Supporting Information

Simple Thiazole-Centered Oligothiophene Donor with 15.4% Efficiency in All Small Molecule Organic Solar Cells

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Experimental Procedures

1. Synthetic protocols



Scheme S1. Synthesis of the donors Tz6T.

Note: Compounds 2,5-dibromo-4-chlorothiazole $(1)^1$ and 5'-bromo-3,4'-dioctyl-[2,2'bithiophene]-5-carbaldehyde $(5)^2$ were prepared according to previously report procedures.



4-chloro-2,5-bis(3-octylthiophen-2-yl)thiazole (3): In a pre-dried Schlenk tube, 2,5dibromo-4-chlorothiazole (1) (1.00 g, 3.60 mmol), tributyl(3-octylthiophen-2-yl)stannane (2) (3.85 g, 7.93 mmol) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (416 mg, 0.36 mmol) were dissolved in predegassed toluene (60 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 120 °C and was stirred for 48 h. Next, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography over SiO₂ using hexanes/CH₂Cl₂ (10:1) as the eluent. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation, affording desired compound **3** as a pale yellow oil (1.50 g, yield: 82%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 7.40 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.73-1.55 (m, 4H), 1.43-1.24 (m, 20H), 0.89-0.83 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 159.88, 144.22, 143.42, 138.07, 130.66, 130.56, 129.08, 127.30, 127.00,

123.21, 122.02, 31.87, 30.50, 30.03, 29.91, 29.61, 29.44, 29.41, 29.38, 29.24, 22.66, 14.08.



4-chloro-2,5-bis(3-octyl-5-(trimethylstannyl)thiophen-2-yl)thiazole (4): In a pre-dried Schlenk tube, a solution of compound **3** (1.02 g, 2.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (40 mL) was cooled to -78 °C. A solution of LDA (1.0 M in THF, 5.2 mL, 5.2 mmol) was added dropwise, and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at -78 °C. Next, trimethyltin chloride in THF (1.0 M, 6.0 mL, 6.0 mmol) was added to the mixture in one portion. The cooling bath was then removed, the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and was stirred for another 3 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated KF solution (30 mL) and the aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (2 × 50 mL). The organic phase was collected, dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated under reduced pressure, and compound **4** was obtained as a pale yellow oil used in the next step without the need for further purification (1.56 g, yield: 93%)



5",5""''-(4-chlorothiazole-2,5-diyl)bis(3,4',4"-trioctyl-[2,2':5',2"-terthiophene]-5carbaldehyde) (6): In a pre-dried Schlenk tube, organotin 4 (833 mg, 1.0 mmol.), aldehyde 5 (1.19 g, 2.4 mmol) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (115 mg, 0.1 mmol) were dissolved in predegassed toluene (40 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 120 °C and was stirred for 48 h. Next, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography over SiO₂ using hexanes/CHCl₃ (2:3) as the eluent. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation, affording desired compound **6** as an orange-red solid (1.41 g, 88%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 9.83 (s, 2H), 7.59 (s, 2H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H), 7.06-7.05 (m, 2H), 2.90-2.78 (m, 10H), 2.67 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.70-1.68 (m, 10H), 1.42-1.28

(m, 60H), 0.88, 0.87 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, δ ppm): 182.45, 159.12, 144.59, 143.91, 141.31, 141.01, 140.82, 140.72, 140.64, 140.50, 140.41, 140.31, 138.93, 138.21, 137.22, 136.73, 133.50, 133.12, 132.37, 132.22, 130.60, 130.51, 129.19, 128.01, 123.70, 121.65, 31.89, 31.88, 30.53, 30.51, 30.37, 30.29, 30.23, 29.80, 29.68, 29.55, 29.50, 29.46, 29.44, 29.41, 29.28, 29.25, 22.68, 14.09.



