

## Supporting information

### Upgrading the Reflux Method as Novel Route for Competitive Catalysts in Alkane Selective Oxidation

by

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## Summary

**Table S1.** Rietveld method quantification of the majority crystalline phases present in the XRD of the catalysts.

**Table S2.** Catalytic results during the partial oxidation of propane over MoVTeNbO catalysts.<sup>a</sup>

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**Figure S1.** XRD patterns of as-synthesized materials. Characteristics of catalysts as in Table 1.

**Figure S2.** IR spectra of as-synthesized materials. Characteristics of catalysts as in Table 1.

**Figure S3.** Low magnification (10K) FESEM micrographs of: a) **P8-N**, b) **P10-N**, c) **P11-N**, d) **P11A-N**, e) **P11B-N** and f) **P11C-AN** catalysts.

**Figure S4.** HRTEM micrographs of: a) **P8-N**, b) **P11-N**, c) **P11A-N** and d) **P11C-AN** catalysts.

**Figure S5.** XPS spectra of Mo *3d* (**A, B**), Te *3d* (**C, D**) and Nb *3d* (**E, F**) core level.

**Figure S6.** Relationship between the areal rate for both propane (**A**) and ethane (**B**) oxidation and the % of the orthorhombic M1 phase in the catalysts. Reaction conditions as in Table S4.

**Figure S7.** Relationship between the selectivity to ethylene and the % of the orthorhombic M1 phase in the catalysts. Reaction conditions: 25% conversion, 412 °C and remaining conditions in the text.

**Scheme S1.** Reaction network for the selective oxidation of propane on mixed metal oxides. Adapted from ref. 1.

**Scheme S2.** Reaction network for the ethane ODH on mixed metal oxides. Adapted from ref. 2

## References

**Table S1.** Rietveld method quantification of the majority crystalline phases present in the XRD of the catalysts.

<b>Catalyst<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>M1</b>	<b>Mo<sub>5</sub>O<sub>14</sub></b>	<b>TeMo<sub>5</sub>O<sub>16</sub></b>	<b>Amorphous</b>
<b>P8-N</b>	14.2	34.5	40.1	11.0
<b>P10-N</b>	27.3	20.1	30.2	22.3
<b>P11-N</b>	66.1	12.5	11.8	9.6
<b>P11A-N</b>	76.7	9.0	10.0	4.3
<b>P11B-N</b>	44.6	20.4	15.9	8.1
<b>P11C-aN</b>	73.2	1.8	12.3	12.6

a) Catalyst heat-treated at 600°C in N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere; b) Catalyst initially calcined at 250°C in air and then heat-treated at 600°C in N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.

**Table S2.** Catalytic results during the partial oxidation of propane over MoVTeNbO catalysts.<sup>a</sup>

<b>Catalyst</b>	<b>Temp.</b> (°C)	<b>Conv.</b> (%)	<b>S<sub>AA</sub></b> (%)	<b>S<sub>C3=</sub></b> (%)	<b>S<sub>HAc</sub></b> (%)	<b>S<sub>COx</sub></b> (%)	<b>Y<sub>AA</sub></b> (%)
<b>P8-N</b>	375	9.7	28.4	16.5	7.1	48.0	2.8
<b>P10-N</b>	391	18.5	54.9	10.8	3.4	30.9	10.1
<b>P11-N</b>	372	21.2	55.5	10.2	3.9	30.4	11.8
	400	40.5	57.0	5.3	6.0	31.7	23.1
<b>P11A-N</b>	380	56.7	63.2	2.1	2.8	25.9	35.8
	400	70.5	58.5	1.5	9.0	31.0	41.2
<b>P11B-N</b>	372	29.9	36.9	10.9	2.2	50.0	11.0
<b>P11C-aN</b>	380	60.7	63.7	1.7	8.5	26.1	38.7
	400 <sup>b</sup>	50.6	64.0	1.7	8.4	25.9	32.4
	400	74.4	59.0	1.5	8.8	30.7	43.9

