

Supporting Information

Elucidating preparation-structure relationships for the morphology evolution during the
RAFT dispersion polymerization of N-acryloyl thiomorpholine

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Table S1. Overview of the synthesized polymers and micelles including abbreviations, polymerization conditions and properties.

Exp.	Polymer	T [°C]	vol%Diox [%]	c [M]	M _n ^[a] [kg mol ⁻¹]	M _n ^[b] [kg mol ⁻¹]	Đ ^[b]	D _H [nm]	PDI ^[c]	Morph. ^[d]
PNAM_n										
P ₂₅	PNAM ₂₅				3.8	4.1	1.10	-	-	-
P ₅₀	PNAM ₅₀	70	0	6.5	7.3	7.1	1.06	-	-	-
P ₁₀₀	PNAM ₁₀₀				14.4	13.1	1.06	-	-	-
PNAM₂₅-<i>b</i>-NAT_n										
P ₂₅ -1*				0.2		7.5	1.12	31	0.09	S
P ₂₅ -2*			0	0.6		7.5	1.13	46	0.15	S / W
P ₂₅ -3*				1		7.3	1.12	93	0.18	W
P ₂₅ -4				0.2		7.3	1.10	55	0.09	S / W
P ₂₅ -5	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₂₅	70	10	0.6	7.7	7.1	1.10	119	0.21	W
P ₂₅ -6				1		7.0	1.08	-	-	bW
P ₂₅ -7				0.2		7.1	1.08	-	-	bW
P ₂₅ -8			25	0.6		7.0	1.08	-	-	bW
P ₂₅ -9				1		7.0	1.08	-	-	bW
P ₂₅ -10			0	0.2		11.3	1.37	P	P	P
P ₂₅ -11	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₅₀	70		0.2	11.6	11.1	1.17	42	0.06	S / sW
P ₂₅ -12			10	0.6		10.7	1.16	P	P	P
P ₂₅ -13			25	0.2		10.5	1.08	88	0.06	V
P ₂₅ -14	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₆₀	70	10	0.2	13.2	11.8	1.27	79	0.12	S / sW
P ₂₅ -15				0.2		12.2	1.27	88	0.12	sW
P ₂₅ -16	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₇₀	70	10	0.6	14.8	12.8	1.24	P	P	P
P ₂₅ -17			25	0.2		13.3	1.16	117	0.11	V
P ₂₅ -18	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₇₅	70	10		15.6	17.3	1.74	P	P	P
P ₂₅ -19		70	25	0.2		13.6	1.19	P	P	P
P ₂₅ -20	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₁₀₀	70	25	0.2	19.5	16.1	1.30	P	P	P

Exp.	Polymer	T [°C]	vol%Diox [%]	c [M]	M _n ^[a] [kg mol ⁻¹]	M _n ^[b] [kg mol ⁻¹]	Đ ^[b]	D _H [nm]	PDI ^[c]	Morph. ^[d]			
PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT _n - 90°C													
P ₂₅ -21*	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₂₅	90	0	0.2	7.7	7.5	1.13	44	0.06	S			
P ₂₅ -22*				0.6		7.4	1.13	109	0.16	V			
P ₂₅ -23*				1		7.6	1.12	569	0.67	L			
P ₂₅ -24			10	0.2		7.4	1.10	124	0.07	bW/V/ L			
P ₂₅ -25				0.6		7.5	1.10	-	-	bW / L			
P ₂₅ -26				1		7.5	1.11	-	-	bW / L			
P ₂₅ -27			25	0.2		7.1	1.14	220	0.18	bW/V/L			
P ₂₅ -28				0.6		7.4	1.10	-	-	bW / L			
P ₂₅ -29				1		7.6	1.10	-	-	bW / L			
P ₂₅ -30	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₅₀	90	0	0.2	11.6	11.2	1.29	44	0.05	S / sW			
P ₂₅ -31				0.6		11.6	1.32	P	P	P			
P ₂₅ -32				1		11.0	1.30	P	P	P			
P ₂₅ -33			10	0.2		11.2	1.16	P	P	P			
P ₂₅ -34	PNAM ₂₅ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₇₀	90	0	0.2	14.8	14.0	1.49	111	0.14	S / sW			
PNAM ₅₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT _n													
P ₅₀ -1	PNAM ₅₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₃₀	70	0	0.2	12.0	11.6	1.09	22	0.11	S			
P ₅₀ -2				0.6		11.5	1.09	20	0.16	S			
P ₅₀ -3				1		11.6	1.09	28	0.13	S			
P ₅₀ -4	PNAM ₅₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₅₀	50	0	0.2	15.2	13.5	1.32	29	0.09	-			
P ₅₀ -5		90		0.2		13.3	1.15	66	0.20	-			
P ₅₀ -6		70		0.2		14.3	1.22	57	0.13	S / sW			
P ₅₀ -7				0.6		14.2	1.24	50	0.18	S / sW			
P ₅₀ -8				1		14.1	1.23	36	0.19	S / sW			
P ₅₀ -9		PNAM ₅₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₅₀		70		10	0.2	15.2	13.7	1.13	30	0.06	-
P ₅₀ -10							0.6		14.2	1.13	26	0.12	-
P ₅₀ -11							1		14.4	1.13	23	0.14	S
P ₅₀ -12	25		0.2		13.6	1.09	28		0.07	S			
P ₅₀ -13			0.6		13.9	1.09	26		0.08	-			
P ₅₀ -14			1		13.8	1.09	24		0.10	S			

Exp.	Polymer	T [°C]	vol%Diox [%]	c [M]	M _n ^[a] [kg mol ⁻¹]	M _n ^[b] [kg mol ⁻¹]	Đ ^[b]	D _H [nm]	PDI ^[c]	Morph. ^[d]
P ₅₀₋₁₅	PNAM ₅₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₁₀₀	70	0	0.2	23.0	20.1	1.70	P	P	P
P ₅₀₋₁₆			10	0.2		19.4	1.32	60	0.09	S / sW
P ₅₀₋₁₇				0.6		19.6	1.35	55	0.10	S / sW
P ₅₀₋₁₈				1		20.2	1.33	54	0.09	S / sW
P ₅₀₋₁₉			25	0.2		19.0	1.16	40	0.04	S
P ₅₀₋₂₀				0.6		19.7	1.16	40	0.05	S
P ₅₀₋₂₁				1		19.7	1.16	44	0.04	S
P ₅₀₋₂₂	PNAM ₅₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₂₀₀		25	0.2	38.7	24.7	1.35	55	0.02	S
PNAM ₁₀₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT _n										
P ₁₀₀₋₁	PNAM ₁₀₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₅₀	70	0	0.2	22.2	19.5	1.17	29	0.08	S
P ₁₀₀₋₂				0.6		19.4	1.17	29	0.10	S
P ₁₀₀₋₃				1		19.1	1.16	28	0.13	S
P ₁₀₀₋₄			10	0.2		19.6	1.11	29	0.07	-
P ₁₀₀₋₅				0.6		19.5	1.12	30	0.10	-
P ₁₀₀₋₆				1		19.4	1.12	35	0.09	S
P ₁₀₀₋₇	PNAM ₁₀₀ - <i>b</i> -PNAT ₁₀₀	70	25	0.2	30.1	18.9	1.10	28	0.09	-
P ₁₀₀₋₈				0.6		19.5	1.10	32	0.08	-
P ₁₀₀₋₉				1		19.2	1.10	36	0.07	S
P ₁₀₀₋₁₀			0	0.2		25.2	1.43	63	0.10	S / sW
P ₁₀₀₋₁₁			10	0.2		24.1	1.28	40	0.06	S
P ₁₀₀₋₁₂				0.6		24.0	1.29	37	0.09	S
P ₁₀₀₋₁₃				1		24.8	1.27	40	0.08	S
P ₁₀₀₋₁₄	PNAT	70	83	0.2	16.0	23.7	1.18	36	0.03	-
P ₁₀₀₋₁₅				0.6		24.3	1.18	37	0.06	S
P ₁₀₀₋₁₆				1		24.8	1.18	47	0.18	S
PNAT ₁₅						2.6	2.7	1.11	-	-
PNAT ₃₀	PNAT	70	83	2	16.0	5.0	4.7	1.10	-	-
PNAT ₅₀						8.1	7.3	1.08	-	-
PNAT ₁₀₀						16.0	13.4	1.11	-	-

[a] Calculated based on $[M]_0/[CTA]_0 \times \text{monomer conversion}$. [b] Determined by SEC (Eluent: DMAc + 0.21 wt% LiCl, PS-calibration) [c] Determined by DLS measurements of the purified structures (c: 1 mg mL⁻¹). [d] Morphology judgement based on (cryo)-TEM investigations. The morphologies were categorized as follows: spheres (S), short worms (sW), worms (W), vesicles (V), lamellae (L), and precipitation (P). Exp.: experiment, T: reaction temperature, c: monomer concentration, Morph.: morphology. *Samples were previously reported.¹

