

Supporting information

**Free-Standing Multi-Hierarchical MoC-based Catalyst for  
pH-Universal Hydrogen Evolution Reaction at Ultra-High  
Current Density**

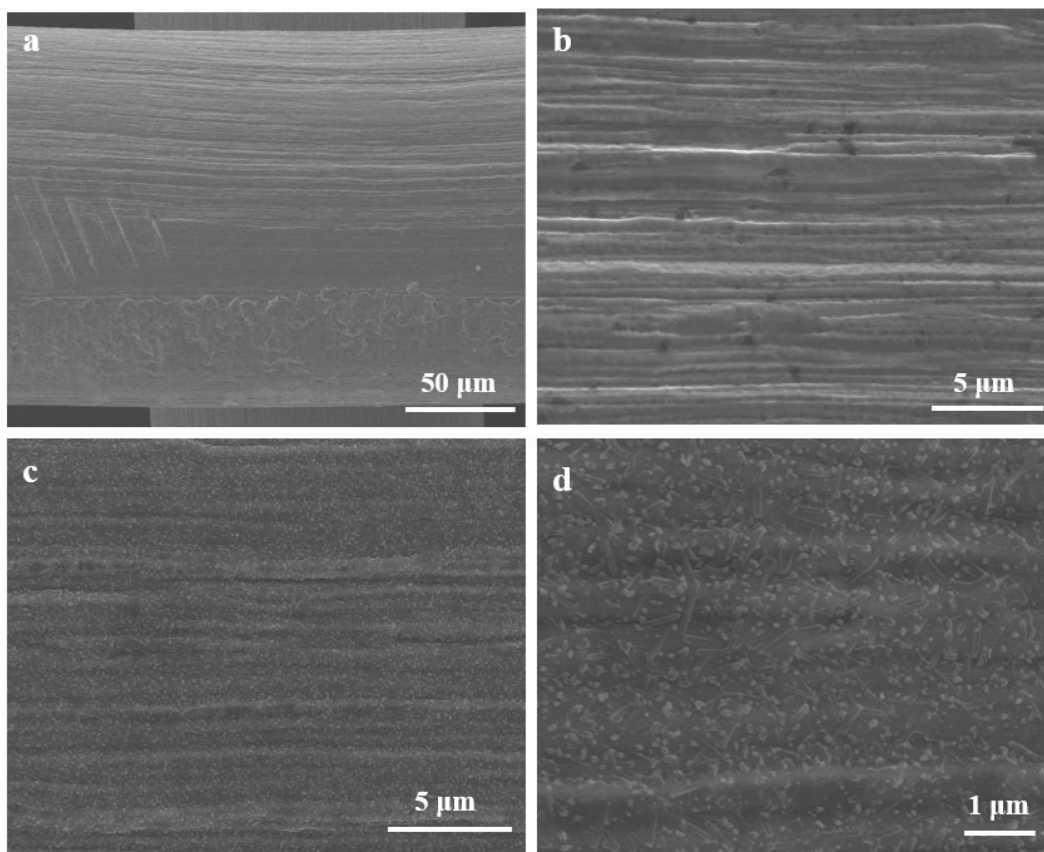
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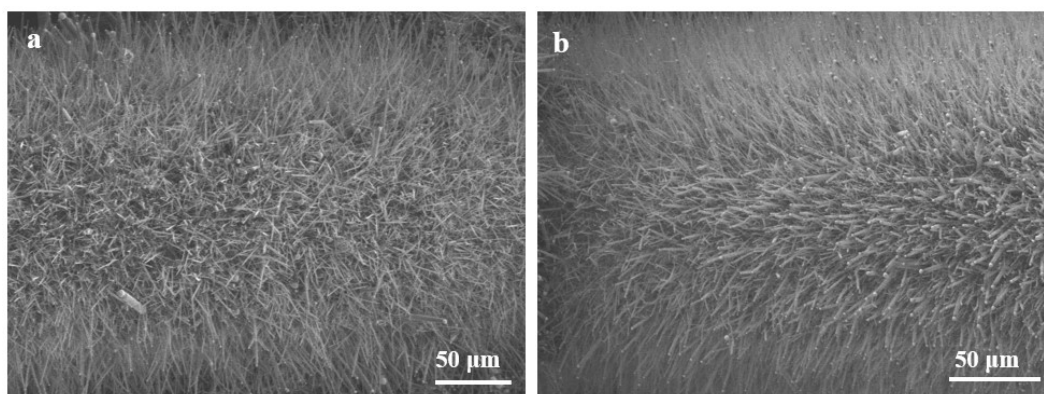
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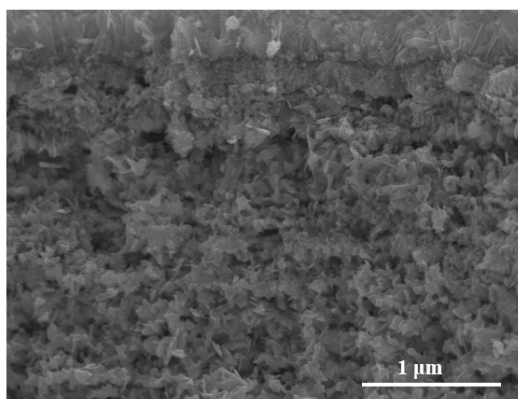
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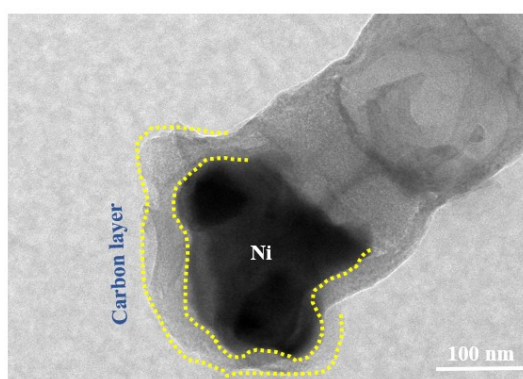
**Fig. S1.** SEM images of (a-b) Mo mesh and (c-d) MoOx-Mo mesh.