**a)** Reaction conditions: Contact time, W/F, 407 g<sub>cat</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> mol<sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub></sub><sup>-1</sup>; C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>/O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O/He= 4/8/30/58; total flow 25 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

**b)** Selectivity to acrylic acid (AA), acetic acid (HAc), propylene (C3=), and carbon oxides (CO+CO<sub>2</sub>).

**c)** Contact time, W/F, 203 g<sub>cat</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> mol<sub>C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub></sub><sup>-1</sup>; C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>/O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O/He= 4/8/30/58; total flow 50 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S3.** Catalytic results during the ethane oxidative dehydrogenation over MoVTeNbO catalysts.<sup>a</sup>

<b>Catalyst</b>	<b>Temp.</b> (°C)	<b>Conversion</b> (%)	<b>S<sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub></sub></b> (%)	<b>S<sub>CO</sub></b> (%)	<b>S<sub>CO<sub>2</sub></sub></b> (%)	<b>Y<sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub></sub></b> (%)
<b>P8-N</b>	412	5.5	90.6	6.2	3.2	
	433	7.6	92.4	5.0	2.6	7.0
<b>P10-N</b>	408	11.9	94.1	4.0	1.9	11.2
	428	18.5	93.4	4.7	2.0	17.2
<b>P11-N</b>	408	12.4	95.4	3.0	1.6	11.8
	428	19.4	94.7	3.5	1.8	18.3
<b>P11A-N</b>	386	26.2	96.1	2.3	1.7	25.2
	407	39.1	94.8	3.2	2.0	37.1
	429	54.2	92.4	4.8	2.7	50.1
<b>P11B-N</b>	408	16.4	93.7	4.3	2.0	15.4
	428	25.7	92.5	5.3	2.2	23.7
<b>P11C-aN</b>	391	34.3	94.3	3.8	1.9	32.3
	412	49.6	92.7	5.0	3.1	46.0
	432	65.3	89.4	7.5	4.3	58.4

a) Reaction conditions: C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>/O<sub>2</sub>/He= 9/35/56; contact time, W/F, of 140 g<sub>cat</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> mol<sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub></sub><sup>-1</sup>; total flow 30 mL min<sup>-1</sup>.

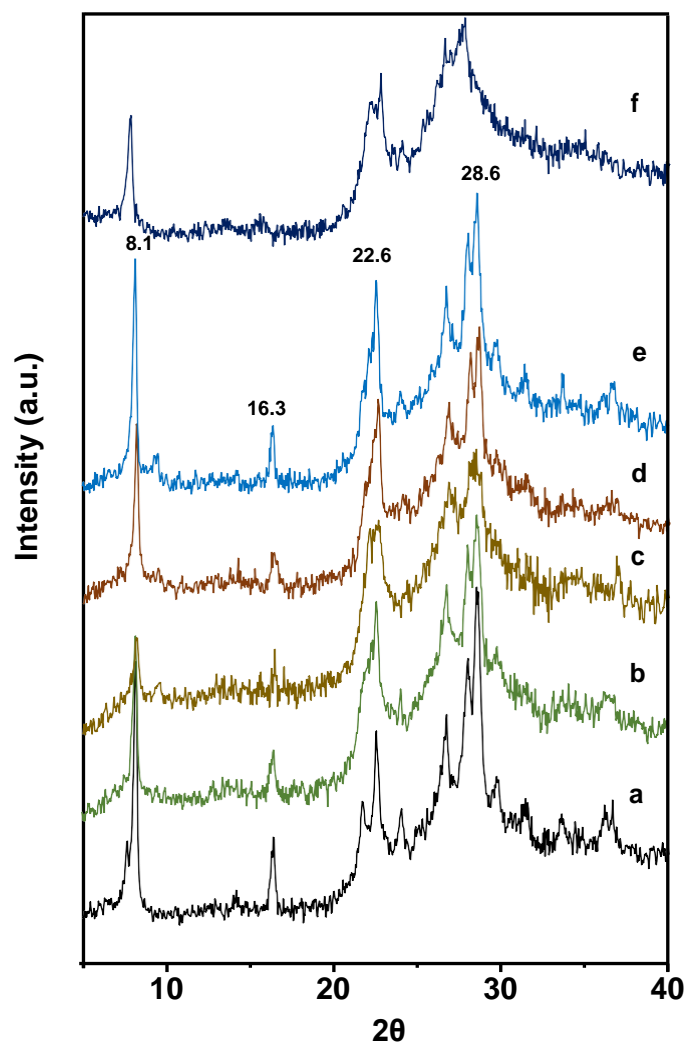
b) Selectivity to ethylene (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), and carbon oxides (CO and CO<sub>2</sub>).

