Supplementary Information

Controlled fabrication of Ag@clay nanomaterials for ultrasensitive and rapid surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopic detection

Chao Peng Fu^a, Ke Jin Li^a, Jia Yong He^a, Wei Hua Yu^b, Chun Hui Zhou^{a,c,d*}

^a Research Group for Advanced Materials & Sustainable Catalysis (AMSC), State Key Laboratory Breeding Base of Green Chemistry-Synthesis Technology, College of Chemical Engineering, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, 310032, China

^b Zhijiang College, Zhejiang University of Technology, Shaoxing, 312030, China

^c Qing Yang Institute for Industrial Minerals, Youhua, Qingyang, Anhui, 242804, China

^d Engineering Research Center of Non-metallic Minerals of Zhejiang Province, Zhejiang Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources, Hangzhou, 310007, China

*Correspondence to: Prof. CH Zhou. E-mail: clay@zjut.edu.cn.



Fig. S1 The SEM images for Ag NPs (A), SDS controlled Ag NPs (B), and Ag@Hct nanocomposites (C). (Hct: hectorite, SDS: sodium dodecyl sulfate.)



Fig. S2 The UV-vis spectra of Ag@Hct nanomaterials prepared in different batches. (black line: 1st batch; red line: 2nd batch; blue line: 3rd batch; green line: 4th) (Hct: hectorite)



Fig. S3 The TEM images of Ag@Hct nanomaterials prepared in different batches. (A: 1st batch; B: 2nd batch) (Hct: hectorite)



Fig. S4 Element mapping of C for SDS-free Ag@Hct nanomaterials. (Hct: hectorite , SDS: sodium dodecyl sulfate.)



Fig. S5 The TEM images and elemental mapping for Hct NPs. (Hct: hectorite)



Fig. S6 The TEM image, elemental mapping, and EDS for SDS modified Hct NPs. (Hct: hectorite, SDS: sodium dodecyl sulfate)



Fig. 57 The pictures for Hct suspension (A), SDS modified Hct dispersions (B), and mixed liquid of Hct-SDS-AgNO₃ (C). (Hct: hectorite , SDS: sodium dodecyl sulfate)



Fig. S8 The zeta potential distribution for SDS. (SDS: sodium dodecyl sulfate)



Fig. S9 Histograms of SERS intensity distribution at 1624 cm⁻¹ at 10 different points randomly collected from 10^{-12} M of MB solution in Ag@Hct dispersion prepared by the one batch (A) and on the Ag@Hct substrates prepared from different batches (B). (Hct: hectorite, MB: methylene blue.)



Fig. S10 The Raman spectra of CV (red line) and MG (black line). The SERS spectra of CV (blue line) and MG (green line) on Ag@Hct suspension. (Hct: hectorite, MG=malachite green; CV=crystal violet. The concentration of MG and CV was 10⁻³ M)