# Supplementary Information for:

# High performance acidic water electrooxidation catalysed by manganese-antimony oxides promoted by secondary metals

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## 1 | ENERGY DISPERSIVE X-RAY MAPPING



**Figure S1.** SEM-EDS mapping of the (a)  $[Mn+Sb]O_x$  and (b)  $[MnPb + Sb]O_x$  before and after OER tests in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. (c) EDS spectra of the respective samples. The catalysts were tested subsequently for 24 h at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 0.5 h at 2.03 V vs. RHE, and 0.5 h at 1.93 V vs. RHE at ambient temperature.

## 2 | X-RAY PHOTOELECTRON SPECTROSCOPY



**Figure S2.** (a-e) Sb 3d + O 1s and (f-j) C 1s (+ Ru 3d) spectra for the (a, f) [MnCo + Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (b, g) [MnPb + Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (c, h) [MnCoPb + Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (d, i) [MnRu + Sb]O<sub>x</sub> and (e, j) [MnCr + Sb]O<sub>x</sub> catalysts before (vivid traces) and after (pale traces) electrocatalytic OER tests in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The catalysts were tested subsequently for 24 h at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 0.5 h at 2.03 V vs. RHE, and 0.5 h at 1.93 V vs. RHE at ambient temperature.



**Figure S3.** Mn 2p spectra for (a) [MnCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (b) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (c) [MnCoPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (d) [MnRu+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> and (e) [MnCr+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> before (vivid traces) and after (pale traces) electrocatalytic OER tests in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The catalysts were tested subsequently for 24 h at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 0.5 h at 2.03 V *vs*. RHE, and 0.5 h at 1.93 V *vs*. RHE at ambient temperature.



**Figure S4.** Pb 4f spectra for (a) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (b) [MnCoPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> and (c) [Pb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> before (vivid traces) and after (pale traces) electrocatalytic OER tests in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The catalysts were tested subsequently for 24 h at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 0.5 h at 2.03 V vs. RHE, and 0.5 h at 1.93 V vs. RHE at ambient temperature. There were likely at least two component giving rise to signals with slightly different binding energies (within <0.5 eV) contributing to the detected Pb 4f spectra and changing in their ratio to each other before and after tests; however, we could not establish any conclusive trends associated with these observations.



**Figure S5.** Co 2p spectra for (a) [MnCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, and (b) [MnCoPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> before (vivid traces) and after (pale traces) electrocatalytic OER tests in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The catalysts were tested subsequently for 24 h at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 0.5 h at 2.03 V vs. RHE, and 0.5 h at 1.93 V vs. RHE at ambient temperature.



**Figure S6.** Cr 2p spectra for (a)  $[MnCr+Sb]O_{x_r}$  and (b)  $[Cr+Sb]O_x$  before (vivid traces) and after (pale traces) electrocatalytic OER tests in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The catalysts were tested subsequently for 24 h at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 0.5 h at 2.03 V vs. RHE, and 0.5 h at 1.93 V vs. RHE at ambient temperature.

## 3 | CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF CATALYSTS DURING THE OER

Catalyst	As prepared		Tested at 24 ± 2 °C		
Catalyst	Mn	Μ	Mn	Μ	
[Mn+Sb]O <sub>x</sub> <sup>c</sup>	23		14		
[MnRu+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	9	n.a. <sup>d</sup>	4	n.a <sup>d</sup>	
[MnCr+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	41	16	48	37	
[MnCo+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	29	7	13	7	
[MnPb+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	13	34	16	5	
[MnPbCo+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	15	6 (Pb) 37 (Co)	25	13 (Pb) 51 (Co)	

Table S1. Relative concentration of metals on the catalysts surface<sup>a</sup> before and after OER tests<sup>b</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Determined by XPS and normalised to the total amount of metals and antimony present on the surface.

<sup>b</sup> Chronopotentiometry at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for 24 h and subsequent chronoamperometry at 2.03 and 1.93 V vs. RHE for 0.5 h at each potential. <sup>c</sup> As reported in [*J. Mat. Chem. A*, 2021, **9**, 27468]. <sup>d</sup> Determination of the Ru concentration is subject to a very significant uncertainty due to the overlap with C 1s.

