

Supporting information

Covalent Organic Frameworks with Interlayer Fixed Pt Atoms for Efficient Electrocatalytic Hydrogen Evolution

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Supplementary Experiment Sections

1. Materials

All chemicals and reagents were analytical grade or better and used without further purification, and ultrapure water was used throughout all experiments. 2,4,6-tris(4-aminophenyl)-1,3,5-triazine(TAPTA), 1,3,5-benzenetricarbaldehyde were purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received. Tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-Dioxane, 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene, and glacial acetic acid were purchased from Aladdin. Chloroplatinic acid hydrate was purchased from Energy Chemical.

2. Synthetic procedure

Synthesis of TTB-COF, TTB-COP. The centrifuge tube was preloaded with 2,4,6-tris(4-aminophenyl)-1,3,5-triazine (70.9 mg) and 1,3,5-benzenetricarboxaldehyde (32.45 mg), respectively. Acetonitrile (10 ml) was then added, and the solution containing the building blocks was mixed well. Subsequently, 2 ml of glacial acetic acid was added and shaken vigorously for 6 hours at room temperature. The resulting yellow precipitate, collected by centrifugation, was washed

with anhydrous ethanol and 1,4-dioxane, respectively. The obtained precipitate was dispersed in a round-bottomed flask containing 1,4-dioxane (8 mL), trimethyl benzene (2 mL) (4:1 v/v), water, and glacial acetic acid. The resulting suspension was sealed and aged at 80 °C for 120h. By keeping the ratio of precursors constant, samples named TTB-COP were synthesized and employed for 72h. The yellow powder was collected by centrifugation washed several times with a large amount of tetrahydrofuran and dried under vacuum at 100 °C for 6 h.

Synthesis of Pt@TTB-COF, Pt@TTB-COP. 20 mg of H_2PtCl_4 and 30 mg of TTB-COF(TTB-COP) were mixed in 30 ml of anhydrous ethanol. The mixture was heated to 60 °C with stirring and constant temperature for 6h.

3. Characterization

The morphology of the as-prepared catalysts was observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM, Apreo S HiVoc, Thermo Fisher Scientific) and transmission electron microscope (TEM, FEI Talos F200X). The phase composition was identified by a Dandong Haoyuan DX-2700BH X-ray diffractometer using $\text{Cu K}\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.15406$ nm). X-ray photoelectron Spectra (XPS) were measured on a K-Alpha X-ray photoelectron spectrometer system (Thermo Scientific) with a Hemispheric 180° dual-focus analyzer with a 128-channel detector. The X-ray monochromator was microfocused $\text{Al K}\alpha$ radiation. For the measurement, the prepared powder samples were pressed and loaded on carbon taps and then pasted onto the sample holder for measurement. The data were collected with an X-ray spot size of 400 μm , 20 scans for the survey, and 50 scans for the regions. Scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM) images and electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS) elemental mapping were acquired on a Cs-corrected (S)TEM (FEI Titan Cubed Themis G2 300). The X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS) measurements were recorded at the X-ray absorption spectroscopy beamline of the Australian Synchrotron (ANSTO) in fluorescence mode. The radiation was monochromatized by a Si (111) double-crystal monochromator. XANES and EXAFS data reduction and analysis were processed by Athena software.

4. Electrochemical Measurements.

In a typical preparation of catalyst ink, the catalyst powder (10 mg) was blended with 100 μL Nafion solution (5 wt%) and 900 μL ethanol in an ultrasonic bath. 5 μL of catalyst ink was then pipetted onto the glassy carbon (GC) surface, leading to a catalyst loading of $\sim 0.254 \text{ mg/cm}^2$. Commercially available 20 wt % Pt/C on carbon black was measured with the same loading amount for comparison.

All the electrochemical measurements were carried out in a conventional three-electrode cell using the Gamry reference 600 workstations (Gamry, USA) at room temperature. A commercial RHE electrode was used as the reference electrode, and the graphite rod was used as the counter electrode. The Ag/AgCl reference electrode calibrated with RHE in 0.5 M H_2SO_4 was used as a reference electrode for long-term stability measurement. A glassy carbon (GC) RDE electrode with an area of 0.196 cm^2 served as the substrate for the working electrode to evaluate the HER activities of various catalysts. The electrochemical experiments were conducted in an Ar-saturated 0.5 M H_2SO_4 electrolyte. The HER polarization curves of different catalysts with real-time IR-corrected by Gamry reference 600 potentiostats at a resistance of 4.4 ohms. The RDE measurements were conducted at a rotating speed of 1600 rpm with a sweep rate of 10 mV/s.

Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was carried out with a potentiostatic EIS method with a DC voltage of -0.015 V vs. RHE in an Ar-saturated 0.5 M H_2SO_4 electrolyte from 100 kHz to 0.1 Hz with a 10 mV AC potential at 1600 rpm. The stability tests for the catalysts were conducted using chronopotentiometry at the constant working current densities of 10 mA/cm^2 . Electrochemically active surface area (ECSA) was estimated by measuring the capacitance of the double layer at the solid-liquid interface with cyclic voltammetry. The measurement was performed in a potential window of 0.35–0.55 V vs. RHE, where the Faradic current on the working electrode was negligible. The series of scan rates ranging from 50 to 300 mV s^{-1} was applied to build a plot of the charging current density differences against the scan rate. The slope of the obtained linear curve was twice the double-layer capacitance (Cdl), which was used to estimate ECSA.

Supplementary Figures.