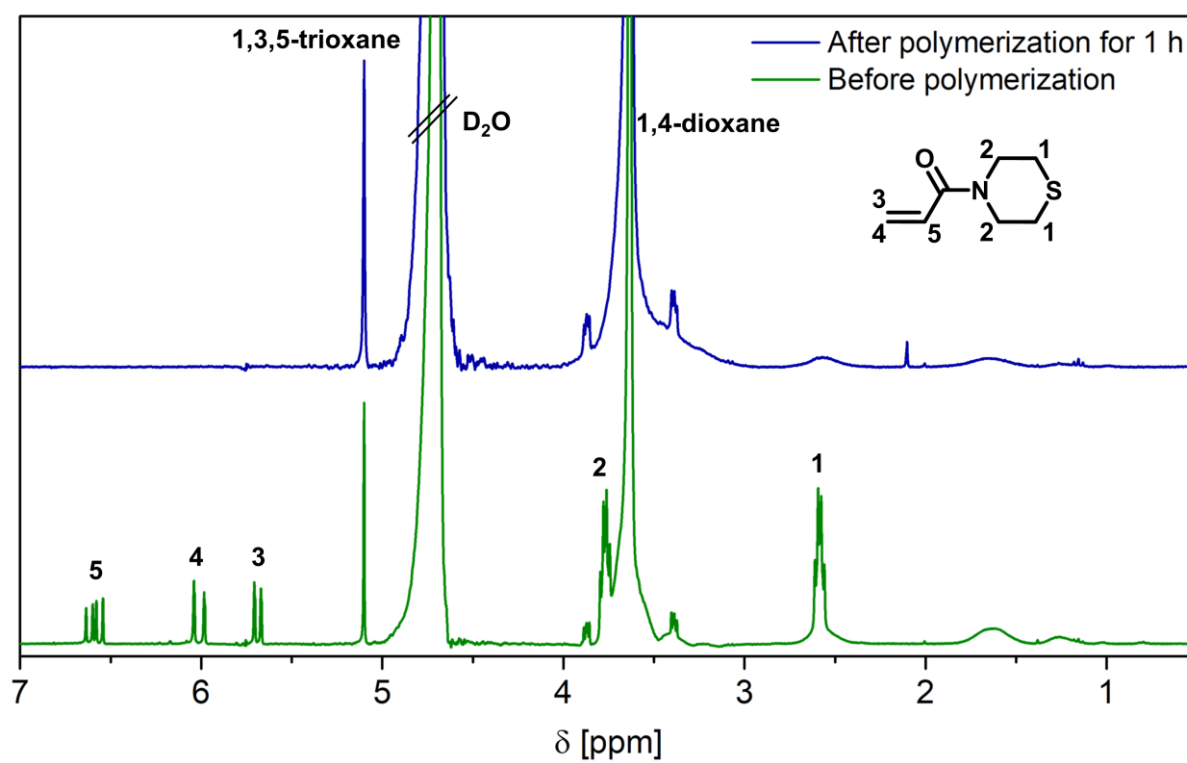
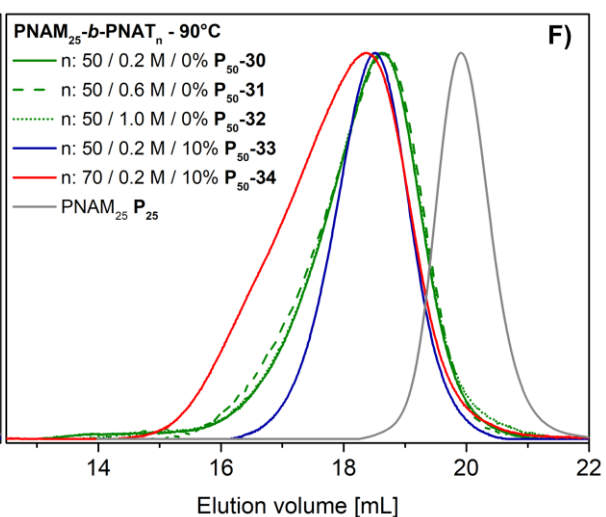
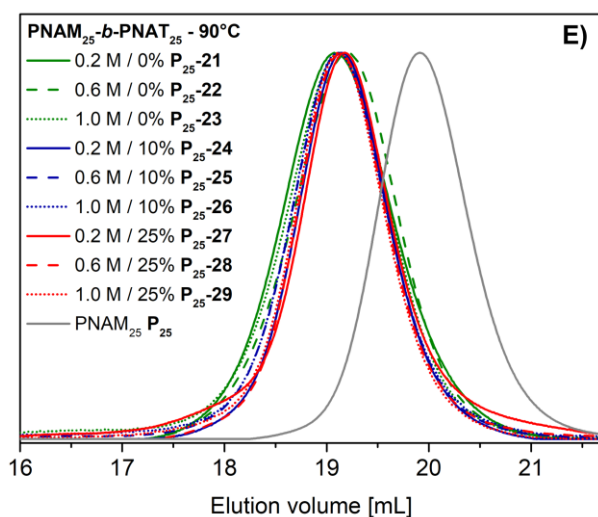
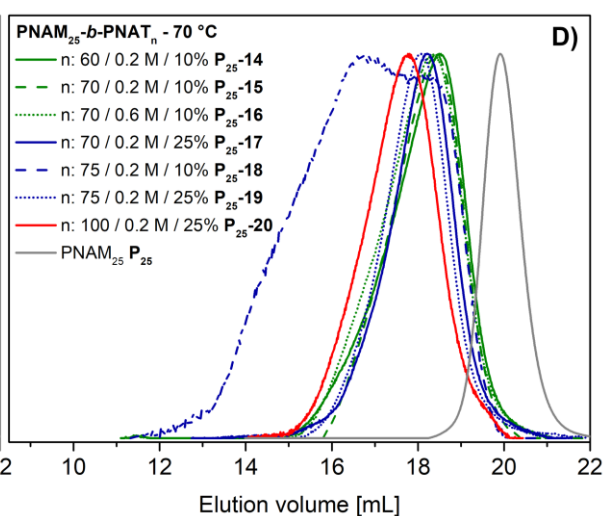
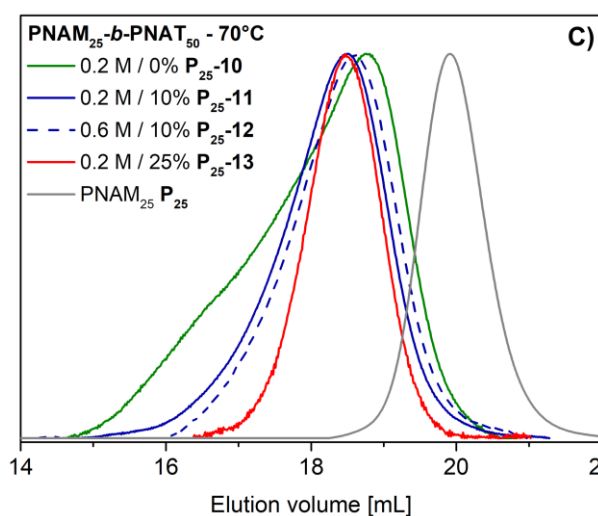
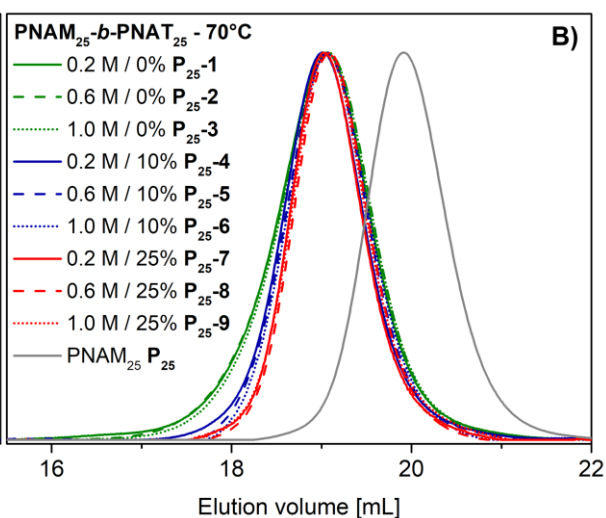
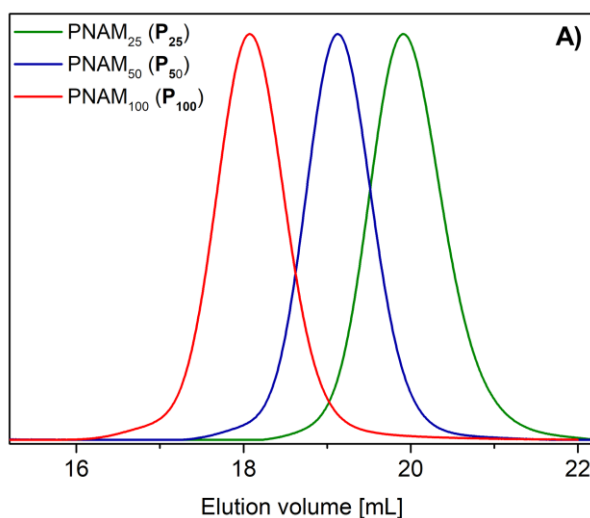


Figure S1. NMR overlay of the RAFT dispersion polymerization of NAT using PNAM₁₀₀ as mCTA (70 °C, 0.2 M, 25 vol% 1,4 dioxane, **P**₁₀₀₋₇); 1,3,5-trioxane was used as internal standard.



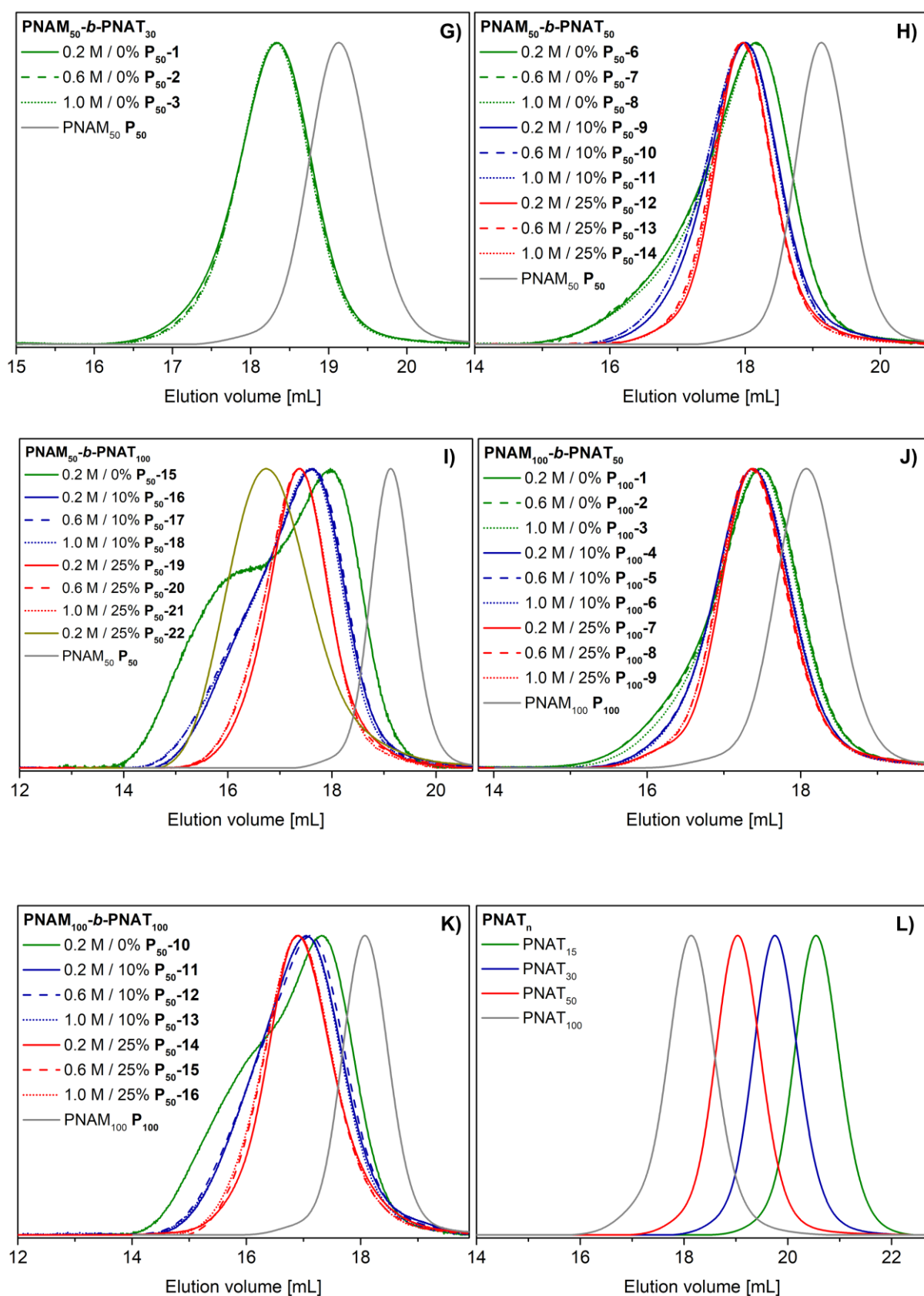


Figure S2. Overview of the SEC curves of the synthesized polymers. (Eluent: DMAc + 0.21% LiCl, PS-calibration).