	•		
Catalyst	Mn	Μ	Sb
[Mn+Sb]O <sub>x</sub> <sup>d</sup>	21		17
[MnRu+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	42	0	38
[MnCr+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	25	18	11
[MnCo+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	27	17	16
[MnPb+Sb]O <sub>x</sub>	2	14	31

Table S2. Corrosion of catalysts (%)<sup>a</sup> during the OER in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Molar ratio of the amounts measured in the electrolyte solutions after OER tests using ICP-OES to the amounts of elements initially deposited onto electrodes. <sup>b</sup> Chronopotentiometry at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> and 24  $\pm$  2 °C for 24 h and subsequent chronoamperometry at 2.03 and 1.93 V vs. RHE for 0.5 h at each potential. <sup>c</sup> Data reported in [J. Mat. Chem. A, 2021, **9**, 27468].

#### 4 | EX SITU X-RAY ABSORPTION SPECTROSCOPY



**Figure S7.** Sb K-edge (a-b) XANES, (c) EXAFS and (d-e) FT-EXAFS data collected for the  $[MnCo+Sb]O_x$  (*red*) and  $[MnCoPb+Sb]O_x$  (*green*) catalysts before and after OER tests (10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 24 h, 24 ± 2 °C) compared to relevant reference materials (see figure).



**Figure S8.** Co K-edge (a-b) XANES, (c) EXAFS and (d-e) FT-EXAFS data collected for the  $[Co+Sb]O_x$  (*purple*),  $[MnCo+Sb]O_x$  (*red*), and  $[MnCoPb+Sb]O_x$  (*green*) catalysts before and after OER tests (10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 24 h, 24 ± 2 °C) compared to relevant reference materials (see figure).



**Figure S9.** Pb L<sub>3</sub>-edge (a-b) XANES, (c) EXAFS and (d-e) FT-EXAFS collected for the [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> (*blue*) and [MnCoPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> (*green*) catalysts before and after OER tests (10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>, 24 h, 24  $\pm$  2 °C) compared to relevant reference materials (see figure).



5 | OER PERFORMANCE AND REPRODUCIBILITY AT 24 ± 2 °C

**Figure S10.** Reproducibility of the electrocatalytic properties of [MnRu+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> demonstrated for three independent samples tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C: (a) initial cyclic voltammetry (scan rate 0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not corrected for ohmic losses; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b) *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub>.



**Figure S11.** Reproducibility of the electrocatalytic properties of  $[MnCo+Sb]O_x$  demonstrated for three independent samples tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C: (a) initial cyclic voltammetry (scan rate 0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not corrected for ohmic losses; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b) *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub>. Note that voltammetry was not recorded for one of four independent samples examined.



**Figure S12.** Reproducibility of the electrocatalytic properties of [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> demonstrated for three independent samples tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C: (a) initial cyclic voltammetry (scan rate 0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not corrected for ohmic losses; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b) *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub>. Note that voltammetry was not recorded for three of six independent samples examined.



**Figure S13.** Reproducibility of the electrocatalytic properties of [MnCoPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> demonstrated for three independent samples tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C: (a) initial cyclic voltammetry (scan rate 0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not corrected for ohmic losses; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b)  $IR_u$ -corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub>. Note that voltammetry was not recorded for two of five independent samples examined.



**Figure S14.** Reproducibility of the electrocatalytic properties of [MnCr+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> demonstrated for two independent samples tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C: (a) initial cyclic voltammetry (scan rate 0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not corrected for ohmic losses; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b) *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub>.



**Figure S15.** Evolution of cyclic voltammograms (0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; three consecutive cycles) of (a) [MnRu+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (b) [MnCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (c) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (d) [MnCr+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, and (e) [MnPbCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C. Arrows show the evolution of the current density with cycling. Currents are normalised to the geometric surface area of the electrode; potentials are not corrected for the *IR*<sub>u</sub>-drop.