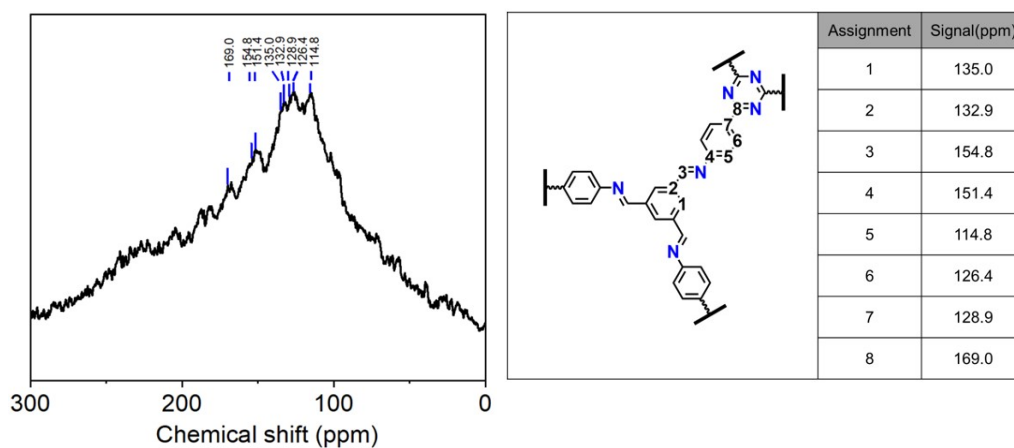


Figure S1. ^{13}C CP-MAS solid-state NMR spectra of TTB-COF and molecular model of TTB-COF and ^{13}C NMR spectrum peak assignment.

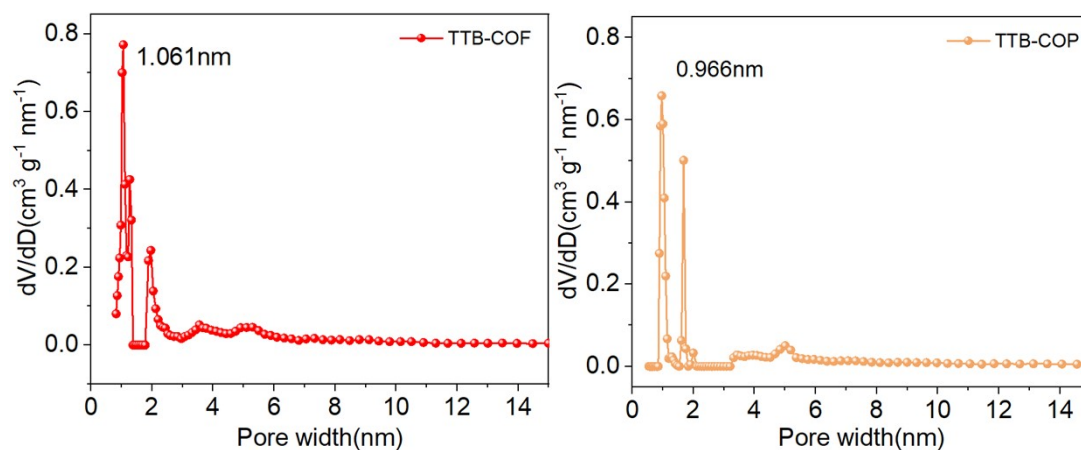


Figure S2. The distribution of pore sizes for TTB-COF and TTB-COP at 77K

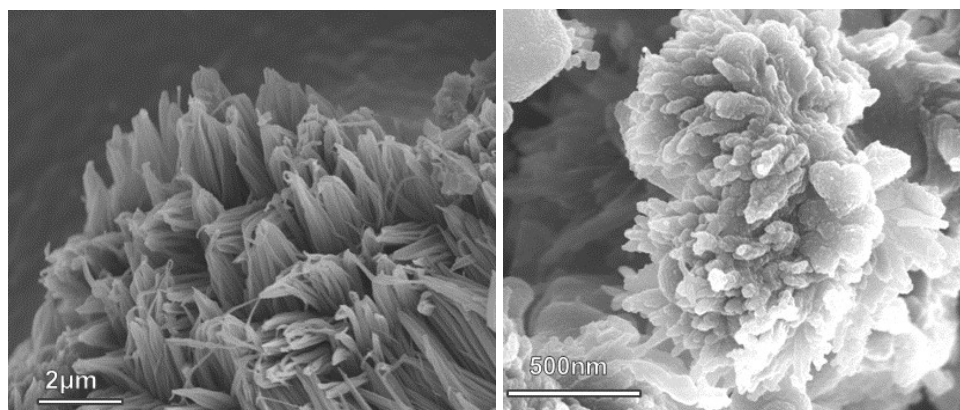


Figure S3. SEM images of Pt@TTB-COF, and Pt@TTB-COP.