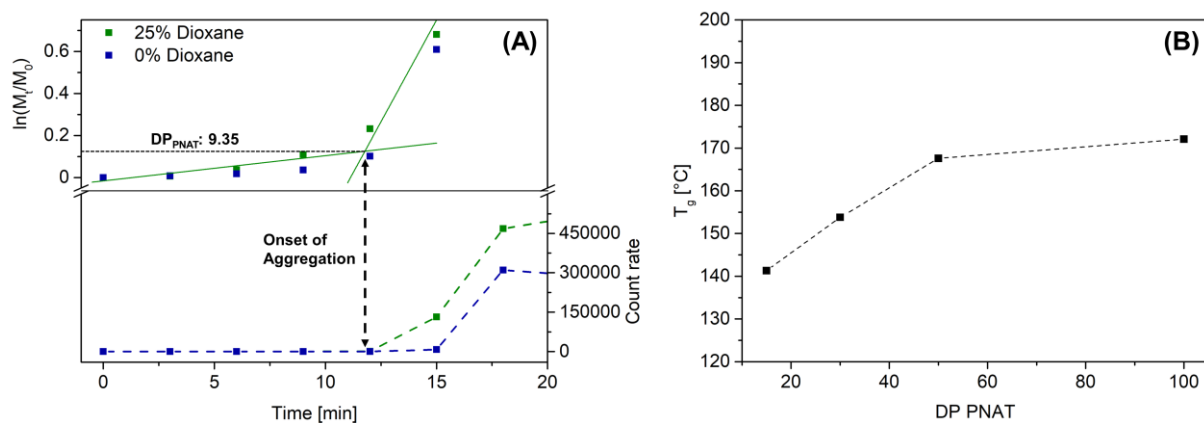
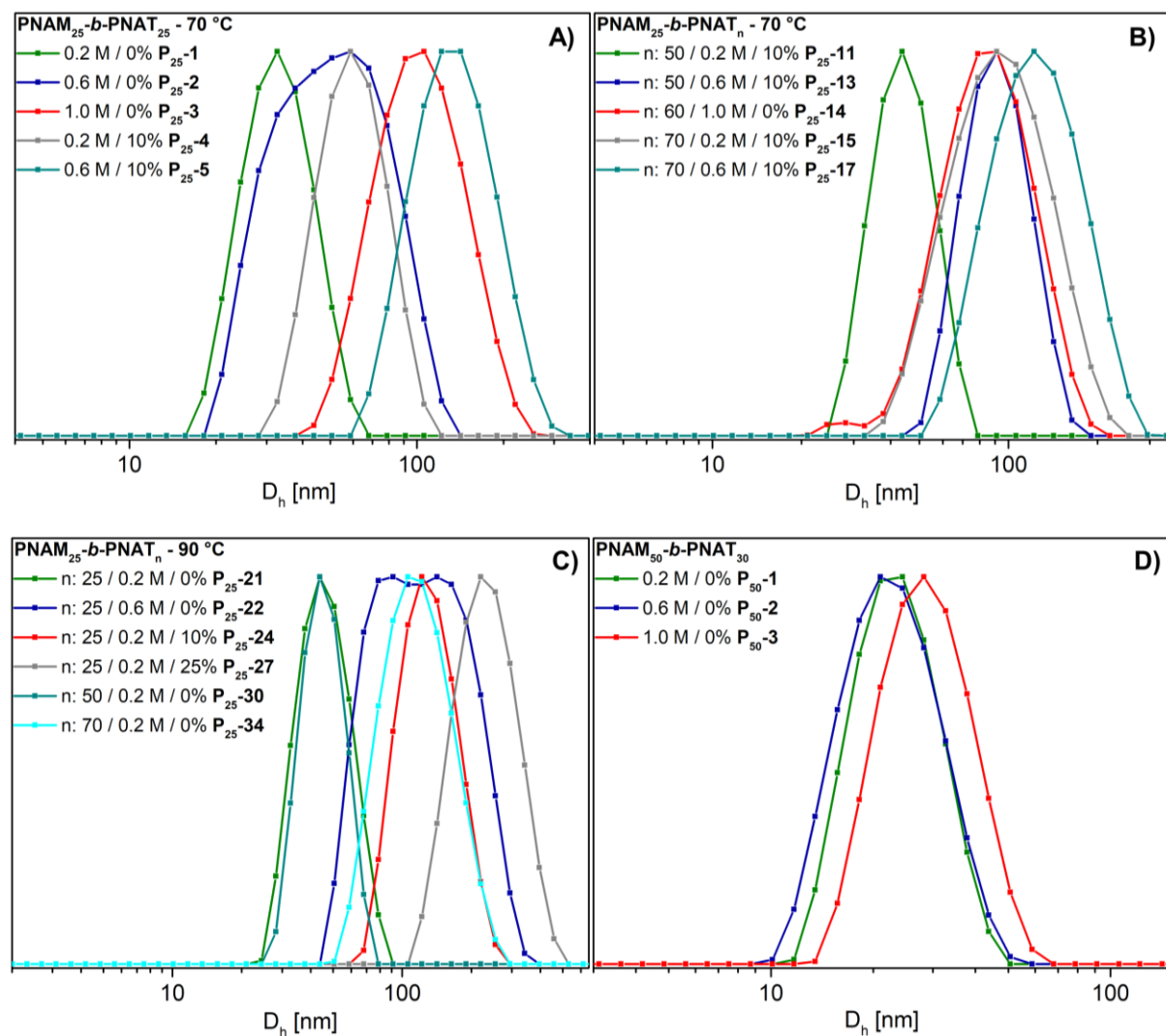


Figure S3. A) Semilogarithmic plot of the monomer conversion and the derived count rate vs. reaction time of the PISA of $PNAM_{25}$ - b - $PNAT_{70}$ for 0 and 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 70 °C and 0.2 M. B) Dependency of the T_g of PNAT homopolymers on the DP, determined by DSC measurements.



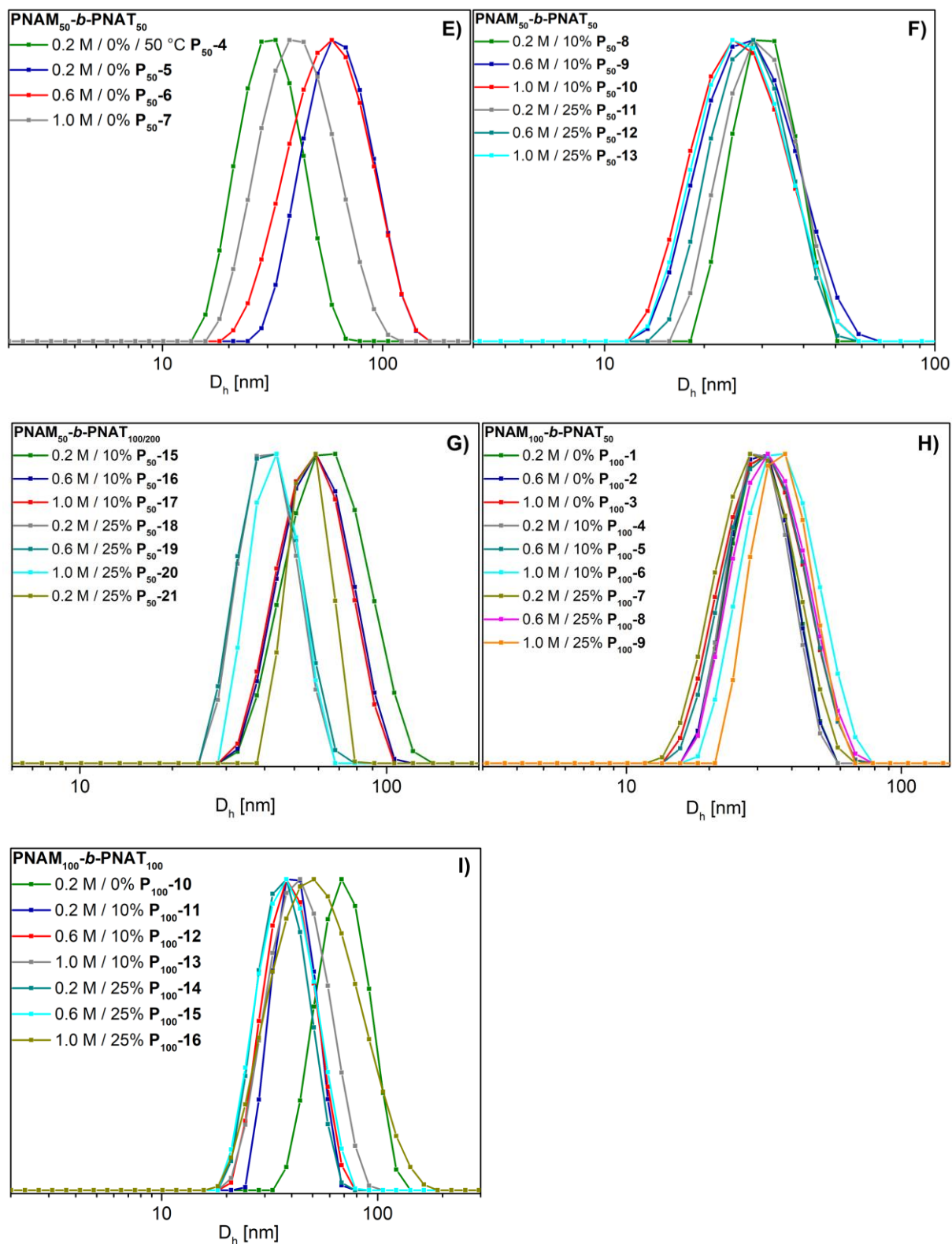


Figure S4. Overview of intensity weight size distributions of the prepared micelles determined by DLS (1 mg mL⁻¹ in H₂O).

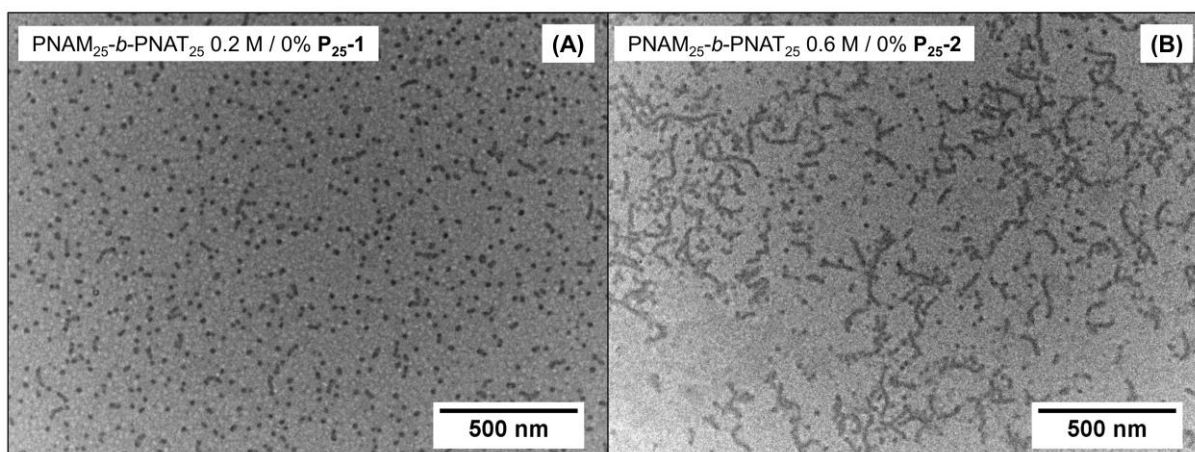


Figure S5. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ micelles after dialysis. A) Prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) Prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C.

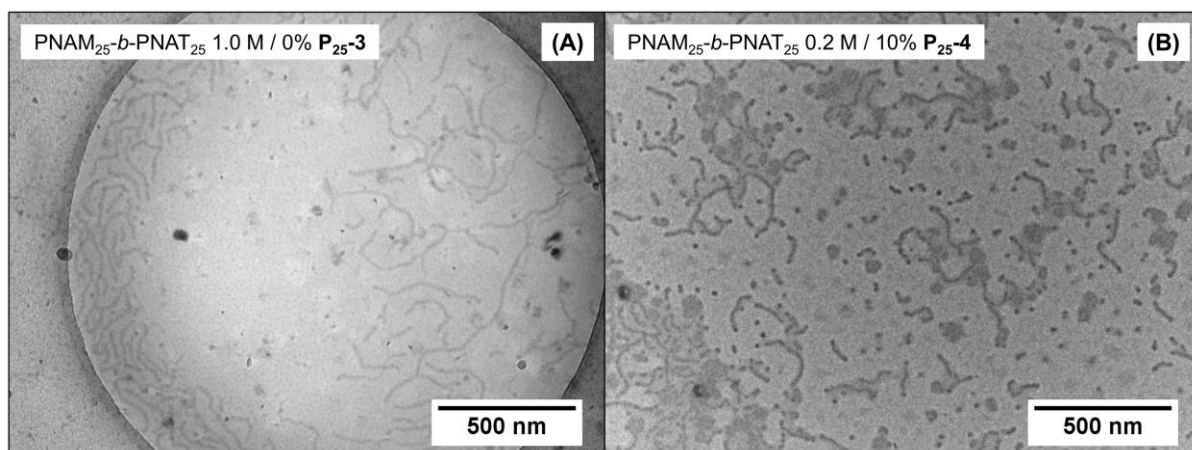


Figure S6. Exemplary TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ micelles after dialysis. A) Cryo-TEM, prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C. B) Dry-TEM, prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