2,2'-(((5Z,5'Z)-(((4-chlorothiazole-2,5-diyl)bis(3,4',4''-trioctyl-[2,2':5',2''-

terthiophene]-5",5-diyl))bis(methanylylidene))bis(3-ethyl-4-oxothiazolidine-5,2-

diylidene))**dimalononitrile (Tz6T):** The aldehyde **6** (268 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2-(3-ethyl-4oxothiazolidin-2-ylidene)malononitrile (7) (193 mg, 1.0 mmol) and ammonium acetate (200 mg) were added into a mix solution of chloroform/acetic acid (10 mL/20 mL), and the mixture was heated to 100 °C and stirred for 6 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool down to room temperature, filtered, and washed with methanol (2×20 mL) and ethyl acetate (2×20 mL), affording the desired products as a purple-black solid in high yield and high purity (308 mg, 91%). Further purification can be simply performed *via* recrystallization in ethyl acetate.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CHCl₃, δ ppm): 8.00 (s, 2H), 7.30 (s, 2H), 7.19 (m, 2H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 4.35 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 2.93-2.81 (m, 10H), 2.68 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 1.80-1.62 (m, 12H), 1.43-1.28 (m, 66H), 0.88-0.86 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR(100 MHz, CHCl₃, δ ppm): 165.92, 165.60, 159.06, 144.65, 143.98, 141.62, 141.45, 141.00, 140.88, 140.66, 138.80, 138.23, 137.13, 136.64, 134.02, 133.90, 133.05, 132.74, 132.64, 132.56, 130.70, 129.27, 128.65, 128.08, 123.83, 121.67, 113.66, 113.54, 113.32, 112.29, 55.70, 55.65, 40.70, 31.89, 31.87, 30.67, 30.55, 30.51, 30.22, 29.83, 29.71, 29.65, 29.62, 29.53, 29.51, 29.46, 29.42, 29.33, 29.28, 29.26, 22.68, 14.21, 14.10. HR-MS (+APCI, m/z): calcd. for C₉₃H₁₂₁ClN₇O₂S₉⁺ [M+H]⁺: 1690.67512, found 1690.67163.

2. Device fabrications and Testing

The device structures were ITO/PEDOT:PSS/Active layer/Phen-NaDPO/Ag. ITO coated glass substrates were cleaned with detergent water, deionized water, acetone and isopropyl alcohol in an ultrasonic bath sequentially for 15 min, and further treated with UV exposure for 15 min in a UV-ozone chamber. A thin layer (ca. 30 nm) of PEDOT:PSS (Bayer Baytron 4083) was first spin-coated on the substrates with 4000 rpm and baked at 150 °C for 10 min under ambient conditions. The substrates were then transferred into a nitrogen-filled glove box. The all optimized concentration was 18 mg/ml chloroform solution with D:A ratio of 1.8:1 (w/w). After spin coating, the 2C17T:eC9-4F blend film was annealed at 120 °C for 5 mins. And the Tz6T:eC9-4F blend film was annealed at 150 °C for 5 mins. Then Phen-NaDPO as the electron transporting layer was spin-coated on the active layer by 2000 rpm from isopropyl alcohol solution. Finally, the substrates were transferred to a thermal evaporator, and top electrode was evaporated at a pressure of 2×10^{-5} Pa.

The external quantum efficiency (EQE) was performed using certified IPCE equipment (Zolix Instruments, Inc, Solar Cell Scan 100). The J–V curves were measured under AM 1.5 G (100 mW cm⁻²) (Enli Technology Co., Ltd. SS-X50R). The J-V measurement signals were recorded by a Keithley 2400 source-measure unit. Device area of each cell was 0.08636 cm².

3. Instruments and Characterizations

Material characterization: NMR spectra (¹H and ¹³C) were recorded on on Bruker Avance III Ultrashield Plus instruments (400 MHz) spectrometer. Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) data of Tz6T was collected by using a Bruker ultrafleXtreme MALDI-TOF/TOF mass spectrometer. 2Cl7T, Tz6T and eC9-4F were purified by preparative-scale recycling sizeexclusion chromatography (SEC) on an LC-9160NEXT (JAI) system prior to being examined as SM donor/acceptor in ASM-OSCs. **Thermal analyses**: The measurements of Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) and Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) were performed on a Mettler-Toledo TGA/DSC 3+ analyzer under a nitrogen atmosphere, using aluminum crucibles.

Photophysical and electrochemical property characterizations: UV-vis spectra (solution and film) were recorded on a PerkinElmer LAMBDA 365 UV-Vis spectrophotometer. Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) was performed with a CIH660e electrochemical workstation, using a glassy carbon button electrode as the working electrode, a platinum wire as the auxiliary electrode, and an Ag/Ag⁺ glass electrode as the reference electrode. The Ag/Ag⁺ reference electrode was calibrated using the ferrocene/ferrocenium (Fc/Fc⁺) redox couple. Fc/Fc⁺ is taken to be 4.8 eV relative to the vacuum level. All the CV curves were measured by casting the thin film (from CHCl₃ solution of SM materials) on the glassy carbon electrode.

Contact Angle Measurements: The contact angles of two different solvents (water and formamid) on the neat films (donor/acceptor) were measured on a DSA-100 drop shape analyzer (KRÜSS Scientific). The miscibility of two components in the blend can be estimated from the solubility parameters (δ) of each material, which can be calculated with equation: $\delta = K\sqrt{\gamma}$, Where γ is the surface energy of the material, and *K* is the proportionality constant ($K = 116 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^{1/2}$).