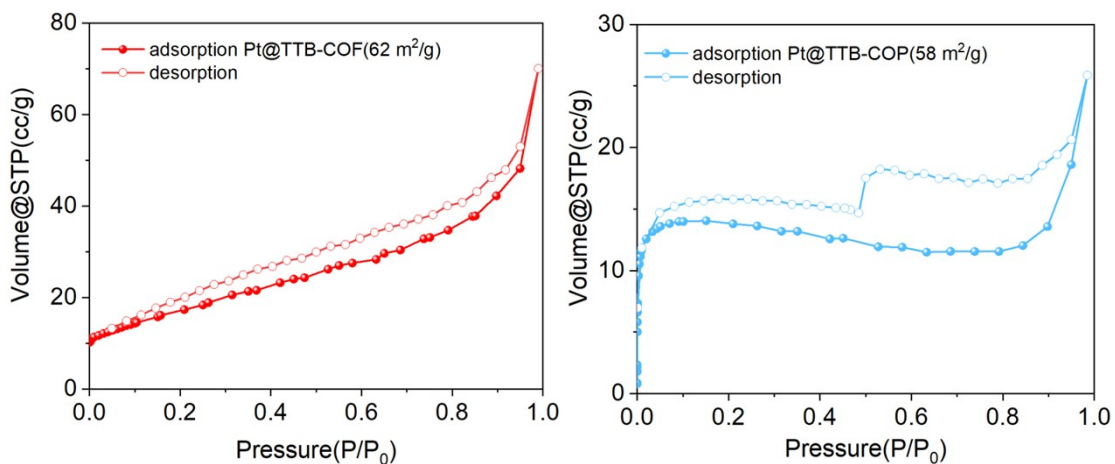


Figure S4. N_2 sorption isotherms for Pt@TTB-COF and Pt@TTB-COP at 77K.

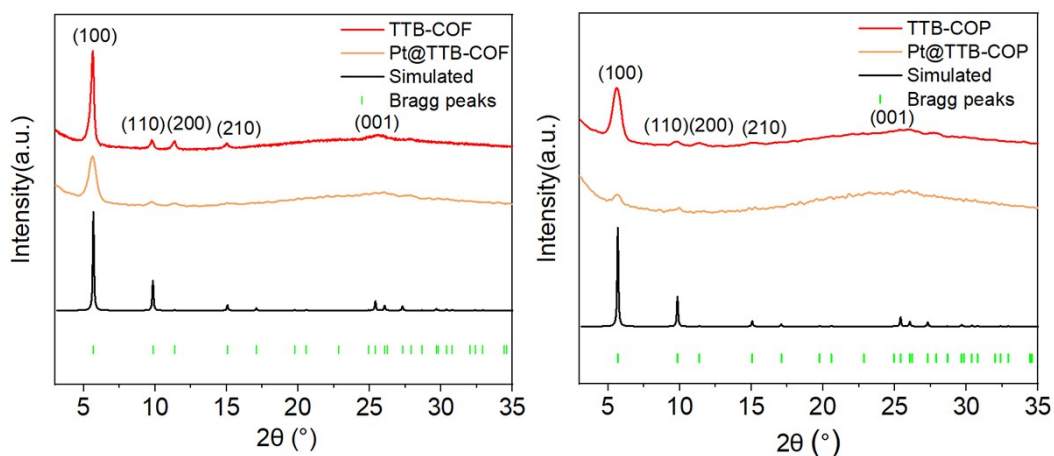


Figure S5. PXRD patterns and Pawley refinement of TTB-COF, Pt@TTB-COF, TTB-COP, and Pt@TTB-COP.

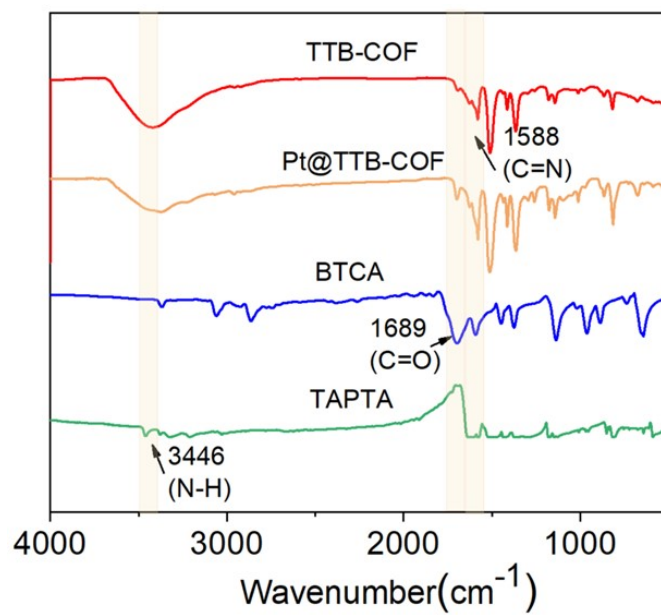


Figure S6. The FTIR spectra of TTB-COF and its corresponding monomers.