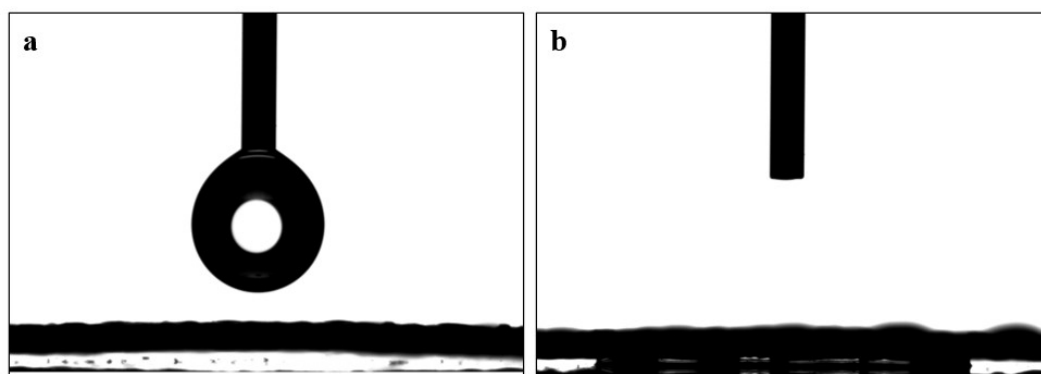
**Fig. S2.** SEM images of (a) MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C and (b) P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C.