**Figure S16.** Comparison of the pre-catalytic regions of the quasi-stabilised cyclic voltammograms (0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans) of (a) [MnRu+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (b) [MnCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (c) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (d) [MnCr+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, and (e) [MnPbCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at ambient temperature before (pale traces) and after (vivid traces) 25 h durability tests (24 h at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>; 0.5 h at 2.03 V vs. RHE; 0.5 h at 1.93 V vs. RHE) under the same conditions. Arrows in panels (c) and (e) highlight intensification of the Pb<sup>4+/2+</sup> reduction process after the OER tests. Currents are normalised to the geometric surface area of the electrode; potentials are not corrected for the *IR*<sub>u</sub>-drop.



### 7 | OER ACTIVITY OF THE Cr- AND Pb-BASED OXIDES

**Figure S17.** (a) Cyclic voltammetry (0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not corrected for the  $IR_u$ -drop; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b)  $IR_u$ -corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub> recorded for FTO electrodes modified with CrO<sub>y</sub>, PbO<sub>y</sub>, [Cr+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, and [Pb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> in contact with stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C.

## 8 | PERFORMANCE OF [MnCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> WITH DIFFERENT Mn : Co RATIOS



**Figure S18.** Effect of the Mn : Co initial ratio (see figure) on the performance of the [MnCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> catalysts in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 24 ± 2 °C: (a) cyclic voltammetry (0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), (b) *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom.</sub>, and (c) chronoamperograms at 2.03 and 1.93 V vs. RHE. Data for the similarly synthesised [Mn+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, [Co+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, and [Mn+Co]O<sub>x</sub> are provided for comparison. As reported in [*J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2021, **9**, 27468], the monometallic [Co+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> catalyst contains a notable amount of Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> admixture enabling reasonable initial performance, which is rapidly lost during first hour of the galvanostatic test, and the resulting performance is ascribed to the actual OER catalytic activity of CoSb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> – major phase of [Co+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>.

### 9 | OER PERFORMANCE AND REPRODUCIBILITY AT 60 ± 1 °C



**Figure S19.**  $IR_u$ -corrected chronopotentiogram at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom.</sub> for [MnCr+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 60 ± 1 °C.



**Figure S20.** Reproducibility of the electrocatalytic properties of [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> demonstrated for two independent samples tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 60 ± 1 °C: (a) initial cyclic voltammetry (0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b) *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub>.



**Figure S21.** Reproducibility of the electrocatalytic properties of  $[MnCo+Sb]O_x$  demonstrated for two independent samples tested in stirred 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 60 ± 1 °C: (a) initial cyclic voltammetry (0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> scans; potentials are not *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected; currents are normalised to the geometric surface area), and (b) *IR*<sub>u</sub>-corrected chronopotentiograms at 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup><sub>geom</sub>.



10 |CYCLIC VOLTAMMETRY AT 60 ± 1 °C

**Figure S22.** Evolution of cyclic voltammograms (scan rate, v = 0.020 V s<sup>-1</sup>; three consecutive cycles) of (a) [MnCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, (b) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub>, and (c) [MnPbCo+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 60 ± 1 °C. Arrows show the evolution of the current density with cycling. Currents are normalised to the geometric surface area of the electrode; potential values were not corrected for the *IR*<sub>u</sub>-drop.

# **11 | EXTENDED CHARACTERISATION OF POWDER CATALYSTS**



**Figure S23.** (a-c) Transmission electron micrographs and (d) X-ray diffractograms of the (a, d)  $Mn_2O_3$ , (b, d) [Mn+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> and (c, b) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> powder samples synthesised by the ethylene glycol polyol reduction method. In panel d, vertical lines show tabulated positions and intensities for the  $Mn_2O_3$  (ICDD-00-041-1442),  $Mn_3O_4$  (ICDD-01-075-1560,) and CoSb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (ICSD-108964) phases.