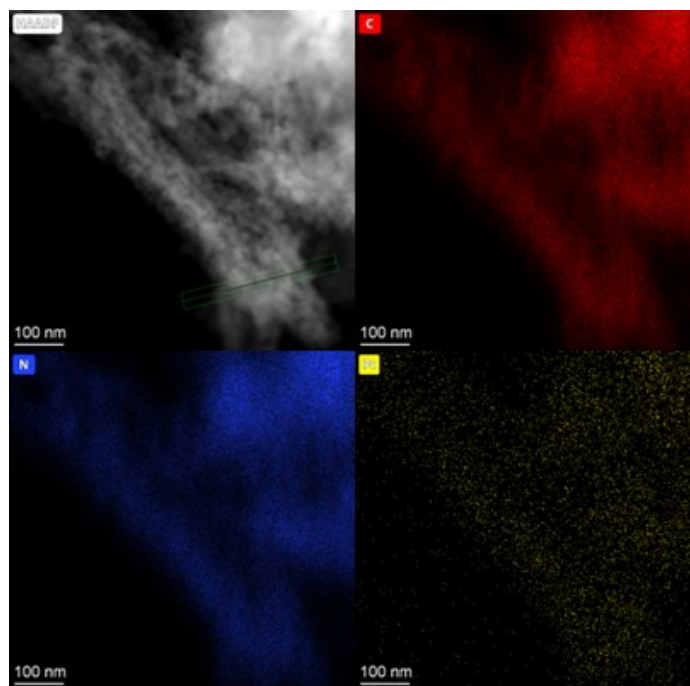


Figure S7. The element mapping of C, N, and Pt for Pt@TTB-COF

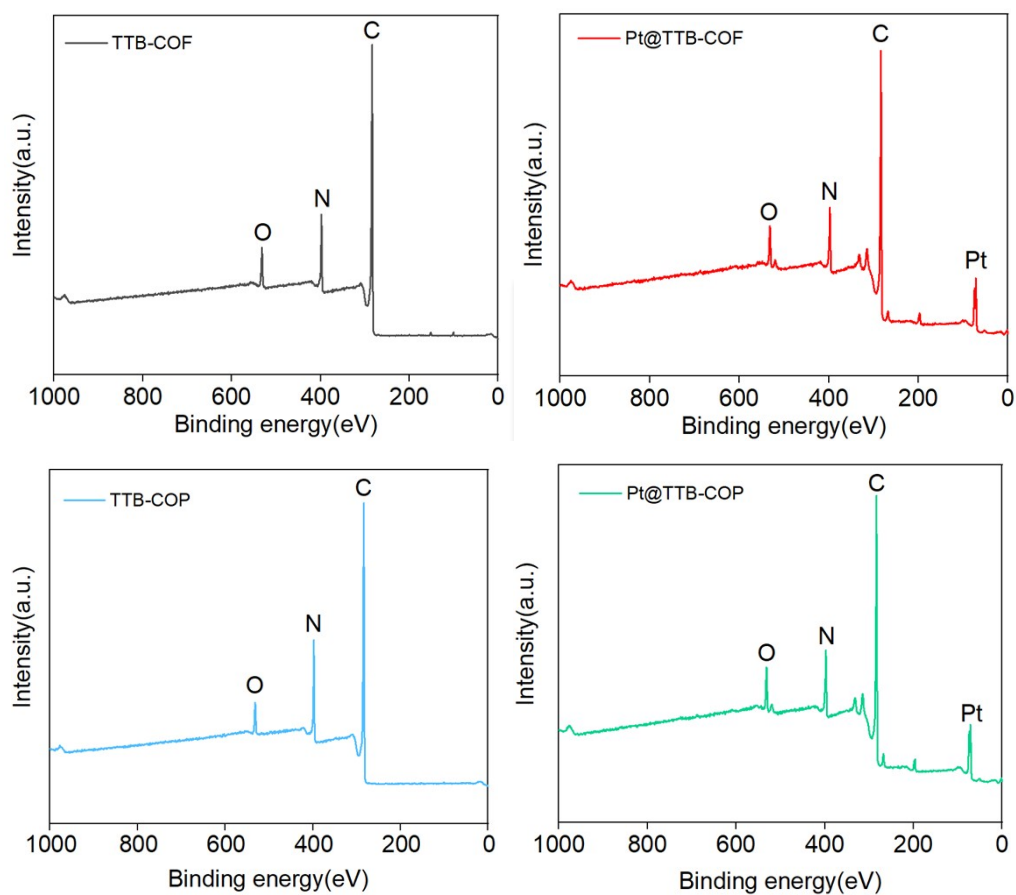


Figure S8. XPS wide-scan survey of TTB-COF, Pt@TTB-COF, TTB-COP and Pt@TTB-COP.

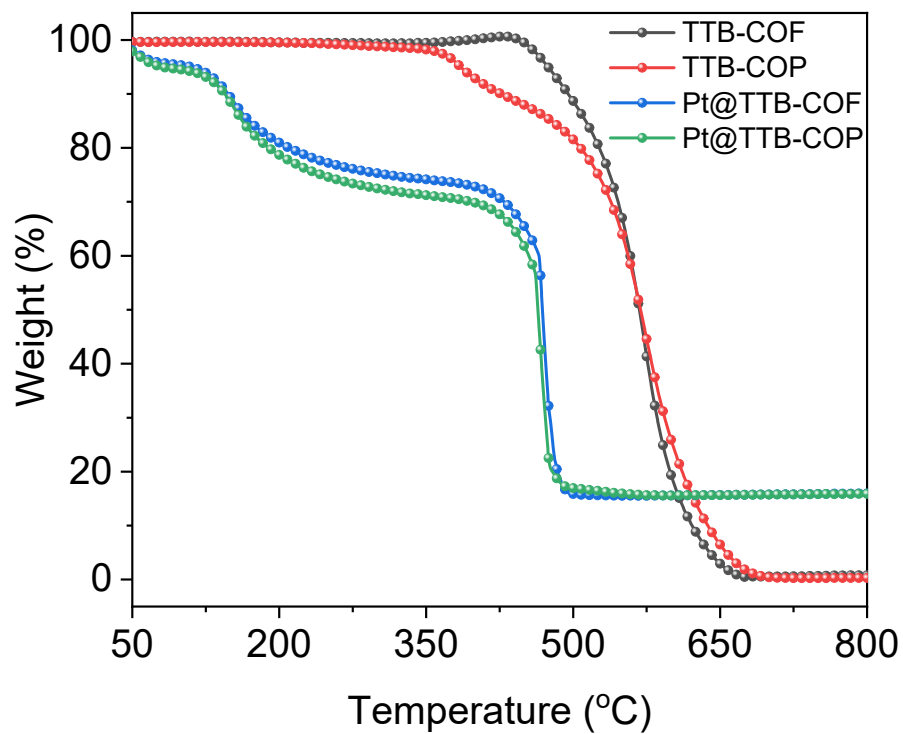


Figure S9. TGA analysis of the TTB-COF, TTB-COP, Pt@TTB-COF, and Pt@TTB-COP measured in air.

