

- Electronic Supplementary Information -

Superparamagnetic nanoparticles with LC polymer brush shell as efficient dopants for ferronematic phases

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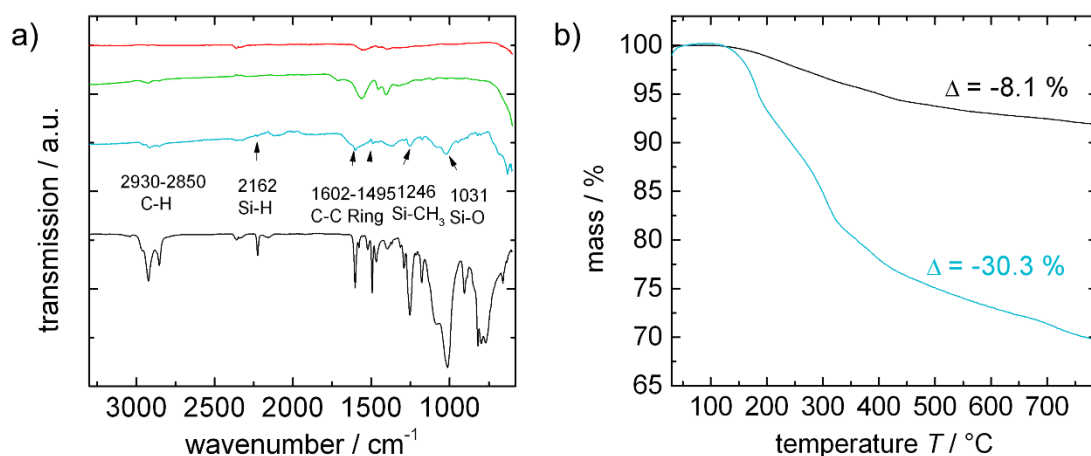


Figure S1. a) ATR-IR spectra of pure 9OCB-PHMS (—), CA@Fe₃O₄ (—), OTS@Fe₃O₄ (—) and 9OCB-PHMS@Fe₃O₄ (—), b) TGA of OTS@ Fe₃O₄ (—) and 9OCB-PHMS@ Fe₃O₄ (—).

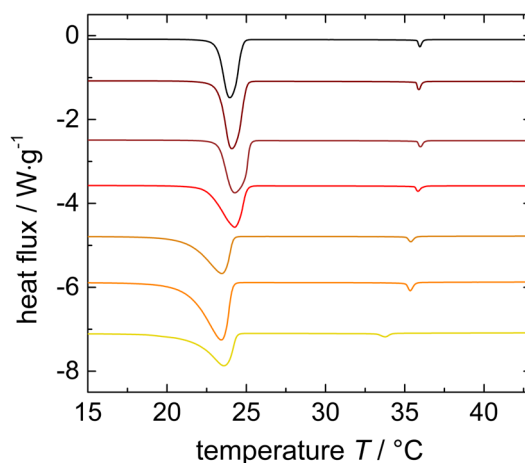


Figure S2. DSC thermograms of 5CB (—) and 9OCB-PHMS@Fe₃O₄ dispersed in 5CB for different solid dopant volume fractions $\phi_s = 3.6 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (—), $\phi_s = 7.2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (•), $\phi_s = 1.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (—), $\phi_s = 3.7 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (—), $\phi_s = 7.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (—) and $\phi_s = 1.8 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (—).

Table S1. Mass loss Δm_{TGA} , specific particle functionality $f_{9OCB,p}$ and surface functionalization density σ_A for 9OCB-PHMS@CoFe₂O₄ and 9OCB-PHMS@Fe₃O₄.

particle	Δm_{TGA} %	$f_{9OCB,p}$ mmol·g ⁻¹	σ_A mesogens·nm ⁻²
9OCB-PHMS@Fe ₃ O ₄	30.3	1.46	12.98
9OCB-PHMS@CoFe ₂ O ₄ *	26.7	1.28	13.36

*taken from ref¹

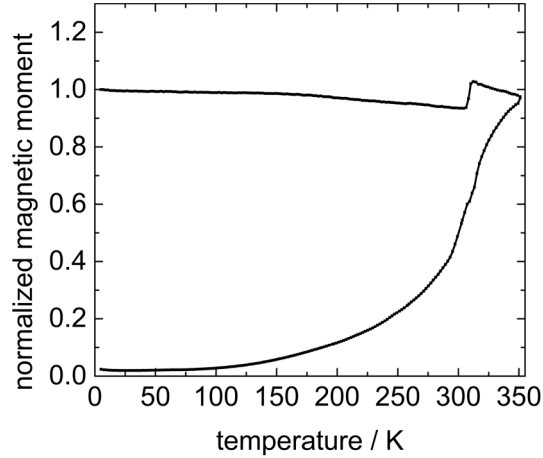


Figure S 3. Normalized ZFC-FC magnetization curve recorded at 10 mT for 9OCB-PHMS@CoFe₂O₄ in 5CB.

Table S2. Saturation magnetization M_s , magnetic moment m and coercivity field H_c determined by VSM, and bulk saturation magnetization $M_{s,bulk}$ for CoFe₂O₄ and Fe₃O₄.

particle	M_s Am ⁻² ·kg ⁻¹	$M_{s,bulk}$ Am ⁻² ·kg ⁻¹	m A m ²	H_c kAm ⁻¹	M_r / M_s
Fe ₃ O ₄	61.2	86.3 ²	1.17·10 ⁻¹⁹	-	-
CoFe ₂ O ₄ *	71.4	75.0 ³	1.39·10 ⁻¹⁹	9.0	0.25

*taken from ref¹

References

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- 2 S. Thurm and S. Odenbach, Particle size distribution as key parameter for the flow behavior of ferrofluids, *Physics of Fluids*, 2003, **15**, 1658–1664.
- 3 M. Rajendran, R. C. Pullar, A. K. Bhattacharya, D. Das, S. N. Chintalapudi and C. K. Majumdar, Magnetic properties of nanocrystalline CoFe₂O₄ powders prepared at room temperature: Variation with crystallite size, *Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials*, 2001, **232**, 71–83.