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## **Supporting information**

Unraveling promotional role of BaCO<sub>3</sub> on the electrode reaction kinetics of SmBaFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5+ $\delta$ </sub> air

electrode of reversible solid oxide cells

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**Fig. S1.** Cross-section SEM image (a) and XRD pattern of SBF bar for TEC and electrical conductivity measurement after sintering at 1350 °C for 6 h.



**Fig. S2.** Nyquist plots of a symmetrical cell with LSGM electrolyte and SBF electrode measured under different oxygen partial pressures at 700 °C.



**Fig. S3.** XRD pattens of pristine SBF and BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF electrode after calcining at 650 °C in air.



**Fig. S4.** (a) EIS of BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF air electrode recorded in temperature range of 650-800 °C in air. (b) Arrhenius plots of polarization resistance of pristine SBF (based on the data shown in Fig. 2a) and BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF electrodes.



**Fig. S5.** (a) Polarization resistance and (b) Nyquist plots of symmetrical cell with BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF electrodes during short-term test at 700 °C in air.



**Fig. S6.** Nyquist plots (a) and DRT spectra (b) of a symmetrical cell with BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF electrode measured under different oxygen partial pressures at 700 °C.



**Fig. S7.** DRT spectra of bare SBF and BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF electrode in air at 650 °C (a), 750 °C (b), and 800 °C (c).



**Fig. S8.** Nyquist plots of symmetrical cell with SBF, 2 wt% and 4 wt% BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF electrodes measured in air at 700 °C.



Fig. S9. Microstructure of cross-section of SBF (a) and BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF (b) electrodes.



**Fig. S10.** Typical *I-V* curves of single cells of Ni-GDC|LDC|LSGM|SBF (a) and Ni-GDC|LDC|LSGM|BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF (b) at 750 °C with different humidity. EIS of single cells based on SBF (a) and BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF (b) air electrode under open-circuit conditions.



Fig. S11. EIS of single cells based on SBF and  $BaCO_3$  infiltrated SBF air electrode with 40%  $H_2O/H_2$  at fuel side under open-circuit condition.

| Structure | <i>a</i> / Å | <i>b</i> / Å | <i>c</i> / Å | V / Å <sup>3</sup> | $\chi^2$ | $R_p$ / % | $R_{wp}$ / % |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Pmmm      | 3.9320(1)    | 3.9315(1)    | 7.8434(3)    | 121.249(8)         | 1.989    | 9.39      | 11.69        |
| P4/mmm    | 3.92859(7)   |              | 7.8717(2)    | 121.491(6)         | 1.721    | 7.96      | 9.97         |

 Table S1. Rietveld refinement results of XRD data of synthesized SBF powders with different symmetries\*.

\* Atoms Wyckoff position with *Pmmm* space group: Ba 1a (0, 0, 0); Sm 1c (0, 0, 0.5); Fe 2t (0.5, 0.5, z); O 1f (0.5, 0.5, 0); O2 2s (0.5, 0, z); O3 2r (0, 0.5, z); O4 1h (0.5, 0.5, 0.5).

Atoms Wyckoff position with *P4/mmm* space group: Ba 1a (0, 0, 0); Sm 1b (0, 0, 0.5); Fe 2h (0.5, 0.5, z); O 1c (0.5, 0.5, 0); O2 4i (0.5, 0, z); O3 1d (0.5, 0.5, 0.5).

Table S2. Comparison of the polarization resistance of air electrodes at 700 °C.

| Materials  | $R_{ m p}$ / $\Omega$ cm <sup>2</sup> | Reference |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|--|
| $La_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Fe_{0.9}Mo_{0.1}O_{3-\delta}$                     | ~0.21                                 | 1         |  |  |
| $La_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Fe_{0.8}Cu_{0.15}Nb_{0.05}O_{3-\delta}$           | ~0.35                                 | 2         |  |  |
| $La_{0.6}Sr_{0.3}Ce_{0.1}Fe_{0.9}Ni_{0.1}O_{3-\delta}$             | ~0.26                                 | 3         |  |  |
| $Sr_{0.95}Ti_{0.3}Fe_{0.6}Ni_{0.1}O_{3-\delta}$                    | ~0.24                                 | 4         |  |  |
| $Pr_{0.4}Sr_{0.5}Co_{0.7}Fe_{0.2}Mo_{0.1}O_{3-\delta}$             | 0.22                                  | 5         |  |  |
| $PrBaFe_{1.9}Zr_{0.1}O_{5+\delta}$                                 | 0.134                                 | 6         |  |  |
| $PrBaFe_{1.9}Zn_{0.1}O_{5+\delta}$                                 | ~0.17                                 | 7         |  |  |
| $PrBaFe_{1.9}Ga_{0.1}O_{5+\delta}$                                 | 0.189                                 | 8         |  |  |
| $SmBaFe_2O_{5+\delta}$   | 0.154                                 | This work |  |  |
| BaCO <sub>3</sub> infiltrated SmBaFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5+δ</sub> | 0.068                                 | This work |  |  |

| Temperature / °C | Gibbs free energy / kJ |  |  |  |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 650              | 54.17                  |  |  |  |  |
| 700              | 42.89                  |  |  |  |  |
| 750              | 31.69                  |  |  |  |  |
| 800              | 20.60                  |  |  |  |  |
| 900              | 0.09                   |  |  |  |  |

**Table S3.** Gibbs free energy of reaction  $BaCO_3(s) = BaO(s) + CO_2(g)$  at different temperatures.

**Table S4.** Fitted  $R_p$  values of elementary reactions of SBF and BaCO<sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF electrodes with symmetrical cell configuration in air.

| Temperatur | $\mathrm{SBF}$ / $\Omega$ cm <sup>2</sup> |       |       |        |       | BaCO <sub>3</sub> infiltrated SBF/ $\Omega$ cm <sup>2</sup> |        |       |       |       |
|------------|---|-------|-------|--------|-------|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| e / °C     | P1  | P2    | P3    | P4     | P5    | P1  | P2     | Р3    | P4    | P5    |
| 650        | 0.0033                                    | 0.274 | 0.076 | 0.004  | 0.003 | 0.0025  | 0.0138 | 0.129 | 0.003 | 0.003 |
| 700        | 0.0015                                    | 0.089 | 0.050 | 0.003  | 0.003 | 0.0007  | 0.0050 | 0.057 | 0.002 | 0.003 |
| 750        | 0.0014                                    | 0.052 | 0.018 | 0.002  | 0.002 | 0.0006  | 0.0039 | 0.027 | 0.002 | 0.002 |
| 800        | 0.0012                                    | 0.028 | 0.009 | 0.0004 | 0.002 | 0.0006  | 0.0038 | 0.014 | -     | 0.002 |

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