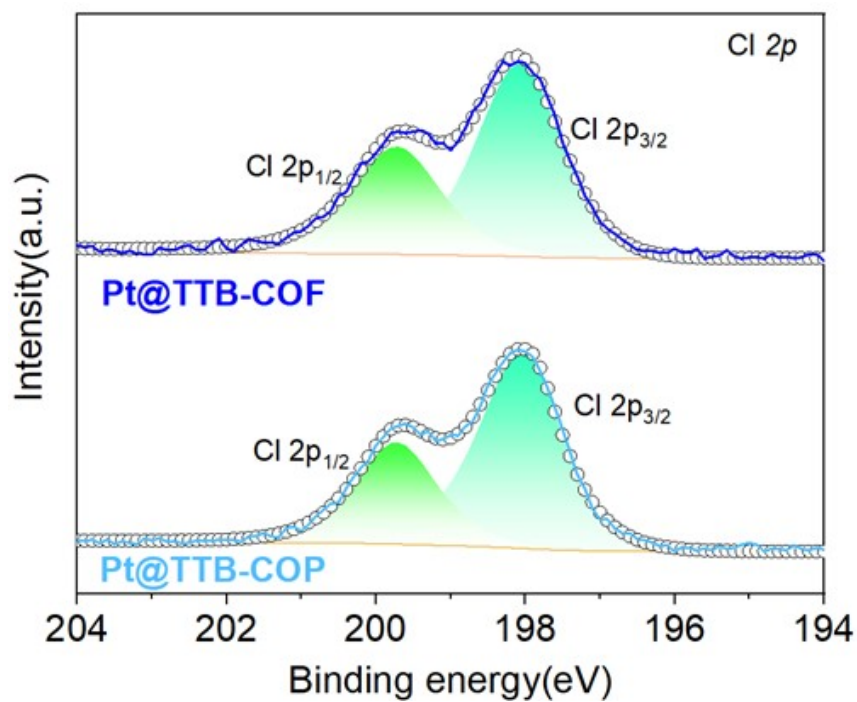


Figure S10. Cl 2p XPS spectra of Pt@TTB-COF and Pt@TTB-COP.

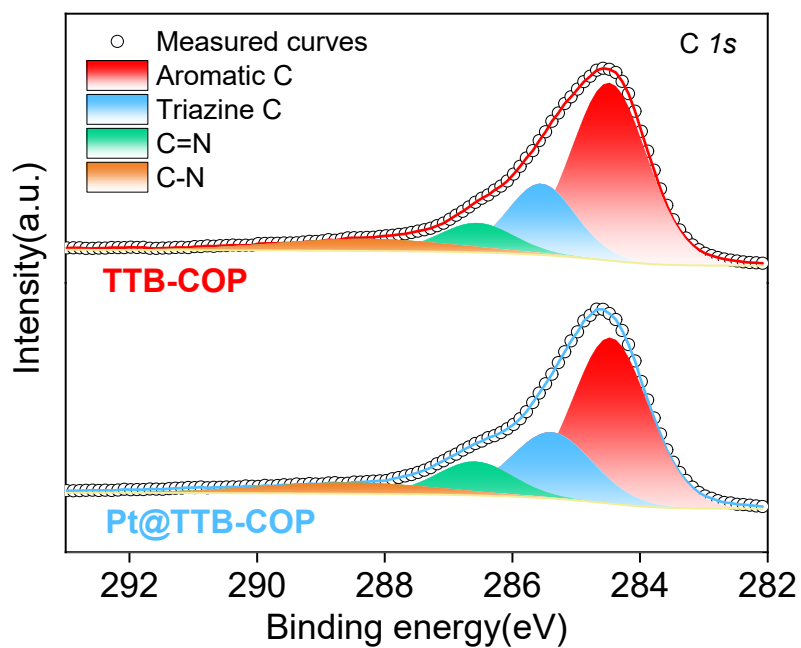


Figure S11. C 1s XPS spectra of TTB-COP and Pt@TTB-COP.

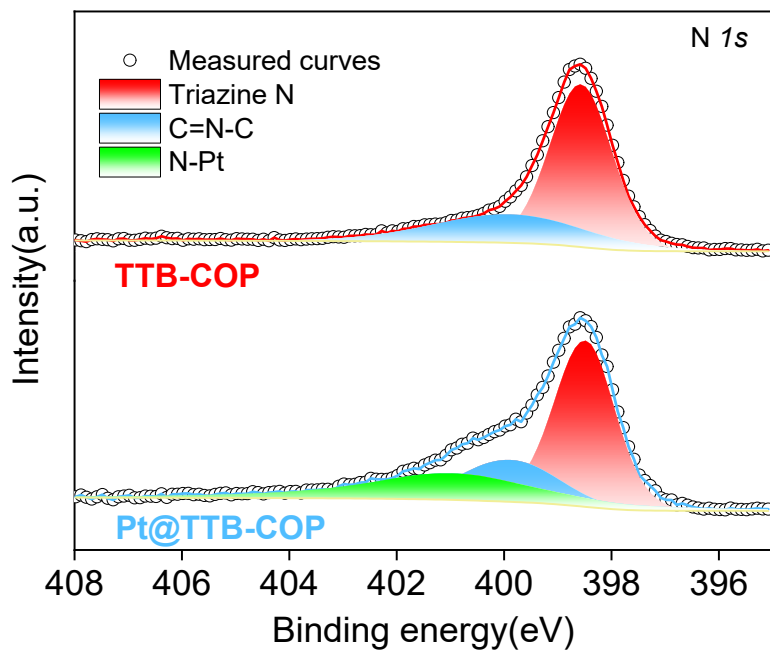


Figure S12. N 1s XPS spectra of TTB-COP and Pt@TTB-COP.

