## **Supporting Information for**

Preparation of Monodispersed Ferrous Nanoparticles Embedded Carbon Aerogels via *in-situ* Solid Phase Polymerization for Electrocatalytic Oxygen Reduction

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**Figure S1.** SEM images of the intermediate products obtained after liquid phase polymerization conducted under 25 °C for 1, 2 and 3 days (a-c) and the final FeNC-LP (d).



Figure S2. TEM images of FeNC-3.



**Figure S3.** XPS survey of the FeNC catalysts (a) and the high resolution N 1s spectra (b).

Catalysts	Pyridinic N	FeN <sub>x</sub>	Pyrrolic N	Quaternary	Oxidized N
	(%)	(%)	(%)	N (%)	(%)
FeNC-1	48.5	16.0	26.2	6.3	3.0
FeNC-2	45.7	11.5	27.8	10.0	5.0
FeNC-3	42.4	13.6	26.7	11.0	6.3
FeNC-4	28.6	9.3	30.1	24.5	7.5

Table S1. Atomic content of the N species measured by XPS method.



Figure S4. CV curves of the catalysts in  $O_2$ -saturated 0.1 M KOH solution at a scan rate of 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S5.** LSV curves of FeNC-3 and commercial Pt/C collected in  $O_2$ -saturated 0.1 M HClO<sub>4</sub> at a scan rate of 10 mV s<sup>-1</sup> and a rotation rate of 1600 rpm.

Electrocatalysts	$E_{1/2}$	Eonset	Kinetic Current Density		Ref.
			$(J_k) mA \cdot cm^{-2}$		
	V vs. RHE	V vs. RHE	@0.8 V	@ 0.9 V	
FeNC-3	0.919	1.080	127.7	7.83	This work
FePc/Ti <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> T <sub>x</sub>	0.89	0.97	-	3.0	1
Fe2-Z8-C	0.87	0.98	-	2.6	2
pCNT@Fe@GL	0.87	0.97	-	6.1	3
Fe-ISAs/CN	0.900	0.986	87.45	6.06	4
Fe@C-FeNCs-2	0.899	~1.0	41.6	-	5
Fe-N/C-800	0.81	0.98	-	0.4	6
FePhen@MoF-ArNH3	0.860	1.03	-	2.1	7
(Fe, Mn)-N-C	0.900	0.98	36.8	-	8

**Table S2.** Comparison of ORR performance between FeNC-3 and the state-of-art catalysts reported in the literatures in  $O_2$ -saturated 0.1 M KOH.



Figure S6. Nyquist plots of different samples obtained in  $O_2$ -saturated 0.1 M KOH at 0.85 V vs. RHE from 100 kHz to 0.01 Hz.



Figure S7. TEM images (a) and particle-size distribution (b) of FeNC-3 after 5000 potential cycles.

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