**Table S4.** Catalytic parameters during the oxidation of ethane and propane over MoVTeNbO catalysts.<sup>a</sup>

Catalyst <sup>a</sup>	Propane oxidation		Ethane oxidation	
	Areal rate <sup>b</sup>	Rate per area and per M1-content <sup>c</sup>	Areal rate <sup>b</sup>	Rate per area and per M1-content <sup>c</sup>
<b>P8-N</b>	2.57	18.0	2.63	18.5
<b>P10-N</b>	3.71	13.6	4.56	16.7
<b>P11-N</b>	9.14	13.4	9.66	14.7
<b>P11A-N</b>	9.83	12.8	14.3	18.6
<b>P11B-N</b>	5.72	12.8	5.82	13.1
<b>P11C-aN</b>	7.36	10.1	16.0	21.8

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions as in Table S2 (at 380°C) and S3 (at 412°C); <sup>b</sup> Areal rate in  $\text{g}_{\text{C}_3} \text{m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$  or  $\text{g}_{\text{C}_2} \text{m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$ ; <sup>c</sup> Rate per area and per M1-content has been obtained by dividing the areal rate by %/100 of M1 in the catalyst.

**Figure S1.** XRD patterns of as-synthesized materials a) P8-as; b) P10-as; c) P11-as; d) P11A-as; e) P11B-as; f) P11C-as. Characteristics of catalysts as in **Table 1**.



**Figure S2.** Infrared spectra of as-synthesized materials: a) P11-as; b) P11A-as; c) P11B-as; d) P11C-as. Characteristics of catalysts as in **Table 1**.