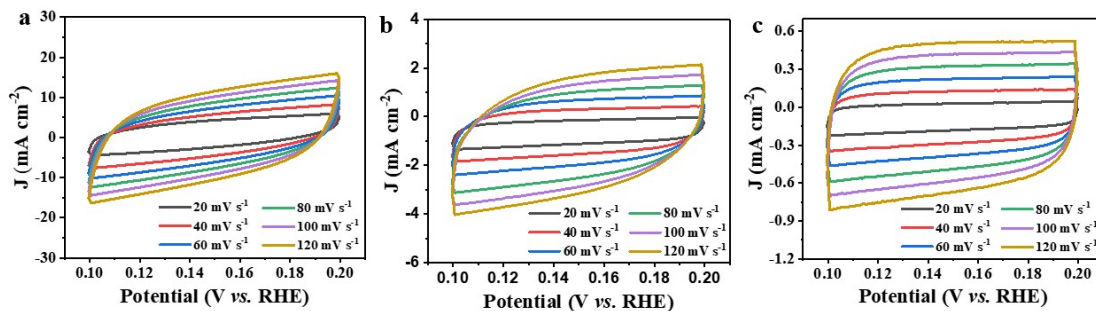
**Fig. S3.** SEM images of MoC@C shell.



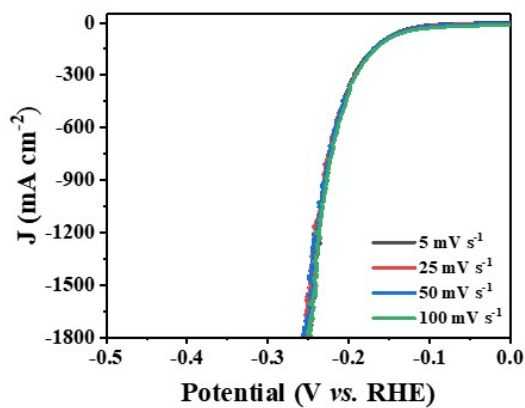
**Fig. S4.** TEM images of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C.



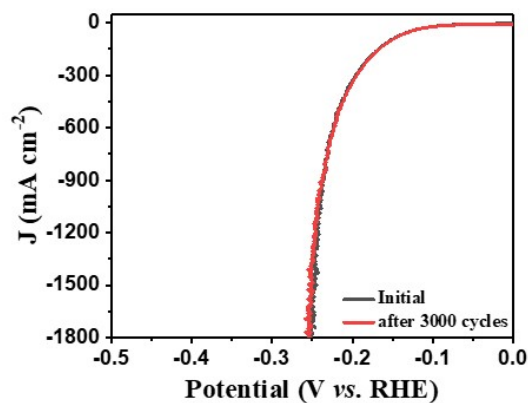
**Fig. S5.** The connect angles of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C.



**Fig. S6.** CVs of (a) MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C, (b) MoC-Mo mesh, and (c) Mo mesh in 0.5 M  $H_2SO_4$ .



**Fig. S7.** LSV curves of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C at different scan Rates in 0.5 M  $H_2SO_4$ .



**Fig. S8.** LSV curves of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C initial and after 3000 cycles test in 0.5 M  $H_2SO_4$ .

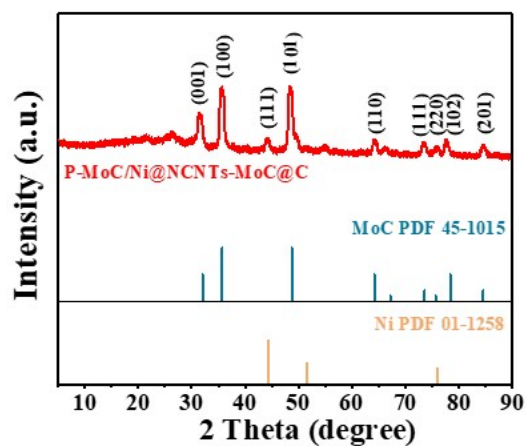


Fig. S9. XRD pattern of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C after i-t test in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