**Figure S24.** Comparisons of the *ex situ* Mn K-edge XAS data for (a-c) [Mn+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> and (d-f) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> materials deposited dense films on FTO (*orange* and *blue*) and synthesised as powders using an ethylene glycol reduction method (*black*). For the FTO-supported films, spectra collected before (*dashed*) and after (*solid*) the OER tests as those in Figure 3 of the main text are shown. Data are presented as (a, d) XANES, (b, e) EXAFS and (c, f) FT EXAFS spectra.



**Figure S25.** *In situ* Mn K-edge XAS analysis of (a-b)  $Mn_2O_3$ , (c-d) [Mn+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> and (e-f) [MnPb+Sb]O<sub>x</sub> powders collected *ex situ* (*grey*) and in contact with 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> aqueous solutions at 1.80 (*green*), 1.95 (*blue*), 2.05 (*orange*) and 2.15 V vs. RHE (*wine*) at 23 ± 2 °C. Dashed and dashed-dotted lines show reference data for  $Mn_2O_3$  and MnOOH powders, respectively. For  $Mn_2O_3$ , *green* and *light green* data were collected at the same potential of 1.8 V vs. RHE before and after analysis at 2.00 V vs. RHE. Data are presented as (a, c, d) EXAFS and (b, d, f) FT EXAFS spectra.

## **12 | COMPARISONS TO THE LITERATURE**

Catalyst	Substrate	Electrolyte	<i>E</i> (RHE) / <i>j</i> (geom.) <sup>a</sup>	T/°C	Stability <sup>b</sup>
CoSb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> <sup>1</sup>	FTO c	0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.99 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	> 24 h
MnSb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> <sup>1</sup>	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.5M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	2.17 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	> 24 h
Co <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2</sup>	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.8 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	< 12 h
Ti/MnO <sub>2</sub> <sup>3</sup>	Au	0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.9 V / 6 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	< 1 h
Ni <sub>x</sub> Mn <sub>1-x</sub> Sb <sub>1.6</sub> O <sub>y</sub> <sup>4</sup>	ATO <sup>d</sup>	1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.97 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	< 168 h
CoBiSnO <sub>x</sub> <sup>5</sup>	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.90 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	23 ± 2	> 210 h
NiFeP <sup>6</sup>	Bulk solid	0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.76 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	< 30 h
[Mn+Sb]O <sub>x</sub> <sup>7</sup>	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.92 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	23 ± 2	> 25 h
[Mn+Sb]O <sub>x</sub> Present work	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.88 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	60 ± 1	< 10 h
BiO <sub>x</sub> <sup>8</sup>	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	2.00 V / 1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	> 70 h
Co <sub>2</sub> MnO <sub>4</sub> <sup>9</sup>	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.75 V / 100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	ambient	< 200 h
[Ag+Bi]O <sub>x</sub> <sup>10</sup>	FTO <sup>c</sup>	0.1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	1.93 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	23 ± 2	> 400 h
			1.81 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	80 ± 1	> 80 h
[Co-Fe-Pb]O <sub>x</sub> <sup>11</sup>	Pt-Ti <sup>e</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 5 mM Co <sup>2+</sup>	1.76 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	80 ± 1	> 160 h
			1.92 V / 100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	80 ± 1	> 29 h <sup>f</sup>
[MnPb+Sb]O <sub>x</sub> Present work	FTO <sup>c</sup>	$0.5 \text{ M} \text{ H}_2\text{SO}_4$	1.83 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	24 ± 2	> 24 h
			1.83 V / 10 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	60 ± 1	> 24 h

Table S3. Activity of the selected noble-metal free acidic OER catalysts.

<sup>a</sup> Potentials (*E* / V vs. RHE) at specified current density (*j*). <sup>b</sup> Duration of stable operation before degradation commences. <sup>c</sup> Fluorine doped-tin oxide. <sup>d</sup> Antimony doped-tin oxide. <sup>e</sup> Platinised titanium mesh. <sup>f</sup> Note that the performance of [Co-Fe-Pb]O<sub>x</sub> is reported incorrectly in Table S1 of Ref<sup>10</sup> due to a misprint.

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