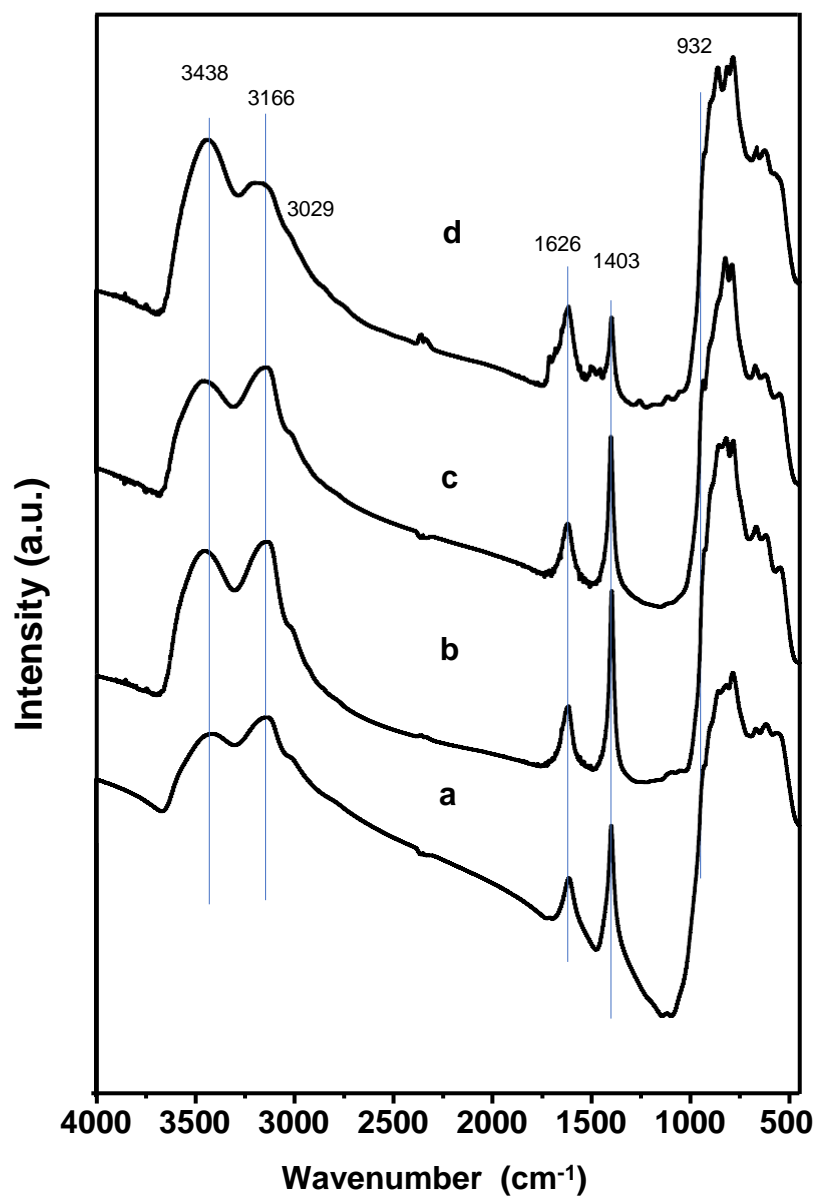




Figure S3. Low magnification FESEM micrographs of: a) **P8-N**, b) **P10-N**, c) **P11-N**, d) **P11A-N**, e) **P11B-N** and f) **P11C-aN** catalysts.