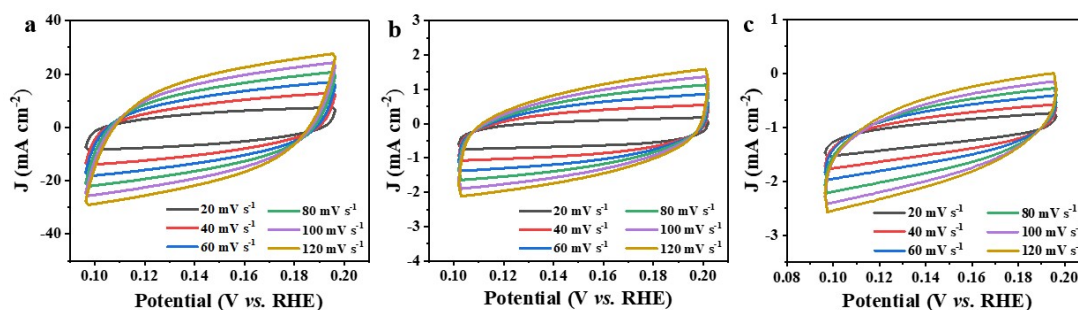


Fig. S10. CVs of (a) MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C, (b) MoC-Mo mesh, and (c) Mo mesh in 1.0 M KOH.

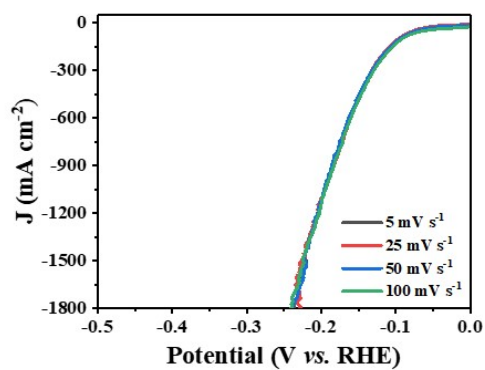


Fig. S11. LSV curves of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C at different scan rates in 1.0 M KOH.

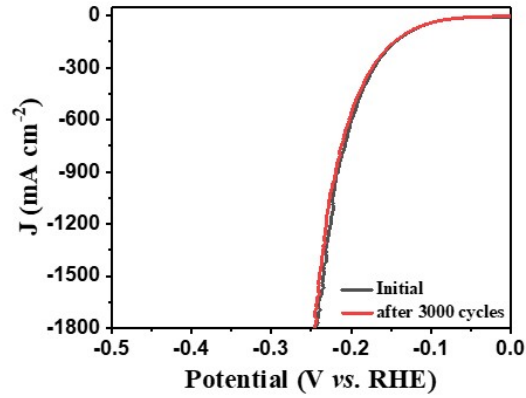


Fig. S12. LSV curves of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C initial and after 3000 cycles test in 1.0 M KOH.

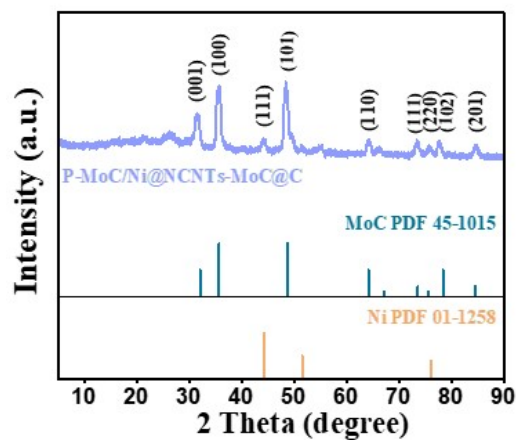


Fig. S13. XRD pattern of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C after i-t test in 1.0 M KOH.

