Supporting information of

Regulation of Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts by metal deposition procedures for selective hydrogenation of adiponitrile

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**Figure S1.** Typical TEM image (a) and HAADF-STEM elemental line scan (b) of Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-NH.

Figure S2. TEM image (a) and HAADF-STEM elemental mappings (b) of Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-U.

Figure S3. Typical TEM and HR-TEM images of Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-U sample.

**Figure S4.** A typical example of the original deconvolution method of the H<sub>2</sub>-TPD curve via the Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH catalyst.

Figure S5. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD curves of different Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts.

Figure S6. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD curve of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

Figure S7. Influences of catalyst amount (a) and ADN/Ni molar ratio (b) on the catalytic performances by  $Ni/Al_2O_3$ -OH catalyst. Reaction conditions: 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 90

°C for 3 h in 25 mL ethanol, 2.5 g ADN for (a) and 500 mg catalyst used for (b).

**Figure S8.** Circular test of the Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> sample. Reaction conditions: 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 80 °C for 3 h in 25 mL ethanol, molar ratio of ADN/Ni=13.6.

Figure S9. Typical TEM images of Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH sample after reaction.

**Figure S10.** The external diffusion during the hydrogenation reaction by Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH catalyst.

**Figure S11.** Linear relationship between (a)  $c_{ADN}$  and reaction time according to zeroorder reaction kinetics, and (b)  $lnc_{ADN}$  and reaction time according to first-order reaction kinetics by Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH over a temperature range of 80-120 °C, 7.0 MPa  $H_2$ , 800 rpm for 1.5 h, molar ratio of ADN/Ni=200.

**Figure S12.** Linear relationship between  $lnr_A$  and  $lnP_{H2}$  at 90 °C of the ADN hydrogenation by Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH

Figure S13. Catalytic performance by  $Ni/Al_2O_3$ -OH and  $Ni/Al_2O_3$ -U samples. Reaction conditions: 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 90 °C for 3 h in 25 mL ethanol, molar ratio of ADN/Ni=13.6.

**Table S1**. The R<sup>2</sup> for mathematics fitting of kinetic reaction models during the ADN hydrogenation by Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH catalysts.<sup>a</sup>

**Table S2.** The reaction rate ( $r_A$ ) and activation energy ( $E_a$ ) for the hydrogenation of ADN by different Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts.<sup>a</sup>



Figure S1. Typical TEM image (a) and HAADF-STEM elemental line scan (b) of Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-NH.



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Figure S3. Typical TEM and HR-TEM images of Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-U sample.



Figure S4. A typical example of the original deconvolution method of the  $H_2$ -TPD curve for the Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH catalyst.



Figure S5.  $NH_3$ -TPD curves of different  $Ni/Al_2O_3$  catalysts.



Figure S6. NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD curve of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.



Figure S7. Influences of catalyst amount (a) and ADN/Ni molar ratio (b) on the catalytic performances by Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH catalyst. Reaction conditions: 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 90  $^{\circ}$ C for 3 h in 25 mL ethanol, 2.5 g ADN for (a) and 500 mg catalyst used for (b).



**Figure S8.** Circular test of the Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> sample. Reaction conditions: 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 80 °C for 3 h in 25 mL ethanol, molar ratio of ADN/Ni=13.6.



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**Figure S10.** The external diffusion during the hydrogenation reaction by Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH catalyst.



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Figure S13. Catalytic performance by  $Ni/Al_2O_3$ -OH and  $Ni/Al_2O_3$ -U samples. Reaction conditions: 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 90 °C for 3 h in 25 mL ethanol, molar ratio of ADN/Ni=13.6.

**Table S1**. The R<sup>2</sup> for mathematics fitting of kinetic reaction models during the ADN hydrogenation by Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-OH catalysts.<sup>a</sup>

Ni/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -OH catalyst	80 °C	90 °C	100 °C	110 °C	120 °C
Zero-order	0.38	0.94	0.97	0.90	0.96
First-order	0.37	0.94	0.97	0.93	0.99
Second-order	0.73	0.94	0.97	0.95	0.98

<sup>a</sup> Experiments carried out over a temperature range of 80-120 °C, 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 800 rpm for 1.5 h, molar ratio of ADN/Ni=200.

Catalyst	Reaction ra	Eq. ([r]/mol)				
	80 °C	90 °C	100 °C	110 °C	120 °C	
Ni/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -OH	0.047	0.059	0.113	0.160	0.243	49.6
Ni/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -CO <sub>3</sub>	0.021	-	0.036	0.116	0.164	62.6
Ni/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -NH	0.019	-	0.077	0.099	0.236	69.4
Ni/Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -U	0.009	0.018	0.041	0.048	0.119	72.0

**Table S2.** The reaction rate  $(r_A)$  and activation energy  $(E_a)$  for the hydrogenation of ADN by different Ni/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Experiments carried out over a temperature range of 353–393 K, 7.0 MPa H<sub>2</sub>, 800 rpm for 1.5 h, molar ratio of ADN/Ni=200.