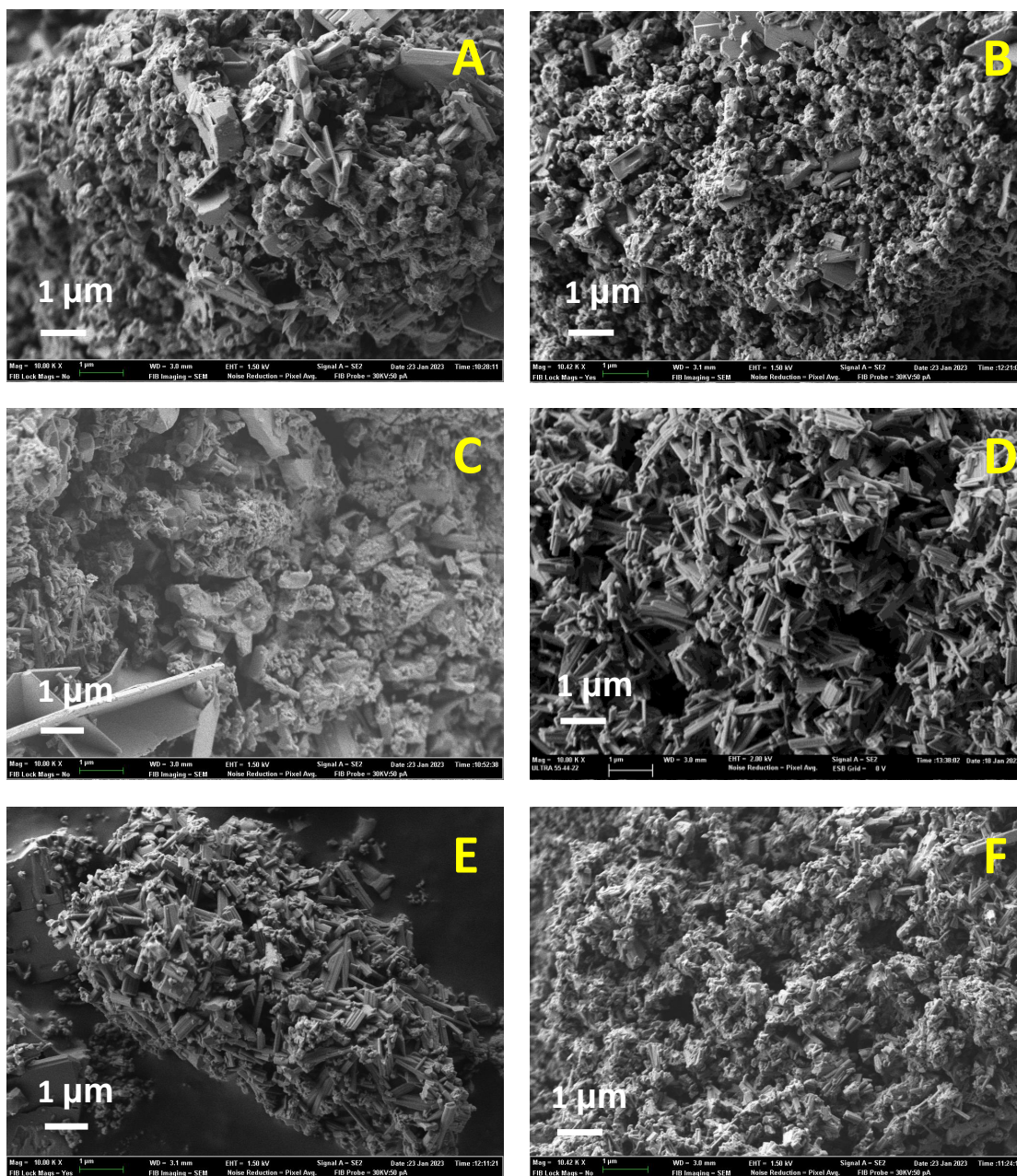


Figure S4. HRTEM micrographs of: a) **P8-N**, b) **P11-N**, c) **P11A-N** and d) **P11C-aN** catalysts.