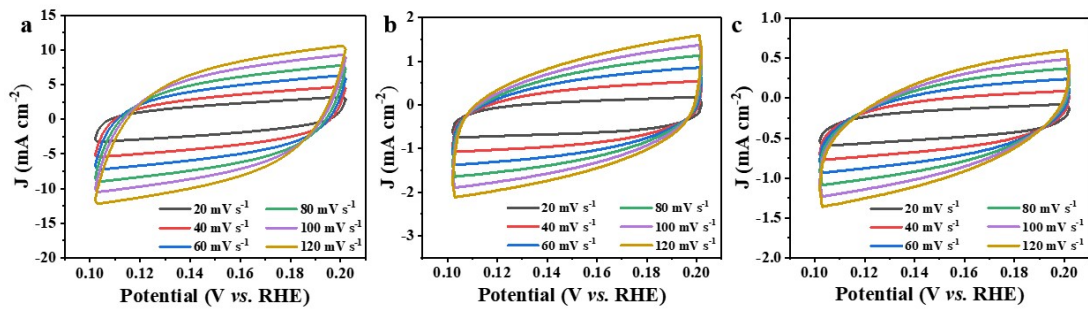
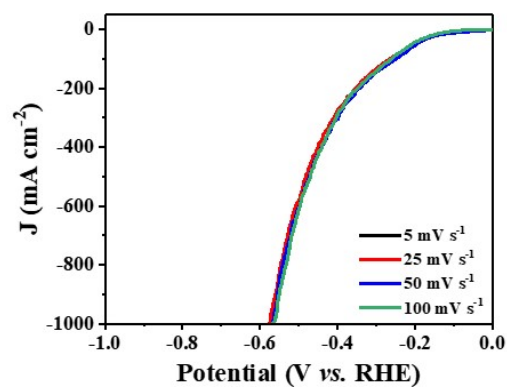
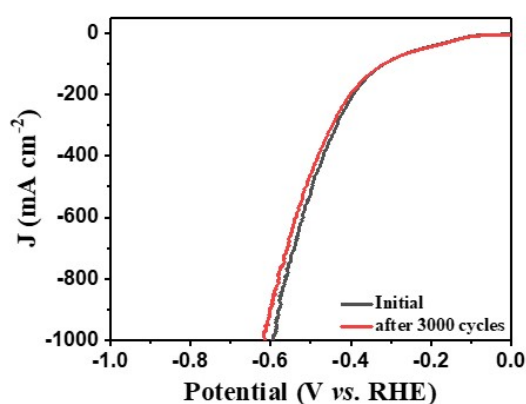


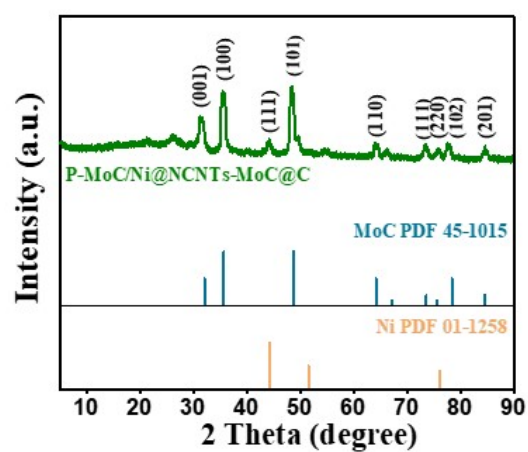
Fig. S14. CVs of (a) MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C, (b) MoC-Mo mesh, and (c) Mo mesh in 1.0 M PBS.



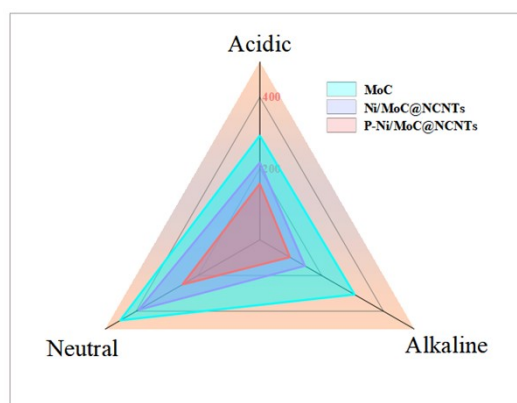
**Fig. S15.** LSV curves of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C at different scan Rates in 1.0 M PBS.



**Fig. S16.** LSV curves of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C initial and after 3000 cycles test in 1.0 M PBS.



