex indicates the presence of streptavidin-phycoerythrin on the nanospheres, i.e., the binding of streptavidin-phycoerythrin to the surface biotin (**A**). After phycoerythrin was photobleached, the complex returned to the green color of the nanospheres themselves (**B**). Control experiments: No orange-red fluorescence (from phycoerythrin) except the green fluorescence of the nanospheres themselves was seen when the nanospheres were coupled with unmodified biotin (thus no coupling of biotin to the nanosphere) (**C**) or when the bifunctional nanospheres were used in the binding reaction with streptavidin-phycoerythrin directly (**D**).