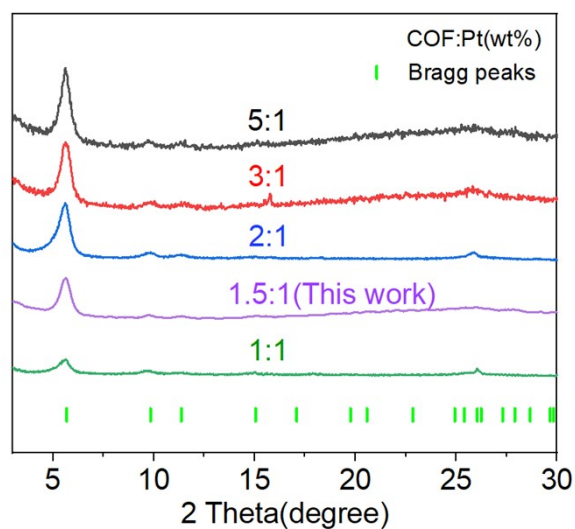


Figure S13. PXRD images of different Pt complexation ratios.

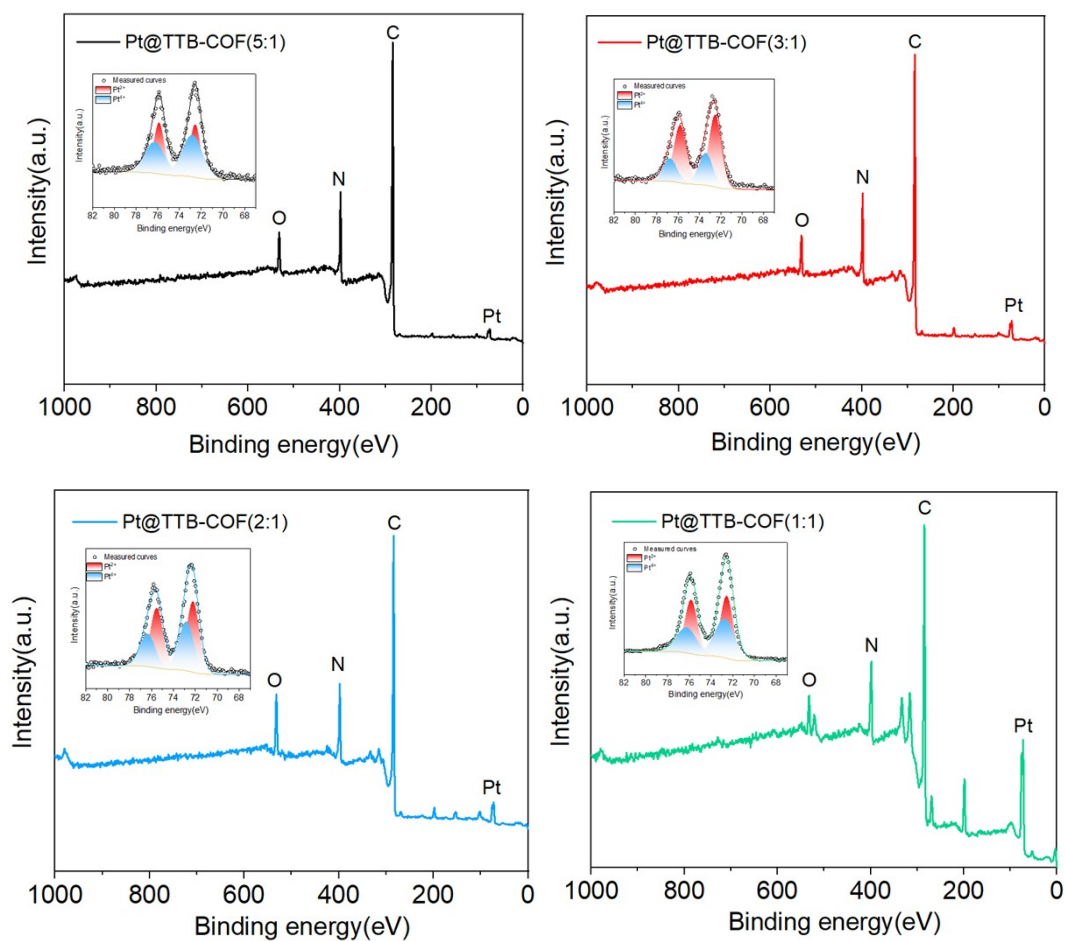


Figure S14. XPS wide-scan survey of Pt@TTB-COF(COF:Pt=5:1); Pt@TTB-COF(COF:Pt=3:1); Pt@TTB-COF(COF:Pt=2:1); Pt@TTB-COF(COF:Pt=1:1).