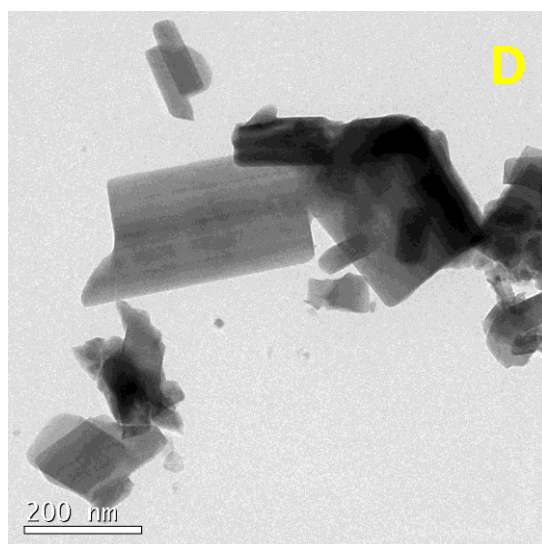
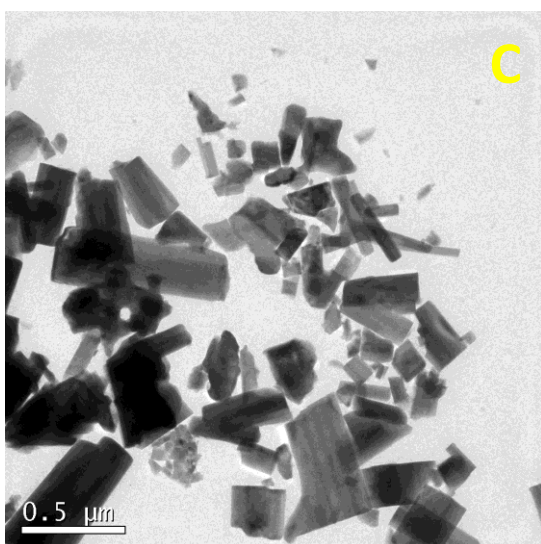
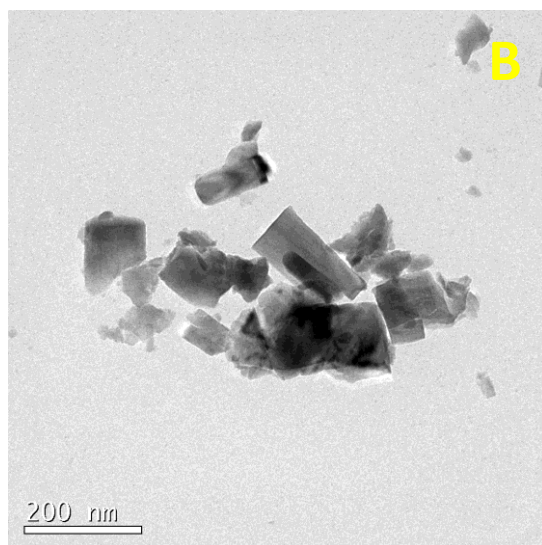
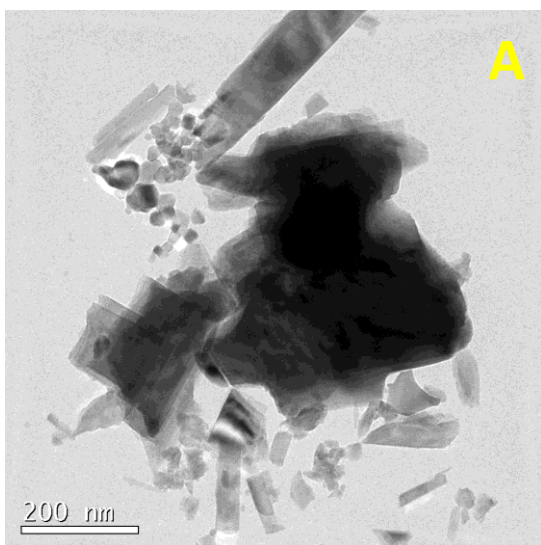


Figure S5. XPS spectra of Mo 3d (A, B), Te 3d (C, D) and Nb 3d (E, F) core level.