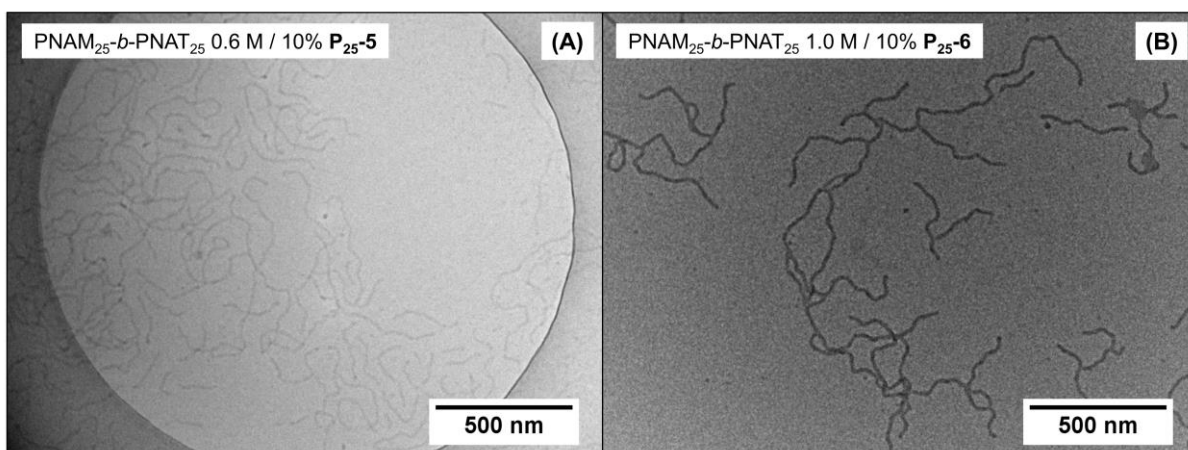


Figure S7. Exemplary TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ micelles after dialysis. A) Cryo-TEM, prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C. B) Dry-TEM, prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C.

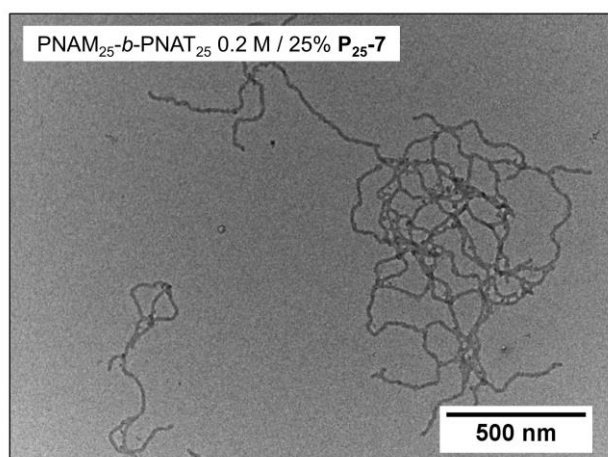


Figure S8. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ micelles after dialysis, prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

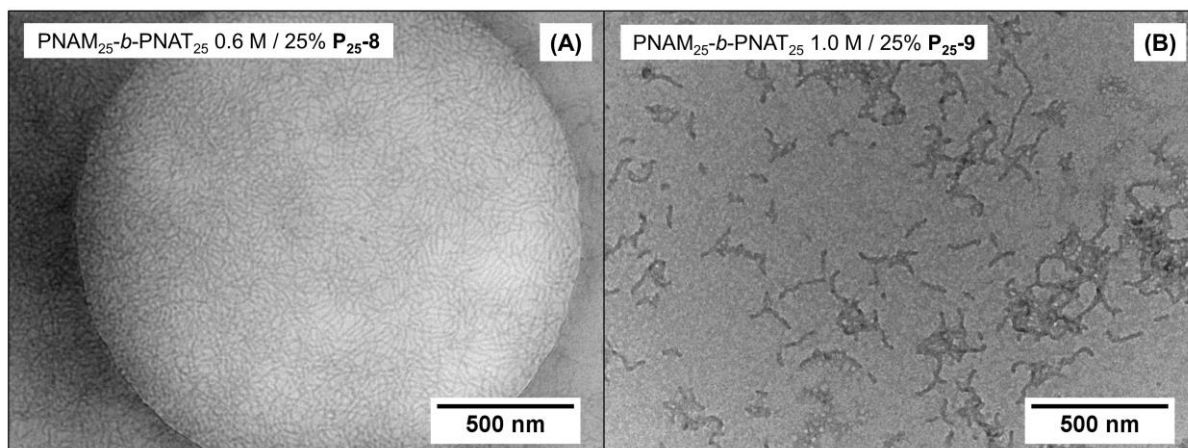


Figure S9. Exemplary TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ micelles after dialysis. A) Cryo-TEM, prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C. B) Dry-TEM, prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C.

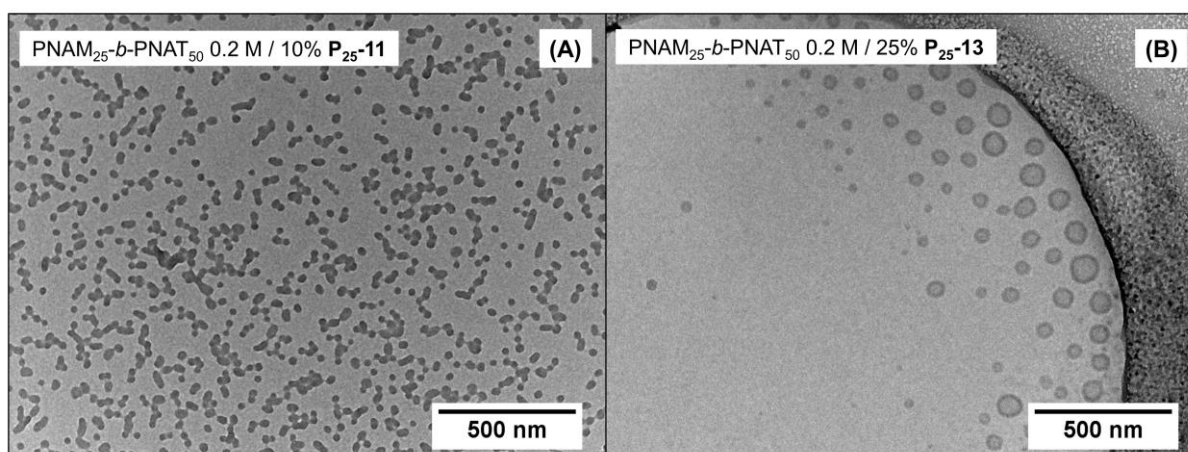


Figure S10. Exemplary TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) Dry-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) Cryo-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

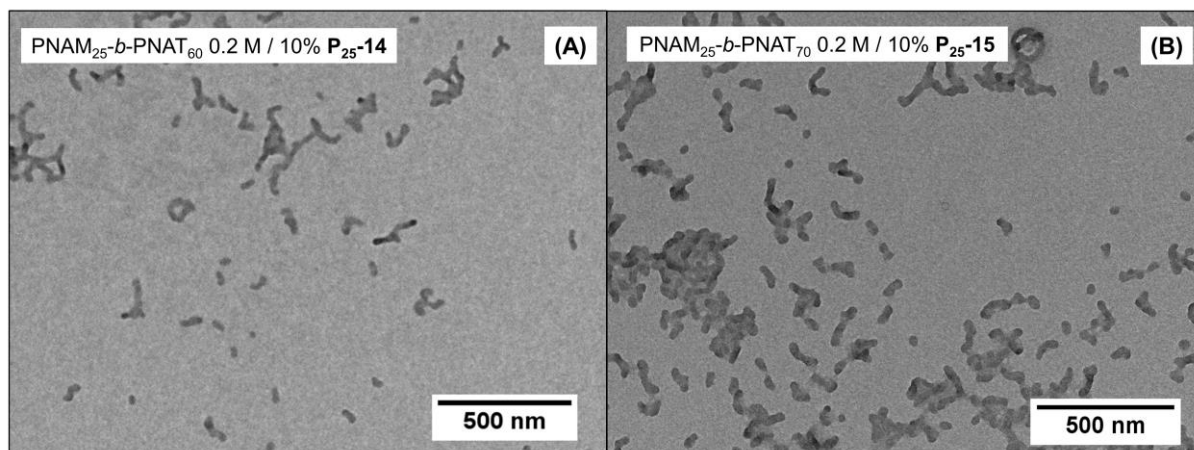


Figure S11. Exemplary dry-TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₆₀, prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₇₀ prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

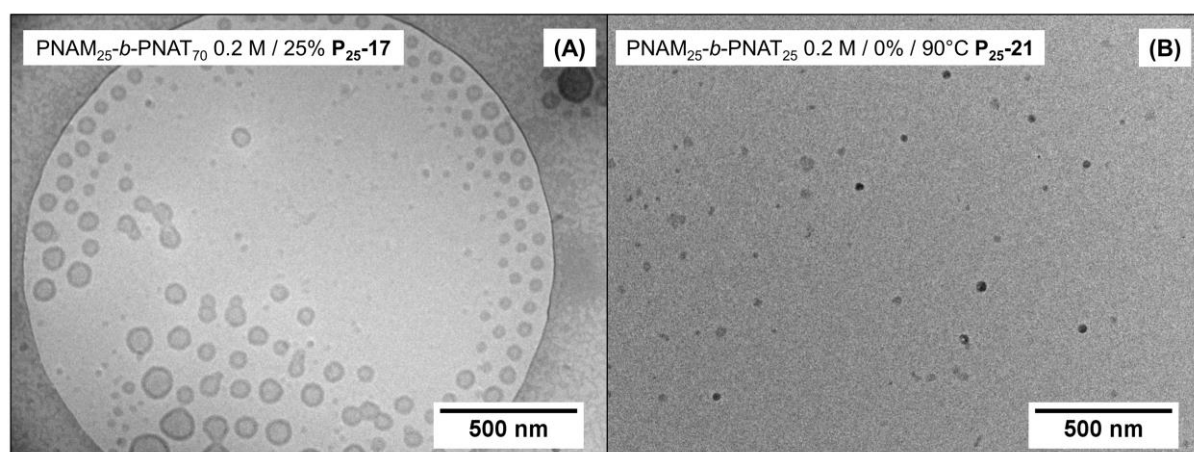


Figure S12. Exemplary TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) Cryo-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₇₀ prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) Dry-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 90 °C.

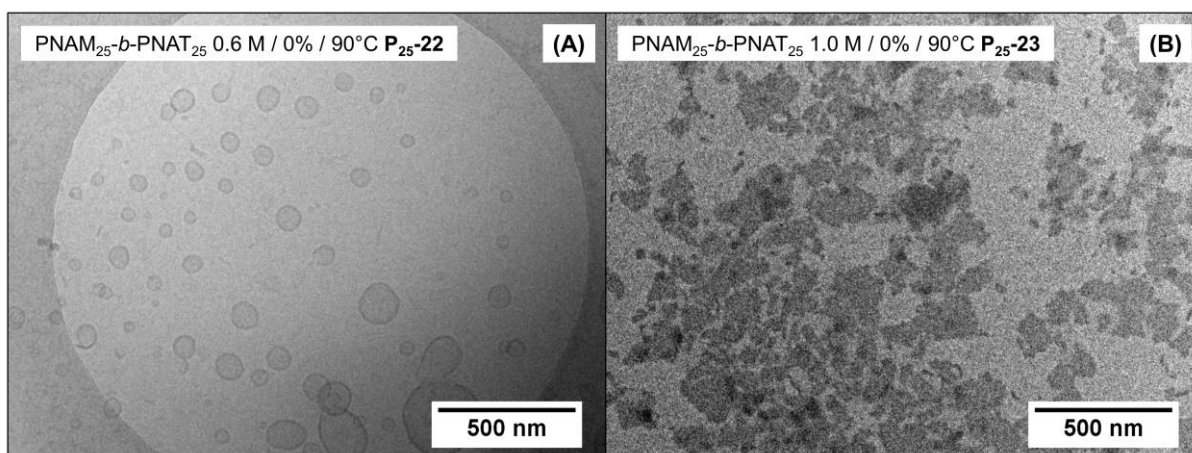


Figure S13. Exemplary TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) Cryo-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 90 °C. B) Dry-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 90 °C.