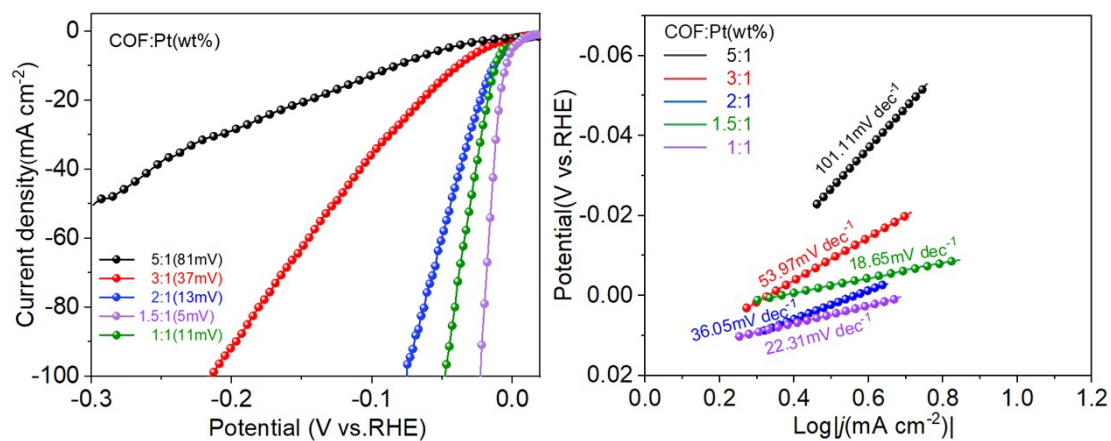


Figure S15. LSV polarization curves and corresponding Tafel slopes for Pt@TTB-COF different Pt content ratios.

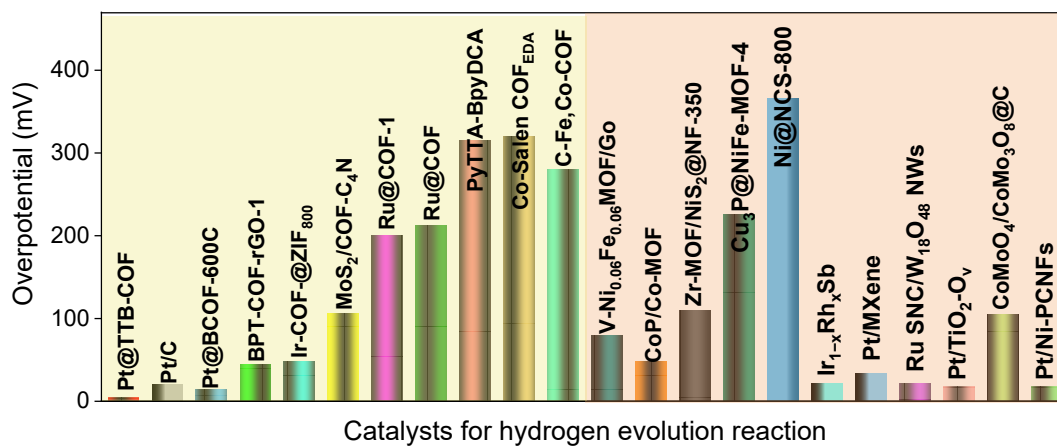


Figure S16. Comparison of the HER activity of Pt@TTB-COF and other previously reported materials.

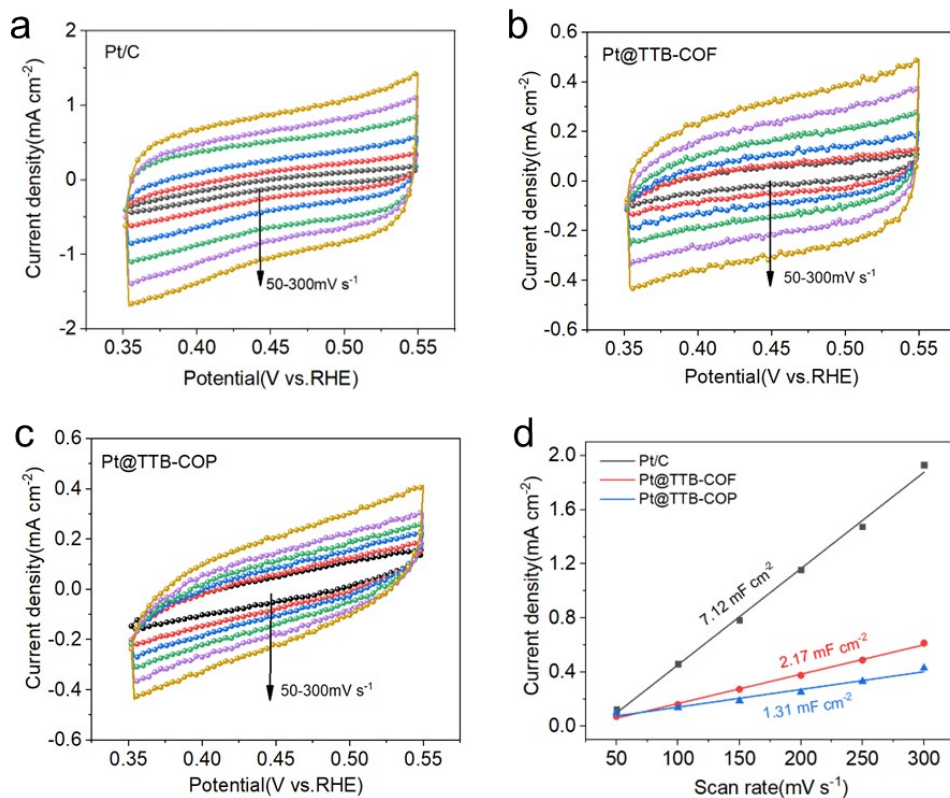


Figure S17. CV curves of a) Pt/C, b) Pt@TTB-COF, and c) Pt@TTB-COP under different scan rates. d) C_{dl} plots extrapolated from the CV curves.