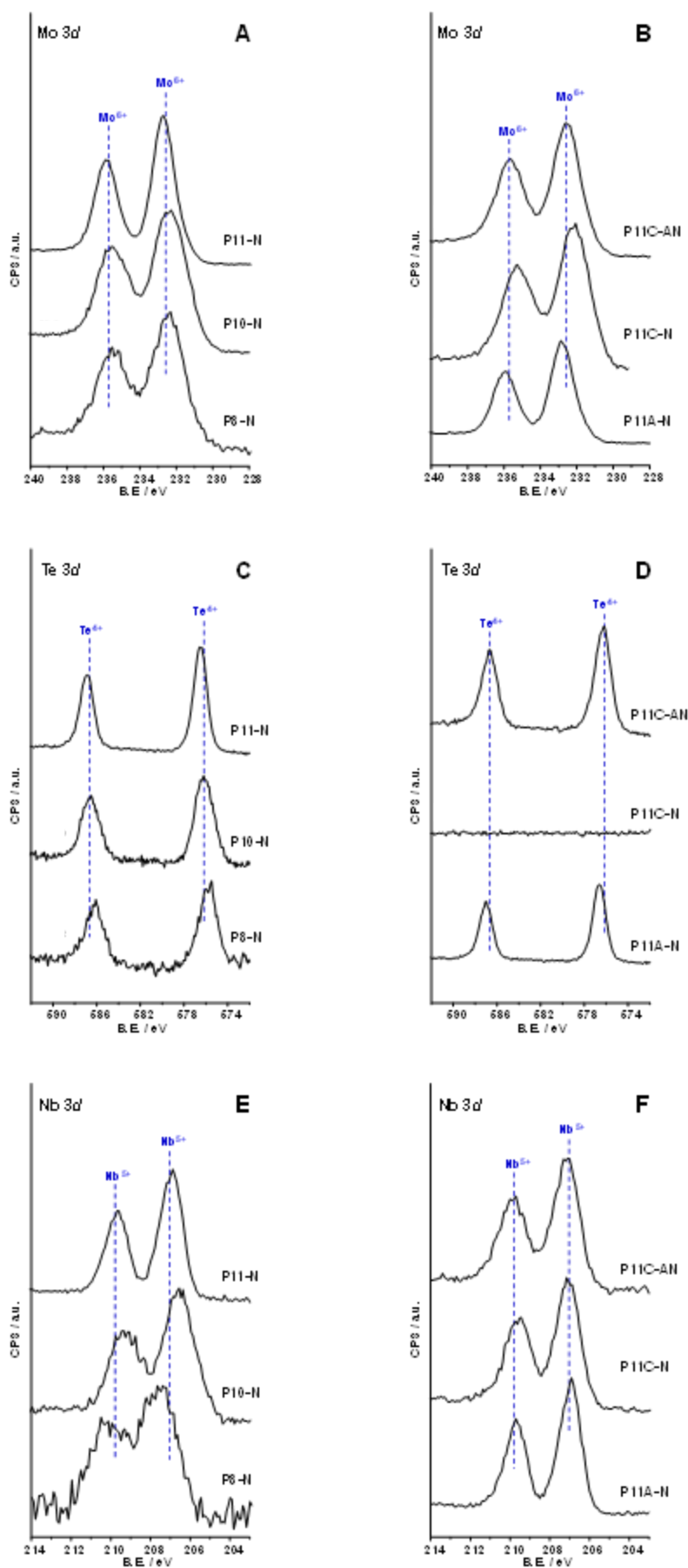
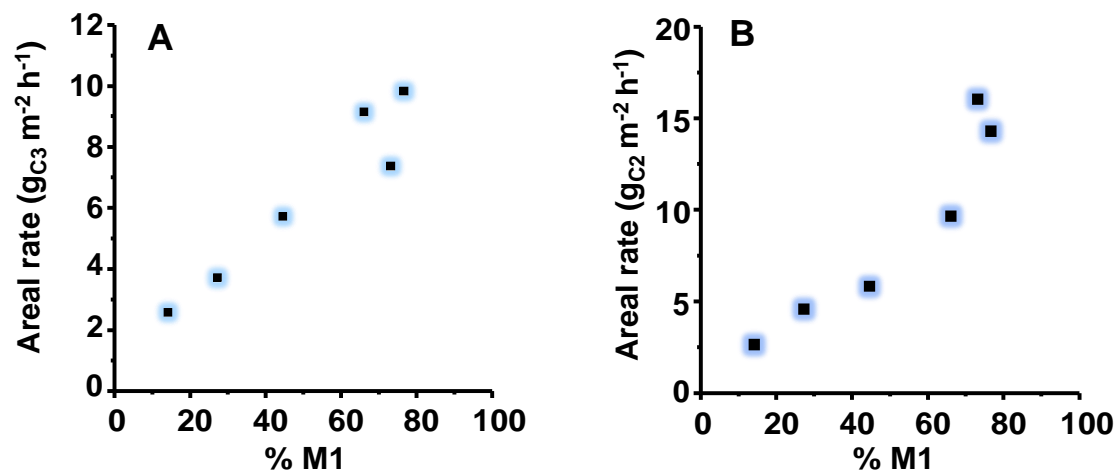
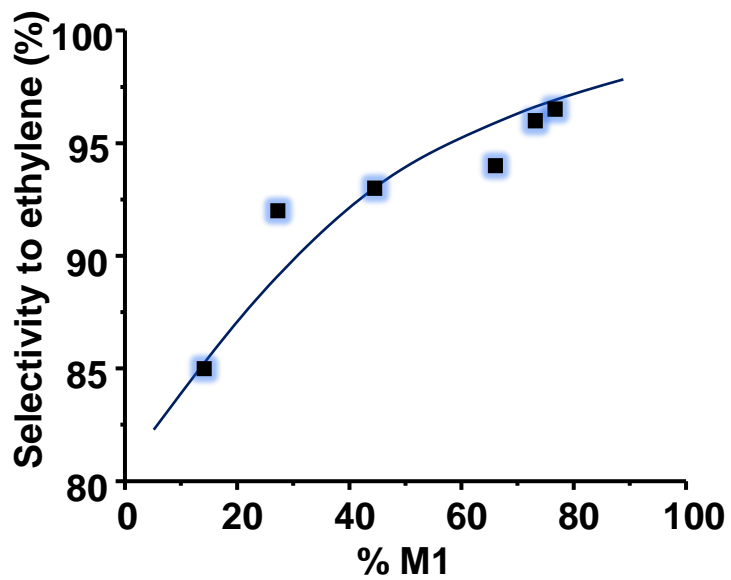