Space charge limited current (SCLC) measurements: The carrier mobility (hole and electron mobility) of photoactive active layer was obtained by fitting the dark current of hole/electron-only diodes to the space-charge-limited current (SCLC) model. Hole-only diode configuration: ITO/PEDOT:PSS/active layer/MoO₃/Ag; here, $V_{\rm bi} = 0$ V (flat band pattern formed by MoO₃-MoO₃). Electron-only diode configuration: ITO/ZnO/Phen-NaDPO/active layer/Phen-NaDPO/Ag; here, $V_{\rm bi} = 0$ V was used following the protocol reported.³ The active layer thickness was determined by a Tencor surface profilometer. The electric-field dependent SCLC mobility was estimated using the following equation:

$$J(V) = \frac{9}{8} \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r \mu_0 exp\left(0.89\beta \sqrt{\frac{V - V_{bi}}{L}}\right) \frac{(V - V_{bi})^2}{L^3}$$

Atomic force microscopy (AFM) measurements: Topographic images of the films were obtained from a Bruker atomic force microscopy (AFM) with the type of dimension

edge with Scan AsystTM in the tapping mode using an etched silicon cantilever at a nominal load of $\sim 2nN$, and the scanning rate for a 2 μ m×2 μ m image size was 1.5 Hz.

Grazing incidence wide-angle X-ray scattering (GIWAXS): GIWAXS measurements with K α X-ray of Cu source (8.05 KeV, 1.54 Å) and a Pilatus3R 300 K detector were conducted at a Xeuss 2.0 SAXS/WAXS laboratory beamline. Si substrates were sonicated for 15 min in turn in successive baths of acetone and isopropanol. The substrates were then dried with pressurized nitrogen before being exposed to the UV-ozone plasma for 15 min. Then the samples were prepared by spin coating identical chloroform blend solutions as those used in ASM-OSCs on Si substrates. The grazing incident angle was 0.15°.



Schemes, Figures and Tables

Scheme S2. Synthetic routes of SM donors BTR and DRCN7T



Figure S1. Normalized UV-vis spectra of SM donors and acceptor in chloroform solution.



Figure S2. (a) Oxidation scans of the SM donor *vs.* Fc/Fc⁺; **(b)** Oxidation and reduction scans of SM acceptor eC9-4F *vs.* Fc/Fc⁺.



Figure S3. (a) Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of Tz6T under nitrogen atmosphere with heating rate of 10 °C/min; (b) Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) traces of Tz6T. Analyses carried out with a scan rate of 10 °C/min between 30 °C and 300 °C



Figure S4. Contact angle with deionized water and formamid of 2C17T, Tz6T and eC9-4F films. The temperature of thermal annealing (TA) is determined by the optimized post-treatment conditions of **2C17T:eC9-4F** and **Tz6T:eC9-4F** blends, respectively.



Figure S5. Report of certified efficiency of the optimized Tz6T:eC9-4F binary single junction solar cells, measured by National Institute of Metrology (NIM), China.



Figure S6. 2D GIWAXS pattern of the neat film of eC9-4F.



Figure S7. Hole(blue)-electron(green) distribution of 2Cl7T and Tz6T calculated at relaxed S1 state.



Figure S8. (a,b) Ground state relative energy versus torsion angle. (c,d) Boltzmann probability versus torsion angle. (e,f) S1 state transition versus torsion angle.



Figure S9. Optimized interaction conformation between central donor unit (central three five-member ring) of Tz6T/2Cl7T and donor/acceptor moiety of eC9-4F. The initial geometry was obtained by conformation search with Molclus/genmer program. The relative stacking energy is obtained by $E_{stack} = (E1-E3) - (E2-E4)$.



Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 3 in CDCl₃.





Figure S12. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 6 in CDCl₃.





Figure S14. ¹H NMR spectrum of Tz6T in CDCl₃.





Figure S16. HR-MS spectrum of Tz6T.

Films	Contact A	ngle (deg)	surface free	absolute
FIIIIS	H ₂ O	formamide	m^{-1}	δ (Δδ, ×K)
2Cl7T ^a	100.50 (±0.58)	78.70 (±0.34)	24.53	\
eC9-4F ^a	101.09 (±0.53)	78.85 (±0.23)	24.80	\
Tz6T ^b	100.85 (±0.60)	77.16 (±0.21)	26.77	\
eC9-4F ^b	100.99 (±0.43)	78.96 (±0.30)	24.59	\
2Cl7T:eC9-4F	\	\	\	0.000738
Tz6T:eC9-4F		\		0.046

Table S1. Contact angle of neat films and miscibility paramaters of blend films.