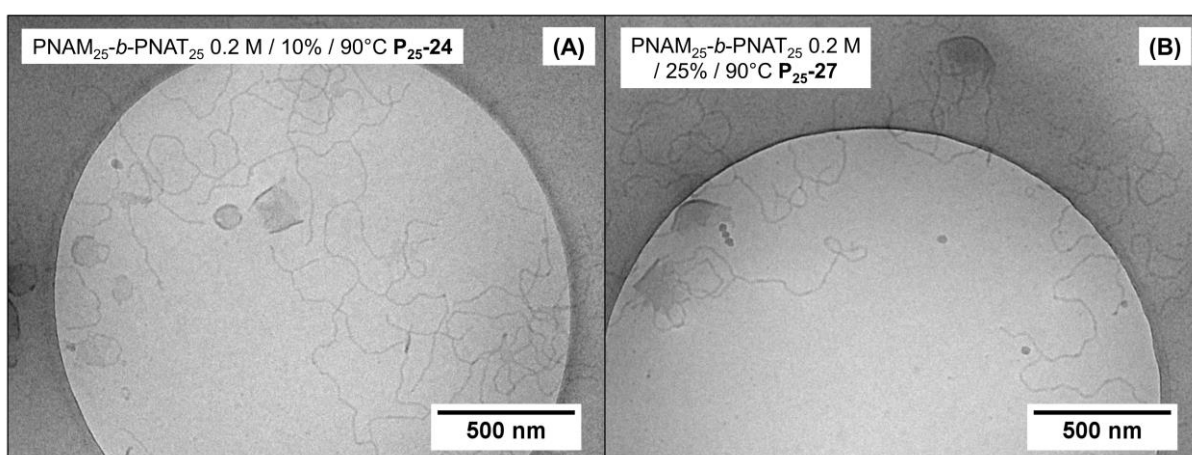


Figure S14. Exemplary TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ micelles after dialysis. A) Cryo-TEM prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 90 °C. B) Cryo-TEM prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 90 °C.

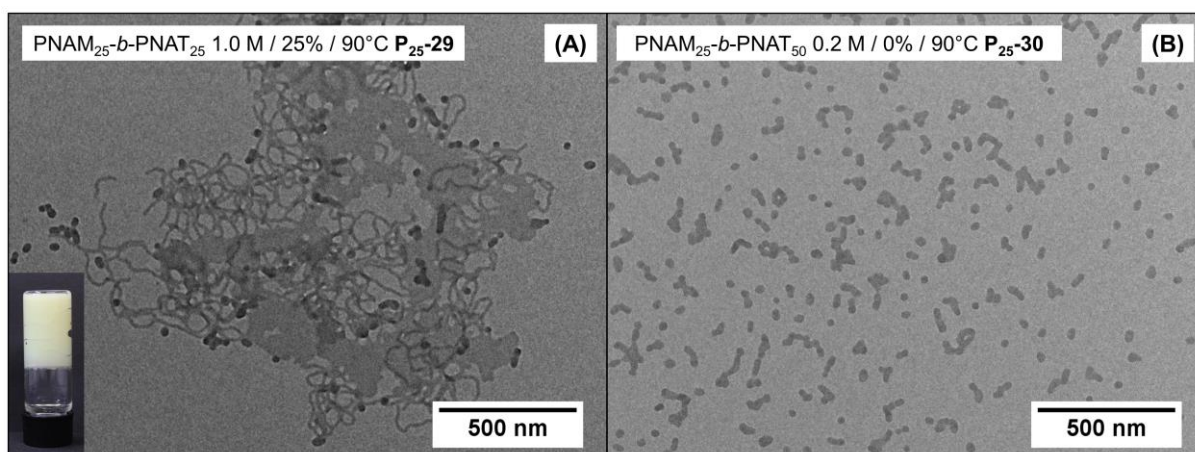


Figure S15. Exemplary TEM images of the micelles after dialysis. A) Dry-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ Prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 90 °C (the inset shows a corresponding photograph of the reaction solution). B) Dry-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 90 °C.

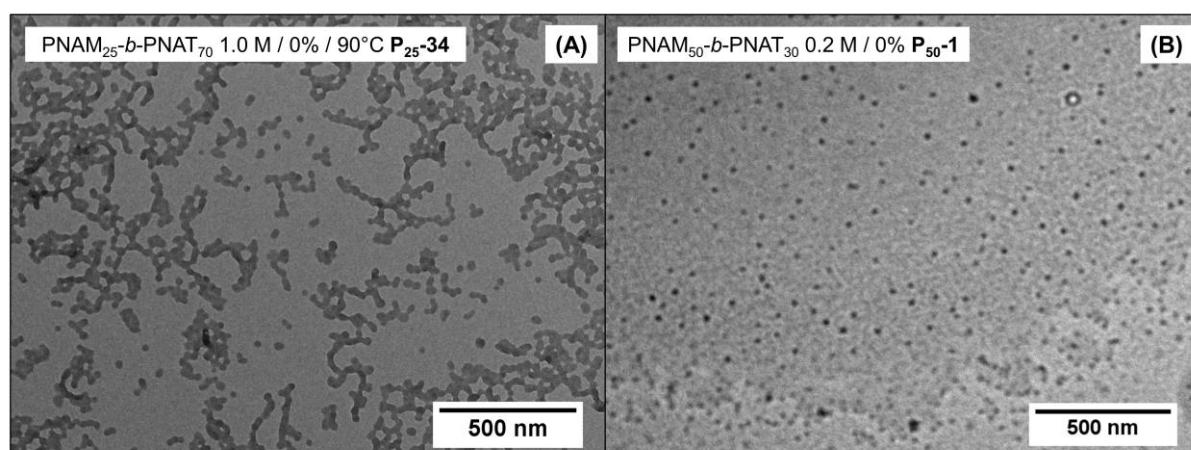


Figure S16. Exemplary TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) Dry-TEM of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₇₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 90 °C. B) Dry-TEM of PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₃₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

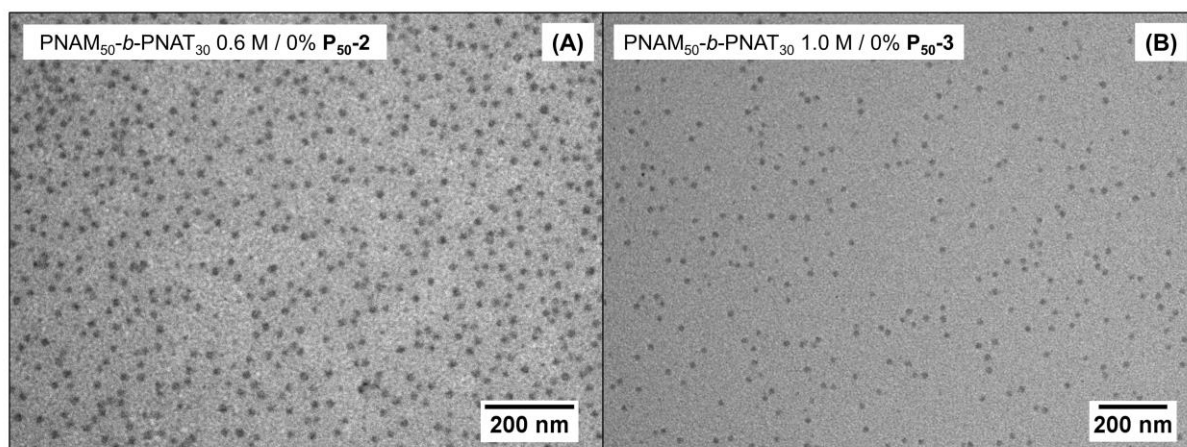


Figure S17. Exemplary dry-TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₃₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C. B) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₃₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

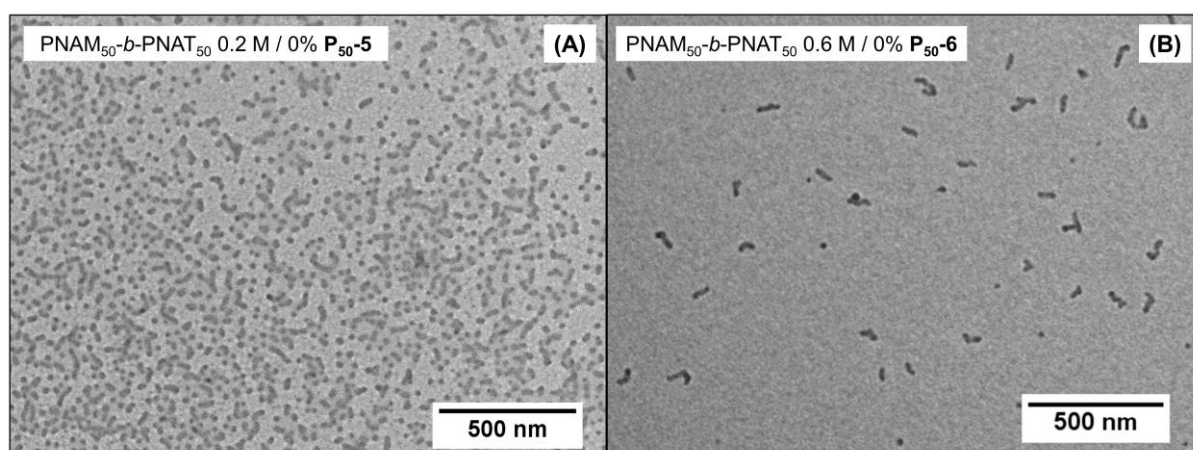


Figure S18. Exemplary dry-TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C.

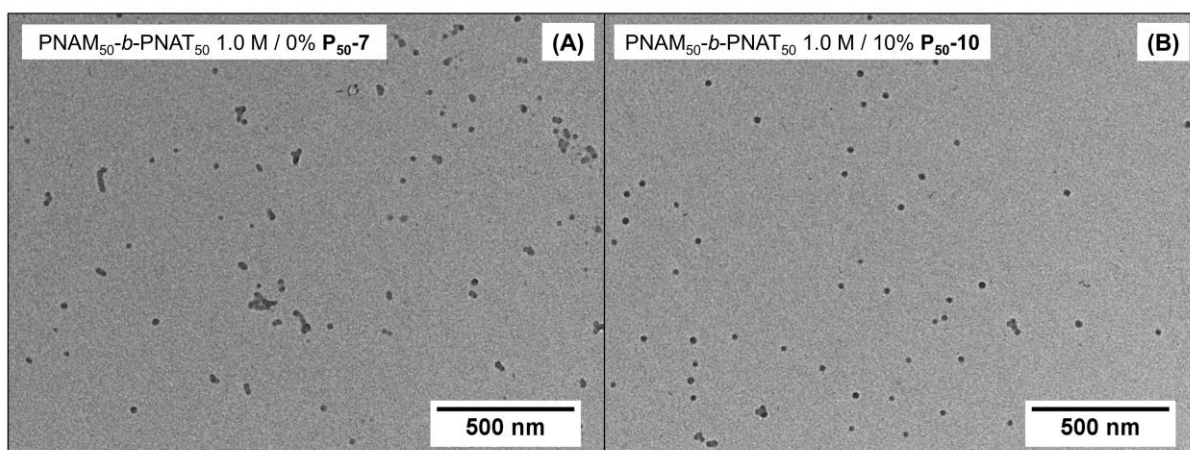


Figure S19. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C. B) Prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