**Fig. S17.** XRD pattern of P-MoC/Ni@NCNTs-MoC@C after i-t test in 1.0 M PBS.



**Fig. S18.** Comparison of as-prepared samples HER performance in the full pH range.

**Table S1.** Summary of representative non-noble metal-based composite catalysts in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

Type of molybdenum carbide electrocatalyst	$\eta_{10}$ (mV)	$\eta_{100}$ (mV)	Tafel slope (mV dec <sup>-1</sup> )
This work	91.2	157.3	67.4
CM/Mo <sub>x</sub> C@NC	149	248.5	86
Ni-Mo <sub>2</sub> C-0.67	165	214	54.1
Ni <sub>3</sub> Mo <sub>3</sub> C/Mo <sub>2</sub> C/Ti <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> T <sub>x</sub> /NC	99	253	58
MoS <sub>2</sub> /Mo <sub>2</sub> C	207	308.9	60
Ni-MoS <sub>2</sub> /NCNTs-3	158	225.7	69.3
WS <sub>2</sub> /Ni <sub>5</sub> P <sub>4</sub> -Ni <sub>2</sub> P	94	211	74
Ni <sub>2</sub> P-Co <sub>2</sub> P	172	296	67
Co-NCNT/CC	78	155	74
Mo <sub>2</sub> C@SNC	146	237	83
PS/MoS <sub>2</sub> 1:2	154	250	71
Ni <sub>2</sub> P/NPPC	159	261	74
WC/WO <sub>3-x</sub> -900	34.8	212.6	59.3

**Table S2.** Summary of representative non-noble metal-based composite catalysts in 1.0 M KOH.

Type of molybdenum carbide electrocatalyst	$\eta_{10}$ (mV)	$\eta_{100}$ (mV)	Tafel slope (mV dec <sup>-1</sup> )
This work	12.1	97.2	71.1
MoC@NC	98	465.2	55
Ni-Mo <sub>2</sub> C-0.67	151	194	50.9
H-Mo <sub>2</sub> C/NG	63	163	48
MS-Mo <sub>2</sub> C@NCNS	98	199.1	99
MoOPC@NC-200	69	154	60.4
CoO/Mo <sub>2</sub> C	107	285	80
Ni-MoC@NCNT/CC	70	197.6	68.9
Ni <sub>3</sub> Mo <sub>3</sub> C/Mo <sub>2</sub> C/Ti <sub>3</sub> C <sub>2</sub> T <sub>x</sub> /NC	98	242.8	69



CoN/MoC/NMCNFs/CC	92.5	266.2	107.9
Ni <sub>3</sub> Mo <sub>3</sub> N/Mo <sub>2</sub> C@C	43	273.2	110
N:Mo <sub>2</sub> C@NC	150	294	97
MoS <sub>2</sub> /Ni <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub> -NF	187	274	90
NF-Ni <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub> -NF	135	225	75

**Table S3.** Summary of representative non-noble metal-based composite catalysts in 1.0 M PBS.

Type of molybdenum carbide electrocatalyst	$\eta_{10}$ (mV)	$\eta$ (mV)	Tafel slope (mv dec <sup>-1</sup> )
This work	85.4	250.5(100)	130.3
SiO <sub>2</sub> /PPy NTs-CFs	183	274(40)	100.2
Co-Mo <sub>0.4</sub> -S	213	379(40)	94
WP NAs/CC	200	402(80)	125
Mo <sub>5</sub> N <sub>6</sub>	249		330
Ni <sub>2</sub> P@NPCNFs	185.3	377.2(100)	230.3
3D MoS <sub>2</sub> /N-GAs	261	402.4(40)	230
Co <sub>9</sub> S <sub>8</sub> @C	290		280
FePSe <sub>3</sub> /NC	140.1	457(100)	167
Co-Fe-P	138	329(100)	138
Mo <sub>2</sub> N <sub>x</sub> C <sub>1-x</sub> /rGO	332		137