^a Annealed at 120 °C; ^b Annealed at 150 °C.

 Table S2. Donor-Acceptor ratio dependence for Tz6T:eC9-4F devices. Performance includes standard deviation across at least 20 devices.

D:A ratio (wt/wt)	<i>Voc</i> (mV)	FF (%)	Jsc (mA/cm ²)	<i>PCE</i> _{max} (%)
1.5:1	868.2	63.16	25.46	13.96
1.8:1	863.4	69.64	25.04	15.05
2.1:1	867.9	70.81	24.03	14.77

 Table S3. Blend film thickness dependence for Tz6T:eC9-4F devices. Performance

 includes standard deviation across at least 20 devices.

Thickness (nm)	Voc (mV)	FF (%)	Jsc (mA/cm ²)	PCE _{max} (%)
100	864.9	71.85	23.69	14.72
120	866.0	70.80	24.85	15.12
150	866.6	67.11	24.48	14.23

 Table S4. Diverse post-condition dependence for Tz6T:eC9-4F devices. Performance

 includes standard deviation across at least 20 devices..

Temperature	Voc (mV)	FF (%)	Jsc (mA/cm ²)	PCE _{max} (%)
140 °C/5min	871.7	68.18	24.89	14.79
150 °C/5min	863.3	70.86	25.14	15.38
160 °C/5min	859.5	71.32	24.15	14.80

Pure film	Lattice	Peak location (A ⁻¹)	d-spacing (Å)	Coherence length (Å)
	plane	$\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}}$	$\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}}$	$\mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}}$
2CI7 T	010	1.315	4.78	31.46
Tz6T	010	1.333	4.71	17.86
Pure film	Lattice	Peak location (A ⁻¹)	d-spacing (Å)	Coherence length (Å)
	plane	qz	qz	qz
2CI7 T	010	1.346	4.67	31.24
TatT	200	0.485	12.95	71.18
1 26 1	300	0.734	8.56	24.12

Table S5. Packing parameters of neat films, as derived from GIWAXS measurements.

Table S6. Packing parameters of blend films, as derived from GIWAXS measurements.

	т ".	Peak location	d-spacing	Coherence length
Blend film	plane	(A ⁻¹)	(Å)	(Å)
		qz	qz	qz
2Cl7T:eC9-4F	010	1.359	4.62	24.67
Tz6T:eC9-4F	010	1.350	4.65	30.21

Table S7. Mobility values of devices of 2Cl7T:eC9-4F and Tz6T:eC9-4F.

Blends	$\mu_{\rm h}(imes 10^{-3} { m cm}^2 { m V}^{-1} { m s}^{-1})$	$\mu_{\rm e}$ (×10 ⁻³ cm ² V ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	$\mu_{ m h}/\mu_{ m e}$
2Cl7T:eC9-4F	0.74 (0.58±0.15)	1.28 (1.09±0.17)	0.58
Tz6T:eC9-4F	1.30 (1.06±0.22)	1.46 (1.24±0.20)	0.89

Table S8.	Photovoltaic	parameters	of optimized	ASM-OSCs	based	on 2Cl7T:	Y6	and
Tz6T:Y6 b	lends (Statist	ical data obt	ained from at	least 20 devic	es.).			

Blends	V _{OC} (mV)	J _{SC} (mA/cm ²)	FF (%)	PCE (%)
2Cl7T:Y6	853.8	19.72	69.24	11.66 (11.45±0.22)
Tz6T:Y6	857.1	23.24	68.06	13.55 (13.39±0.17)

Table S9. Properties of 2C17T and Tz6T calculated at relaxed S1 state. E_{S1} : the transition energy from S0 in eV; **Osc. Str.**: the oscillator strength of S1 state; **D_idx**: the centroid distance between hole and electron. **Sr**: the overlap integral of hole and electron. **Orb. Comp.**: the orbital composition of the S1 state. **HOMO** and **LUMO**: frontier orbital levels in eV at relaxed S1 geometry. E_b : the exciton binding energy in eV. μ_{S1} and μ_{S0} : the dipole moments in Debye.