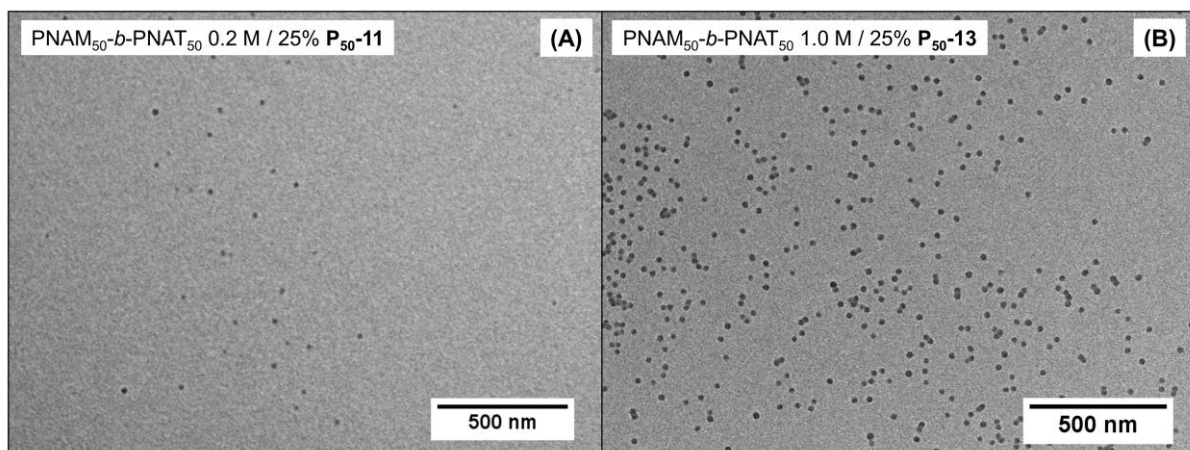


Figure S20. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) Prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

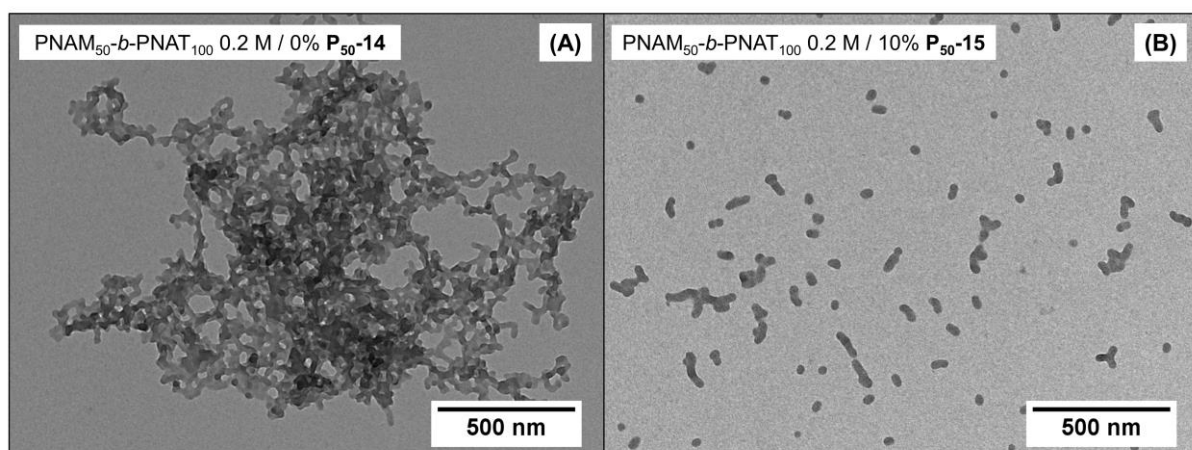


Figure S21. Exemplary dry-TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ prepared with 0 % 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C. B) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

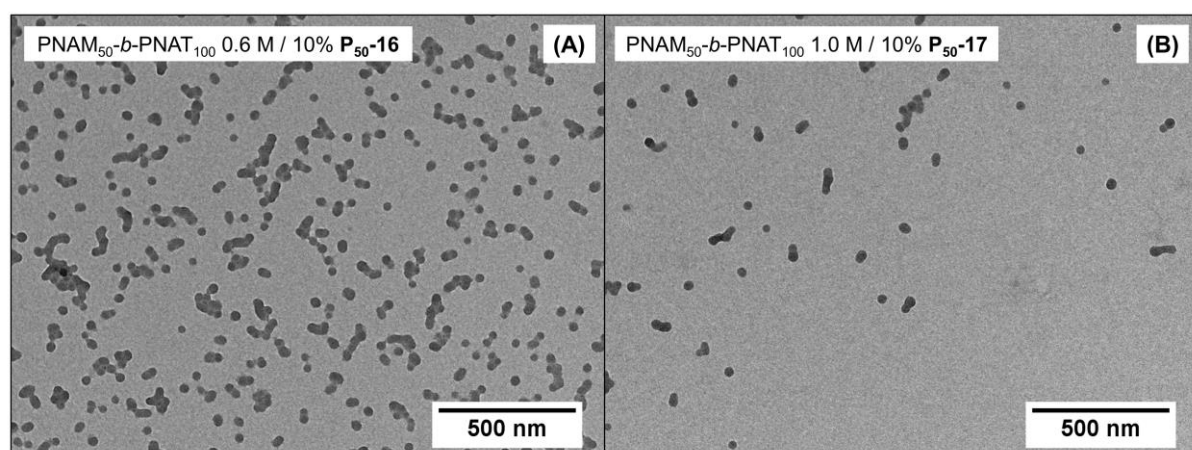


Figure S22. Exemplary dry-TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C. B) PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

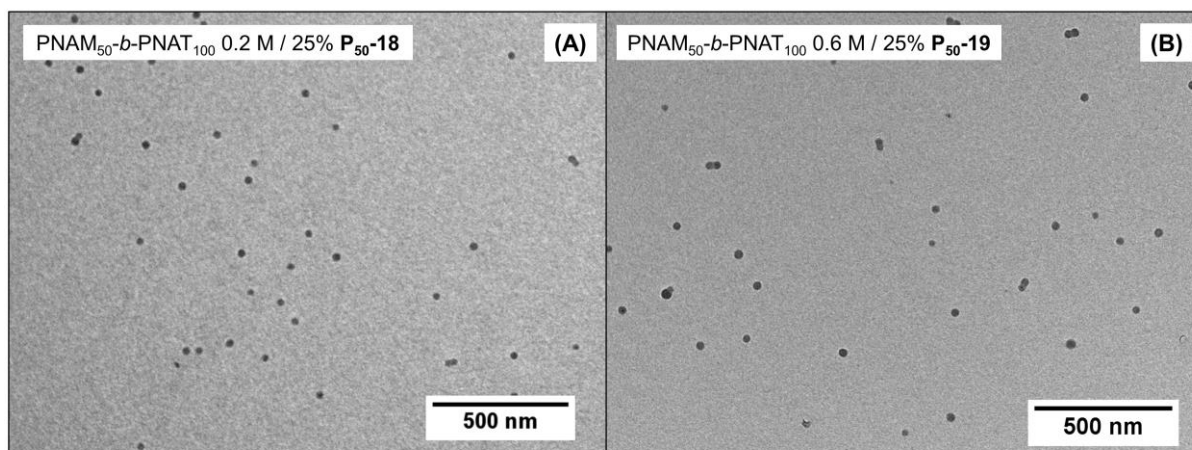


Figure S23. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) Prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C.

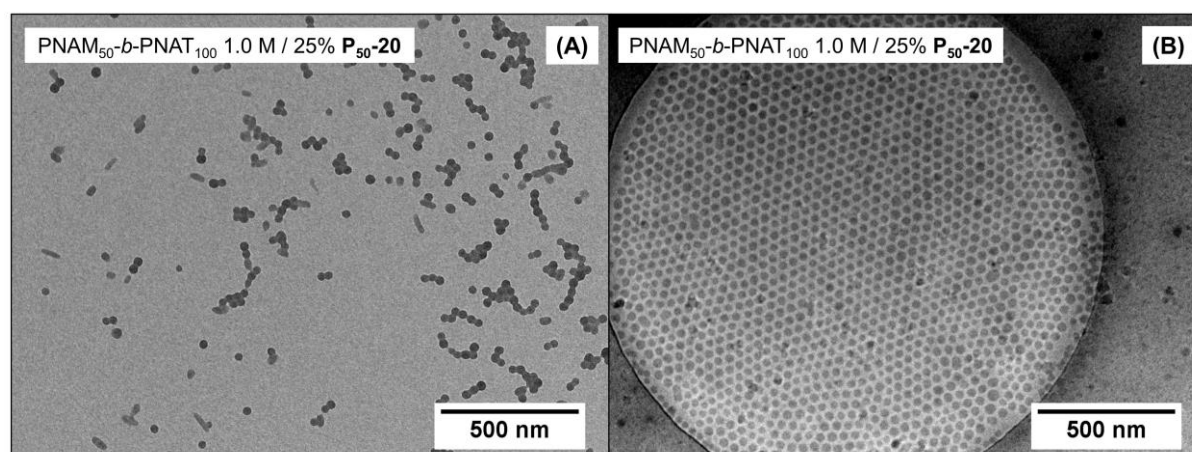


Figure S24. Exemplary TEM images of PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Dry-TEM, prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C. B) Cryo-TEM, prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

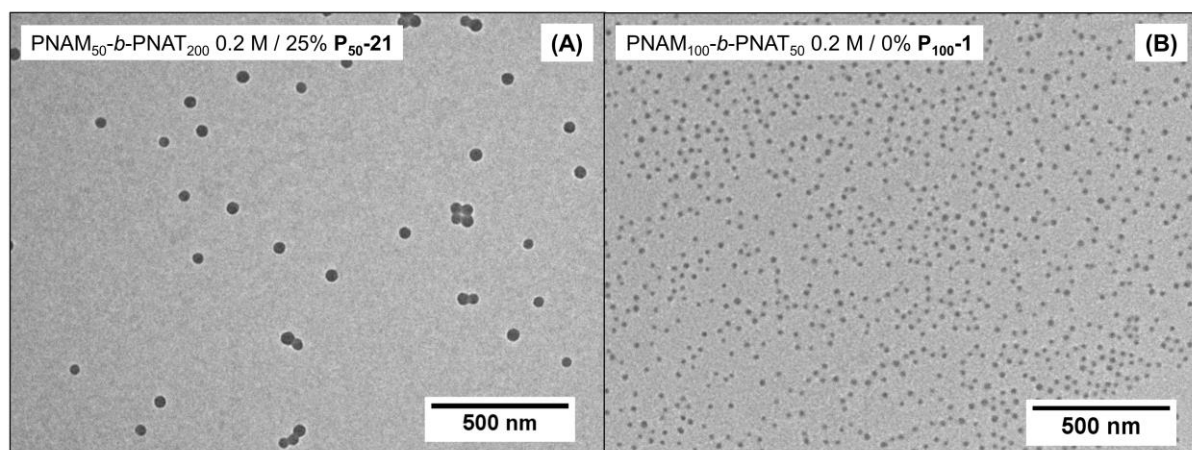


Figure S25. Exemplary dry-TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) Dry-TEM of PNAM₅₀-*b*-PNAT₂₀₀ prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) Dry-TEM of PNAM₁₀₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