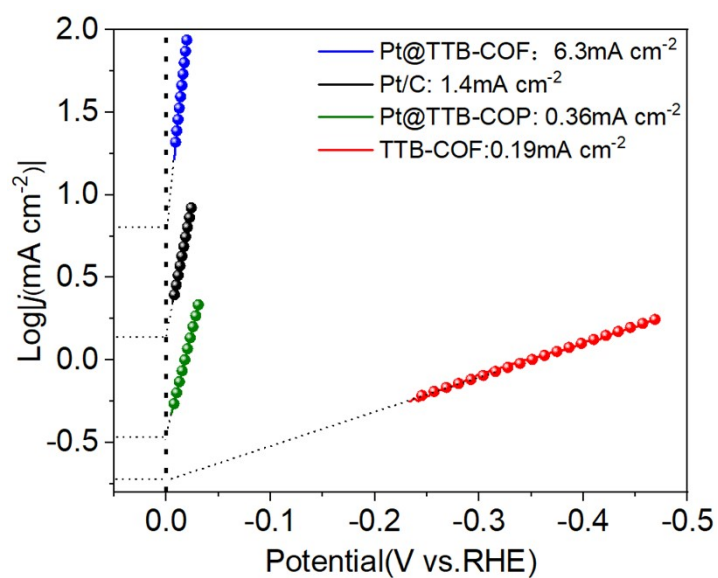


Figure S18. Exchange current density images and values for Pt@TTB-COF, Pt/C, etc.

Table S1. XPS measurements of TTB-COF, Pt@TTB-COF, TTB-COP and Pt@TTB-COP (wt%).

| | C | N | O | Pt | Cl |
|------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| TTB-COF | 76.82 | 15.41 | 7.77 | | |
| Pt@TTB-COF | 59.89 | 11.69 | 6.68 | 15.78 | 5.96 |
| TTB-COF | 76.12 | 17.48 | 6.40 | | |
| Pt@TTB-COP | 55.32 | 12.00 | 6.60 | 15.36 | 10.73 |

Table S2. XPS measurements of TTB-COF, Pt@TTB-COF, TTB-COP, and Pt@TTB-COP (at%).

| | C | N | O | Pt | Cl |
|------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| TTB-COF | 80.14 | 13.78 | 6.08 | | |
| Pt@TTB-COF | 76.86 | 12.87 | 6.43 | 1.25 | 2.59 |
| TTB-COF | 79.36 | 15.63 | 5.01 | | |
| Pt@TTB-COP | 73.62 | 13.69 | 6.59 | 1.26 | 4.84 |

Table S3. EXAFS fitting parameters at the Pt L_3 -edge for various samples ($S_0^2=0.61$).

| Sample | Shell | N^a | $R(\text{\AA})^b$ | $\sigma^2(\text{\AA}^2)^c$ | $\Delta E_0(\text{eV})^d$ | R factor |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Pt@TTB-COF | Pt-N | 1.0 | 1.97 | 0.0021 | 8.763 | 0.0178 |
| | Pt-Cl | 3.0 | 2.29 | 0.0047 | | |
| Pt foil | Pt-Pt | 12.0 | 2.76 | 0.0043 | 8.423 | 0.0029 |
| PtCl ₄ | Pt-Cl | 4.0 | 2.28 | 0.0041 | 2.415 | 0.0036 |

^a N : coordination numbers; ^b R : bond distance; ^c σ^2 : Debye-Waller factors; ^d ΔE_0 : the inner potential correction. R factor: goodness of fit. S_0^2 was set to 0.61, according to the experimental EXAFS fit of Pt foil by fixing CN as the known crystallographic value.

Table S4. Summary of recently reported COF or MOF-based HER catalysts in acidic electrolyte.

| No | Year | Material | Feature | Performance | Ref |
|----|-----------|----------|--|--|--|
| 1 | This work | COF | Pt@TTB-COF | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 5mV | This work |
| 2 | 2022 | COF | Pt@BCOF-600C | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 14.5mV | <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> 2022 , 144, 43, 19973–19980 |
| 3 | 2022 | COF | BPT-COF-rGO-1 | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 45mV | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> 2022 , 61, e202113067 |
| 4 | 2022 | COF | Ir-COF@ZIF ₈₀₀ | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 48mV | <i>Chem. Commun.</i> , 2022 , 58, 13214–13217 |
| 5 | 2023 | COF | N-MoS ₂ /COF-C ₄ N | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 106mV | <i>Catalysts</i> 2023 , 13, 90 |
| 6 | 2022 | COF | Ru@COF-1 | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 200mV | <i>Small</i> 2022 , 18, 2107750 |
| 7 | 2022 | COF | PyTTA-BPyDCA | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 315mV | <i>Nat Commun</i> 13, 1411 (2022) |
| 8 | 2022 | COF | Co-Salen COF _{EDA} | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 320mV | <i>Adv. Sci.</i> 2022 , 9, 2105912 |
| 9 | 2020 | COF | Ru@COF | 1.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 212mV | <i>ChemNanoMat</i> 2020 , 6, 99–106 |
| 10 | 2023 | MOF | Zr-MOF/NiS ₂ @NF-350 | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 110mV | <i>Journal of Colloid and Interface Science</i> 640 (2023) 820–828 |
| 11 | 2022 | MOF | Cu ₃ P@NiFe-MOF-4 | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 226mV | <i>Catalysis Letters</i> (2022) 152:3825–3832 |
| 12 | 2023 | MOF | Ni@NCS-800 | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 366mV | <i>Applied Surface Science</i> 616 (2023) 156499 |
| 13 | 2022 | Other | Ir _{1-x} Rh _x Sb | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 22mV | <i>Adv. Energy Mater.</i> 2022 , 12, 2200855 |
| 14 | 2022 | Other | Pt/MXene | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 34mV | <i>Adv. Funct. Mater.</i> 2022 , 32, 2110910 |
| 15 | 2023 | Other | Pt/TiO ₂ -O _v | 0.5M H ₂ SO ₄ , η_{10} : 18mV | <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> 2023 , 62, e202300406 |