Mol	E _{S1} (eV)	Osc. Str.	D_idx	Sr	Orb. Comp.
2Cl7T	1.498	3.958	0.362	0.682	H-L:0.945
Tz6T	1.495	3.816	3.289	0.676	H-L:0.923
Mol	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	E _b (eV)	μ _{S1} (Debye)	μ _{S0} (Debye)
2Cl7T	-5.153	-3.218	0.438	12.751	10.582
Tz6T	-5.191	-3.259	0.437	15.779	11.133

Table S10. Properties of **2Cl7T/eC9-4F** and **Tz6T/eC9-4F** calculated at relaxed S1 state. Two conformers were calculated for each D/A pair, where D(A)/A(A) indicates the acceptor moiety of the donor molecule stacks with the acceptor moiety of the acceptor molecule stacks and D(A)/A(D) indicates the acceptor moiety of the donor molecule stacks with the donor molecule stacks with the donor molecule. E_{CT}: the transition energy from S0 to S1 in eV. **Orb. Comp.**: the orbital composition of the S1 state. **HOMO** and **LUMO**: frontier orbital levels in eV at relaxed S1 geometry. **E**_b: the exciton binding energy.

	E _{CT} (eV)	Orb. Comp.	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	E _b (eV)
2Cl7T(A) / eC9-4F(A)	1.099	H-L:0.906	-5.163	-3.729	0.335
2Cl7T(A) / eC9-4F(D)	1.267	H-L:0.977	-5.176	-3.677	0.232
Tz6T(A) / eC9-4F(A)	1.162	H-L:0.895	-5.209	-3.740	0.306
Tz6T(A) / eC9-4F(D)	1.296	H-L:0.977	-5.190	-3.682	0.213

Angle	Tz6T S0	2CI7T S0	Tz6T	2CI7T	Tz6T S1	2CI7T S1
(°)	(kcal/mol)	(kcal/mol)	probability	probability	(eV)	(eV)
0	0.000	0.387	1.000	1.000	1.990	2.004
10	0.323	0.407	0.000	0.582	1.987	1.998
20	1.023	0.407	0.000	0.180	1.992	2.029
30	1.995	0.425	0.000	0.035	2.005	2.056
40	3.126	0.475	0.000	0.005	2.048	2.090
50	4.418	0.984	0.000	0.001	2.097	2.126
60	4.201	0.054	0.000	0.001	2.178	2.166
70	4.962	0.302	0.000	0.000	2.226	2.214
80	7.003	0.340	0.000	0.000	2.265	2.243
90	7.013	1.809	0.000	0.000	2.257	2.258
100	6.381	1.391	0.000	0.000	2.203	2.253
110	5.338	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.139	2.243
120	4.142	0.265	0.000	0.001	2.083	2.213
130	2.990	0.272	0.000	0.007	2.031	2.178
140	2.093	0.821	0.000	0.030	2.012	2.160
150	1.410	1.915	0.000	0.094	1.982	2.120
160	0.693	3.458	0.000	0.313	1.997	2.090
170	0.519	5.413	0.000	0.419	1.983	2.041
180	0.478	7.274	0.000	0.449	1.971	1.984

Table S11. Relaxed torsion angle scan data of 2Cl7T and Tz6T.

Donors	Acceptor	$V_{\rm OC}({ m V})$	$J_{\rm SC}$ (mA cm ⁻²)	FF (%)	PCE (%)	Year
DCN7T	PC ₆₁ BM	0.82	10.23	29.2	2.45 ⁴	2010
Compound 2	C ₆₀	0.51	2.16	28.0	0.365	2011
Compound 3	C ₆₀	0.81	3.70	36.0	1.215	2011
DCAEH7T	PC ₆₁ BM	0.93	9.91	49.1	4.526	2011
DCAO7T	PC ₆₁ BM	0.86	10.74	55.0	5.086	2011
DERHD7T	PC ₆₁ BM	0.92	13.98	47.4	6.107	2012
Т3	PC ₇₁ BM	0.85	10.79	67.1	6.15 ⁸	2013
DRCN7T	PC ₇₁ BM	0.91	14.87	68.7	9.30 ⁹	2015
DRCN5T	PC ₇₁ BM	0.92	15.88	69.0	10.08^{10}	2016
DRCN5T	TPH	1.04	11.59	51.0	6.1611	2016
DRCN5T	IDIC8-F	0.864	15.21	64.1	8.4212	2018
DRCN5T	F-2C1	0.906	15.97	68.4	9.8913	2018
D5T2F-P	IDIC-4F	0.86	16.85	63.0	9.3614	2020
2F7T	Y6	0.79	20.72	54.1	9.4115	2020
2Cl7T	Y6	0.83	19.69	68.1	11.45 ¹⁵	2020
Tz6T	eC9-4F	0.863	25.14	70.86	15.38	This work

Table S12. The photovoltaic parameters of oligothiophene donors based OSCs reported in literature.

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