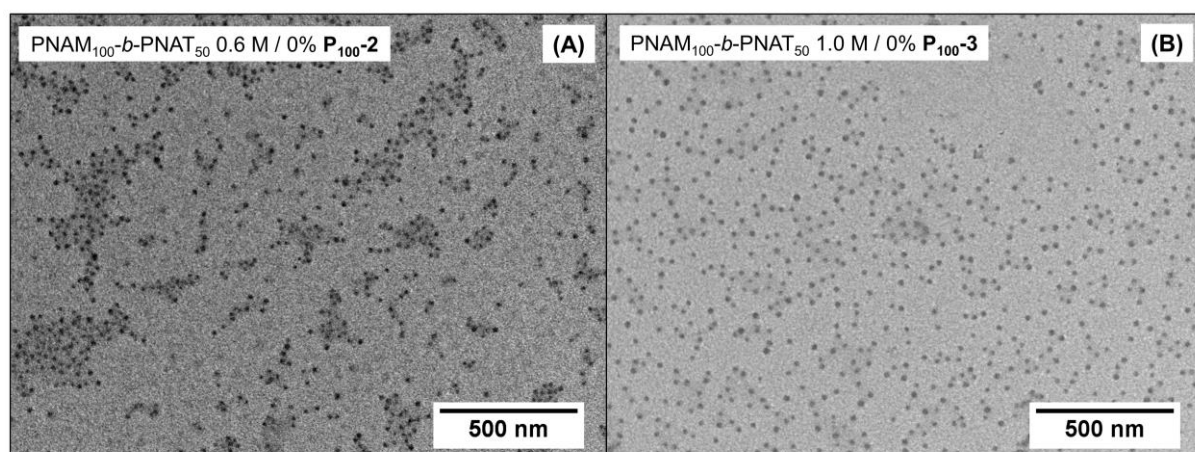


Figure S26. Exemplary TEM images of PNAM₁₀₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Dry-TEM, prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C. B) Dry-TEM, prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

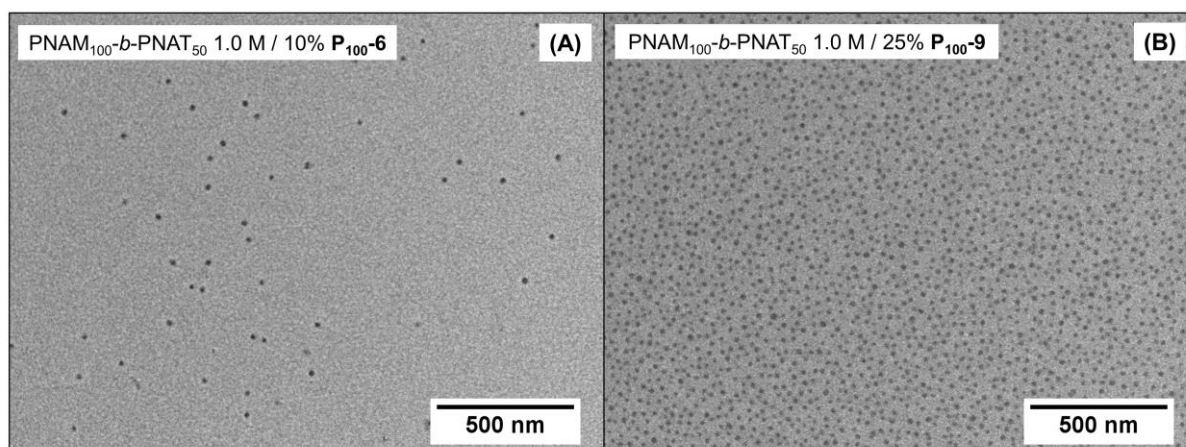


Figure S27. Exemplary dry-TEM images of micelles after dialysis. A) PNAM₁₀₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C. B) PNAM₁₀₀-*b*-PNAT₅₀ prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

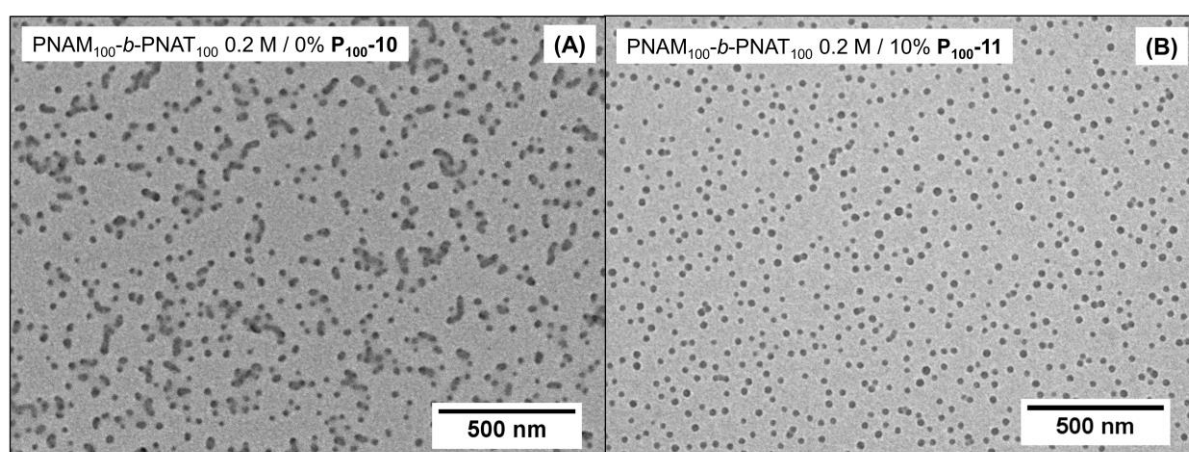


Figure S28. Exemplary dry-TEM images of the PNAM₁₀₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Prepared with 0 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C. B) Prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.2 M and 70 °C.

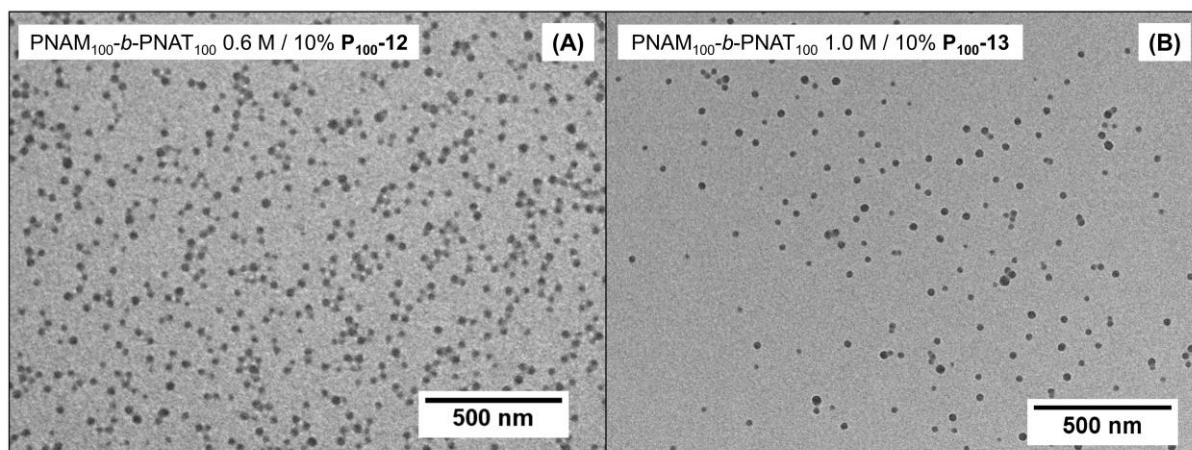


Figure S29. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₁₀₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C. B) Prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

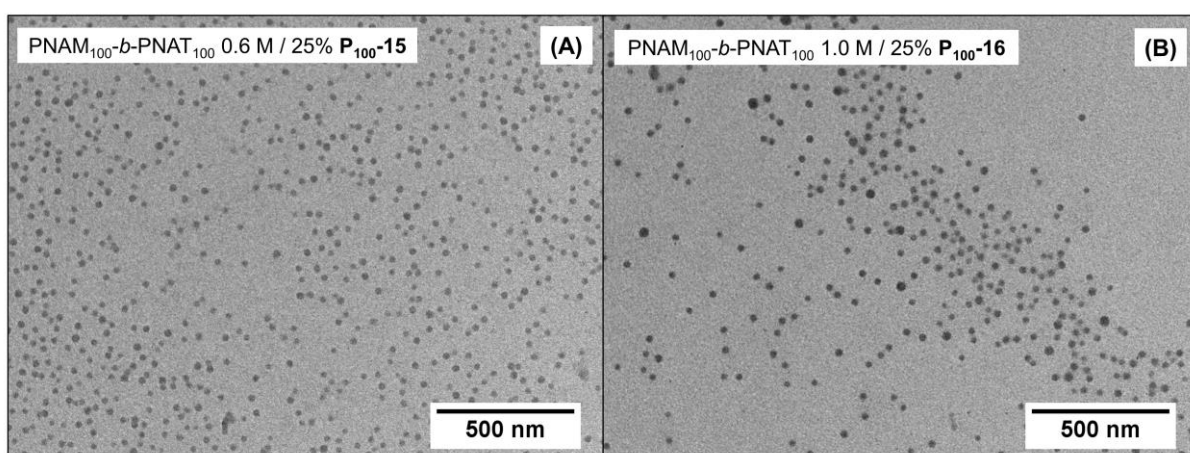


Figure S30. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₁₀₀-*b*-PNAT₁₀₀ micelles after dialysis. A) Prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 70 °C. B) Prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 70 °C.

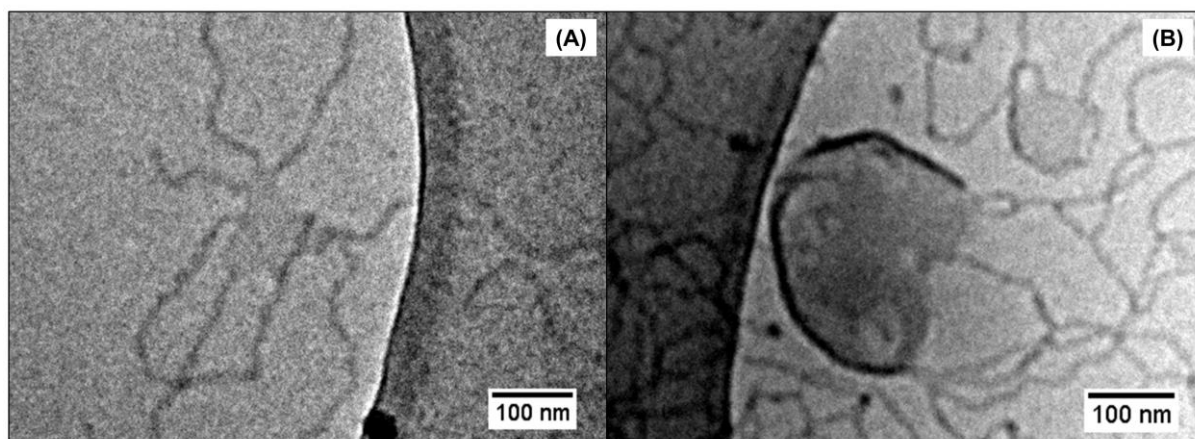


Figure S31. Exemplary cryo-TEM images of intermediate structures. A) Partially coalesced worms 'octopi-like', P₂₅-24. B) Half-closed vesicles, also called 'jellyfish', P₂₅-27.

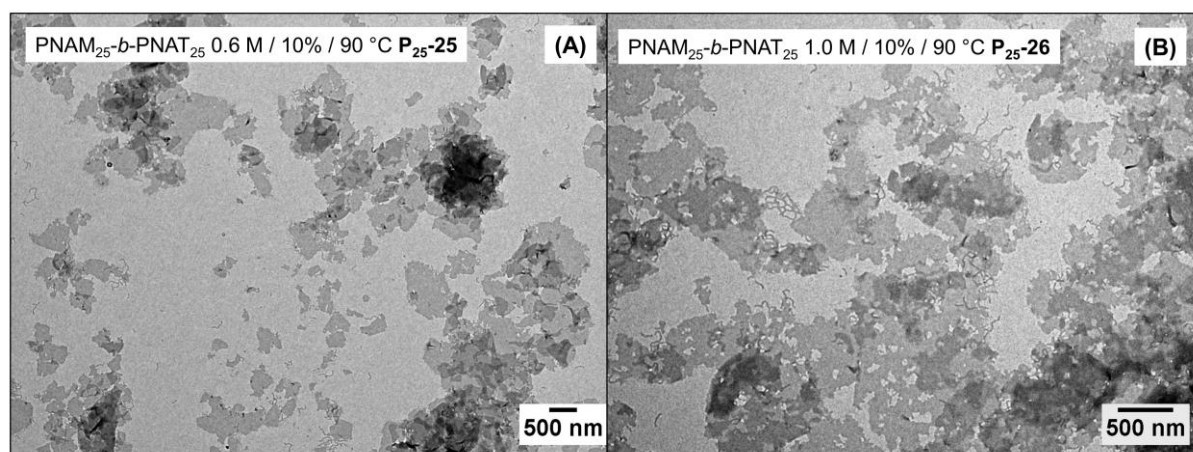


Figure S32. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ nanostructures after dialysis. A) Prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 90 °C. B) Prepared with 10 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 1.0 M and 90 °C.