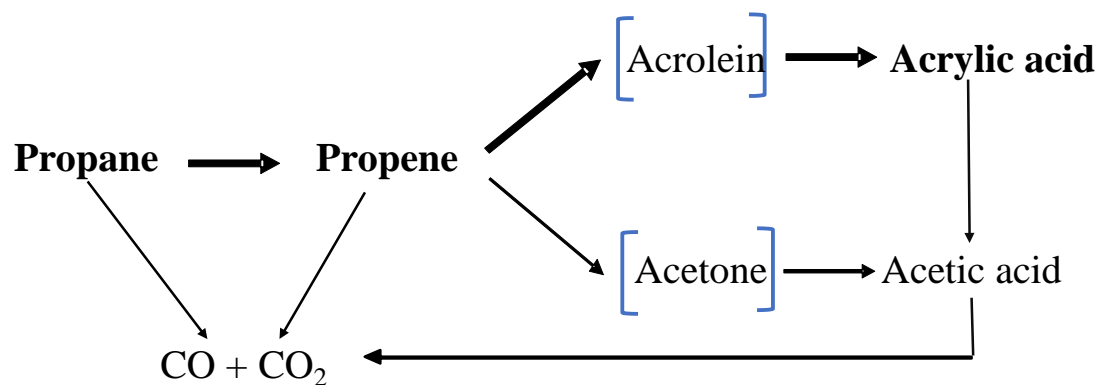
Figure S6. Relationship between the areal rate for both propane (A) and ethane (B) oxidation and the % of the orthorhombic M1 phase in the catalysts. Reaction conditions as in Table S4.



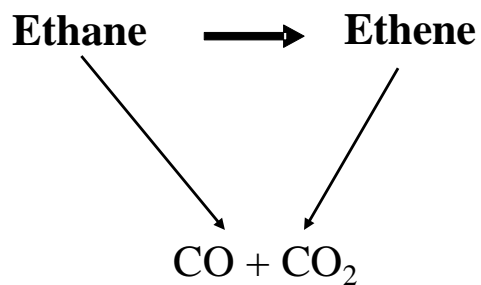
**Figure S7.** Relationship between the selectivity to ethylene and the % of the orthorhombic M1 phase in the catalysts. Reaction conditions: 25% conversion, 412 °C and remaining conditions in the text.



**Scheme S1.** Reaction network for the selective oxidation of propane on mixed metal oxides. Adapted from ref. 1.



**Scheme S2.** Reaction network for the ethane ODH on mixed metal oxides. Adapted from ref. 2.



## References

1. P. Concepción, P. Botella, J.M. López Nieto, *Appl. Catal. A- Gen* 278 (2004) 45–5.
2. T. Blasco, J.M. López Nieto, *Appl. Catal. A- Gen* 157 (1997) 117-142.