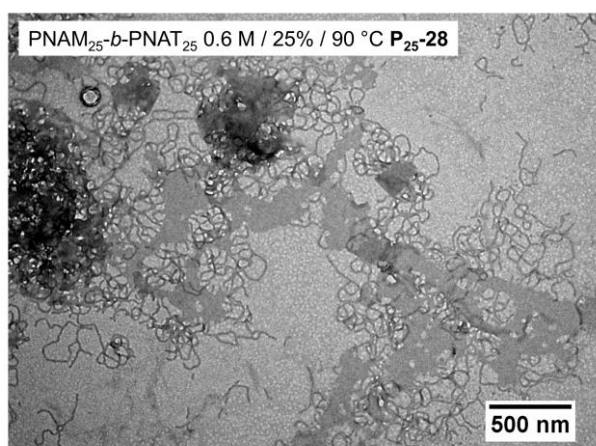


Figure S33. Exemplary dry-TEM images of PNAM₂₅-*b*-PNAT₂₅ nanostructures after dialysis, prepared with 25 vol% 1,4-dioxane at 0.6 M and 90 °C.

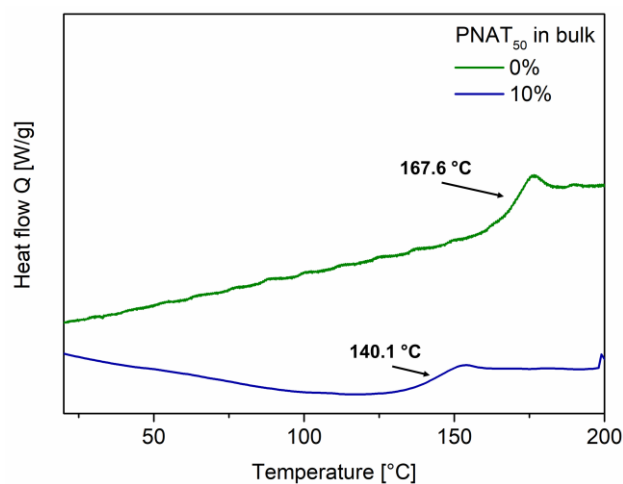


Figure S34. Comparison of the glass transition determined by DSC of pure PNAT₅₀ and PNAT₅₀ swelled in 1,4-dioxane.

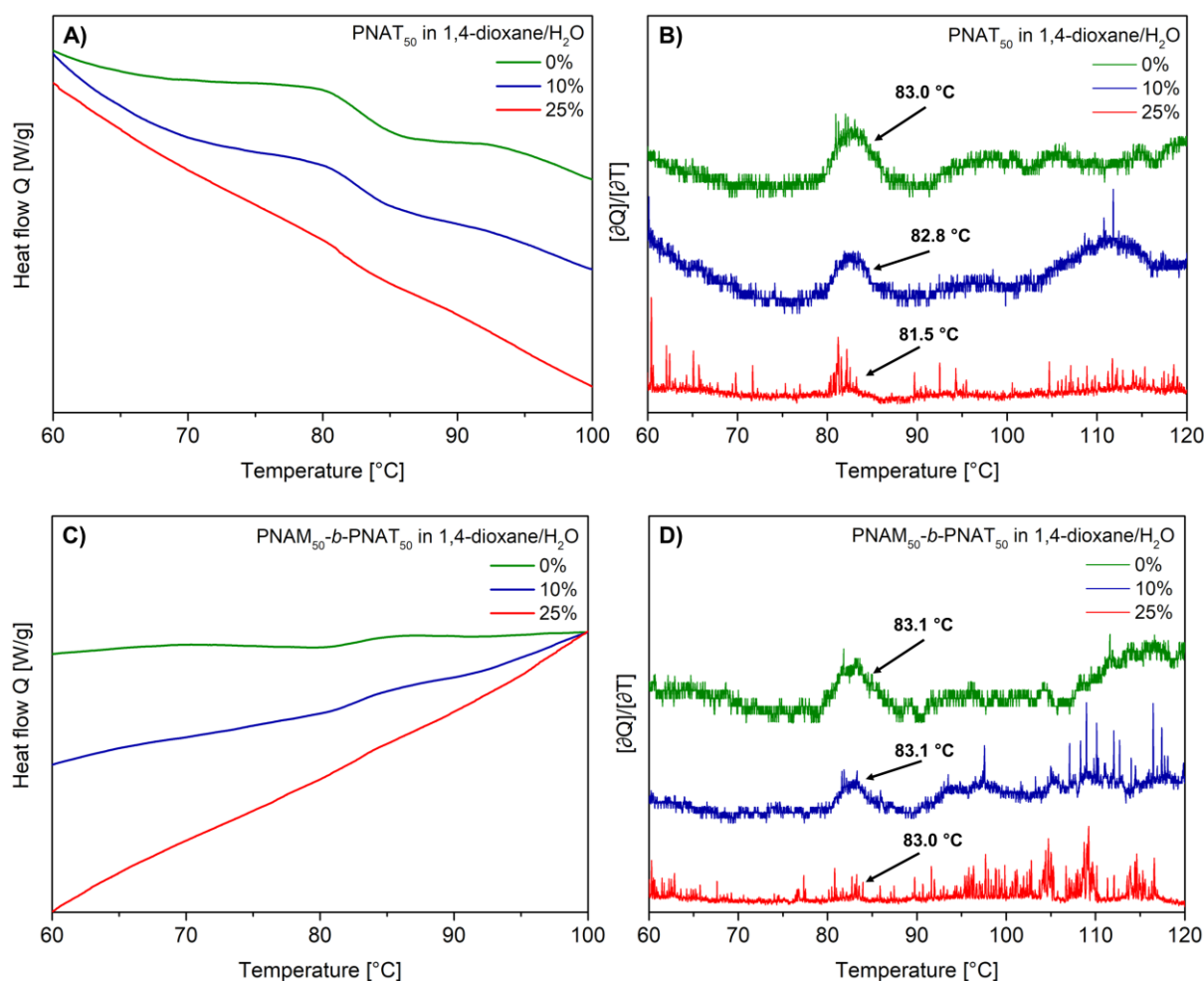


Figure S35. DSC analysis of aqueous polymer suspension with varying 1,4-dioxane content. A) Overlay of heating cycles of aqueous suspensions of PNAT₅₀ polymers (50 μ L, 50 mg mL⁻¹). B) 1st derivative of the heat flow vs. temperature of aqueous suspensions of PNAT₅₀ polymers (50 μ L, 50 mg mL⁻¹). C) Overlay of heating cycles of aqueous suspensions of

PNAM₅₀-*b*-NAT₅₀ micelles (50 μ L, 200 mg mL⁻¹). D) 1st derivative of the heat flow vs. temperature of aqueous suspensions of PNAM₅₀-*b*-NAT₅₀ micelles (50 μ L, 200 mg mL⁻¹).

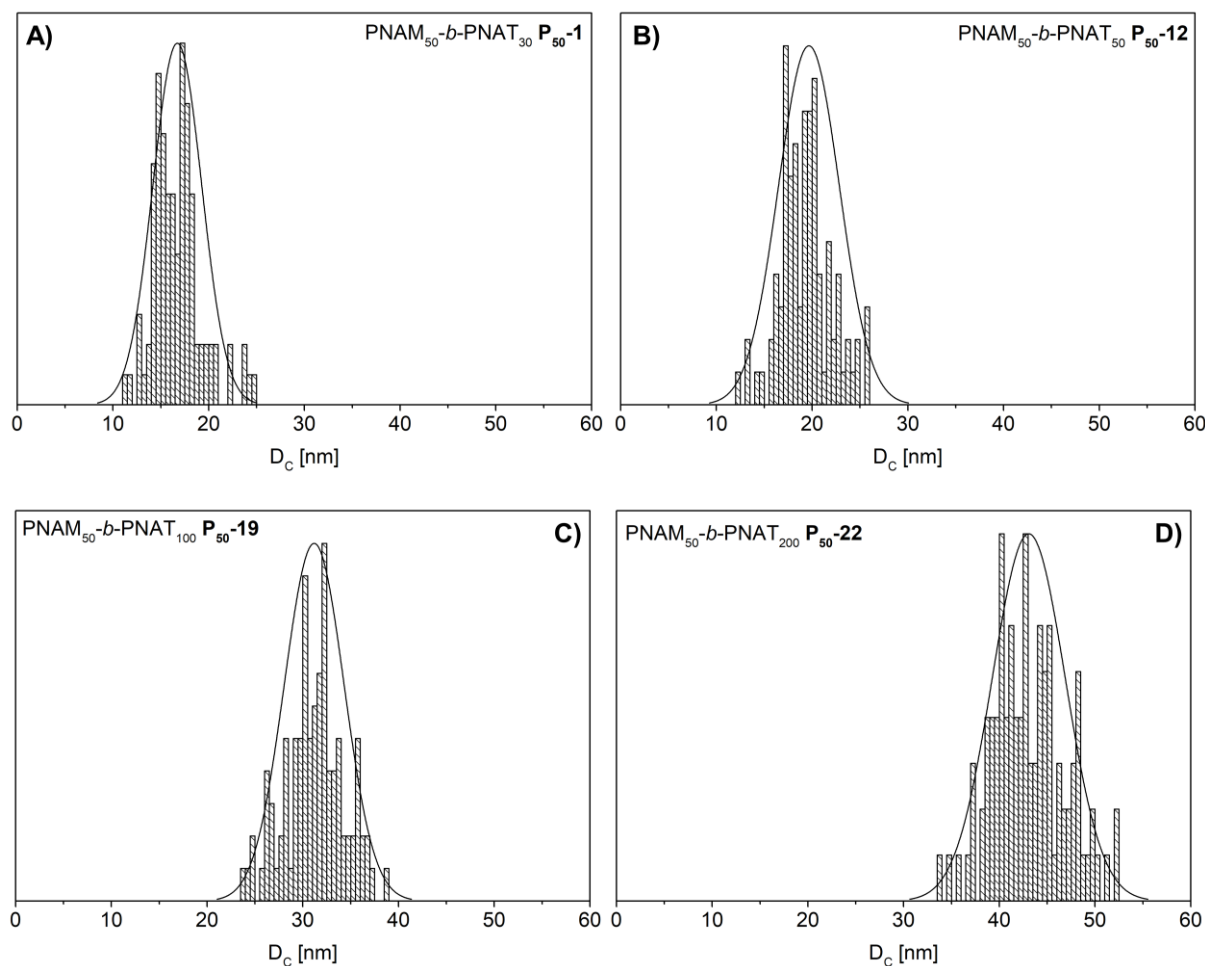


Figure S36. Size distribution of the core diameter determined by graphical analysis of ≥ 100 micelles in TEM images. A) Histogram of sample **P₅₀-1**. B) Histogram of sample **P₅₀-12**. C) Histogram of sample **P₅₀-19**. D) Histogram of sample **P₅₀-22**.

- [1] F. H. Sobotta, M. Kuchenbrod, S. Hoeppener and J. C. Brendel, *Nanoscale*, **2020**, 12, 20171-20176.