

## **Supporting Information**

# **Defect-induced new persistent cyan emitting rare-earth free phosphors for dynamic anti-counterfeiting and plant growth LED applications**

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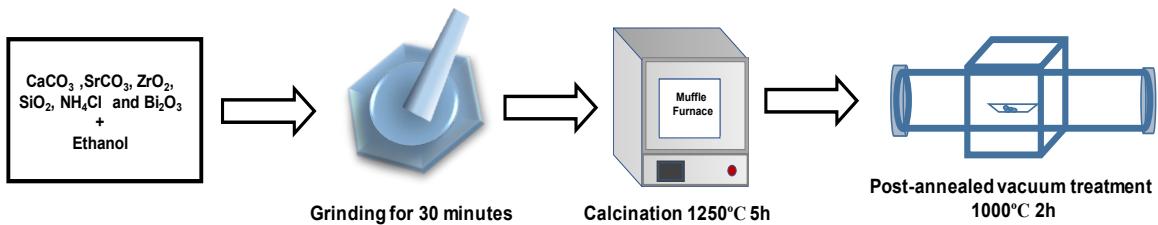
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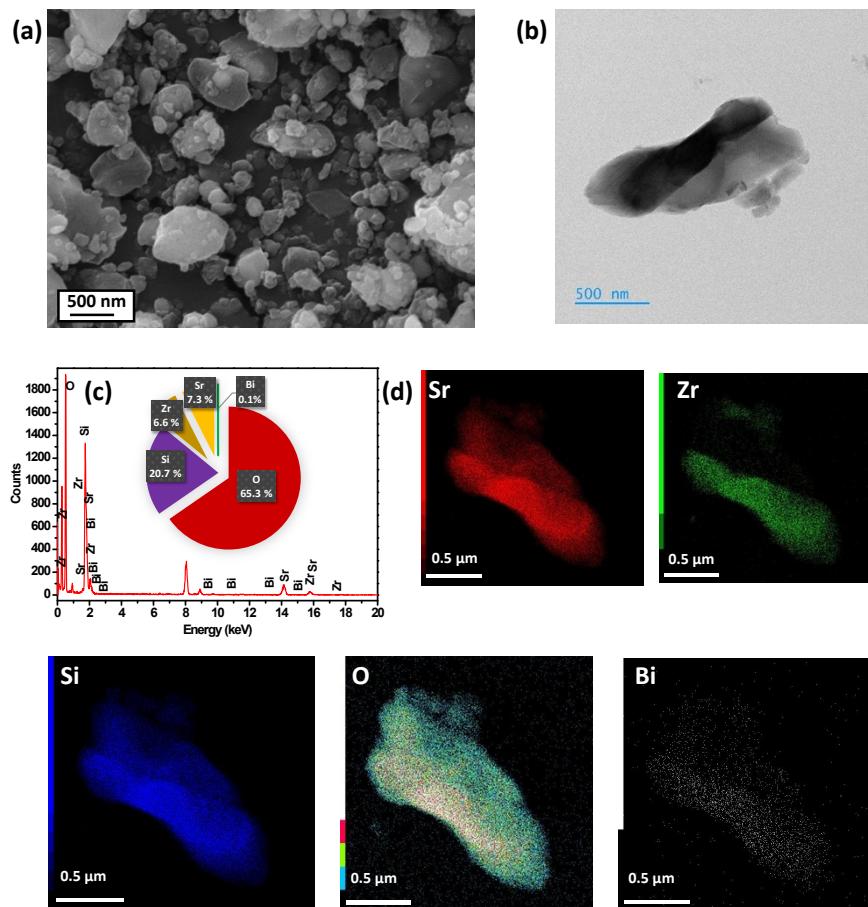
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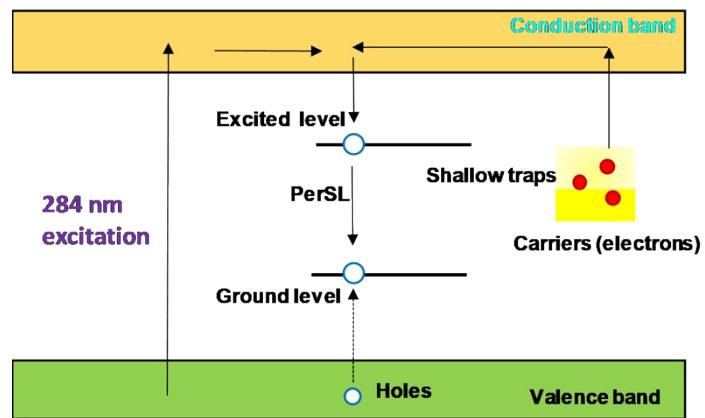


**Fig. S1** Schematic representation of the synthesis procedure of persistent phosphors.

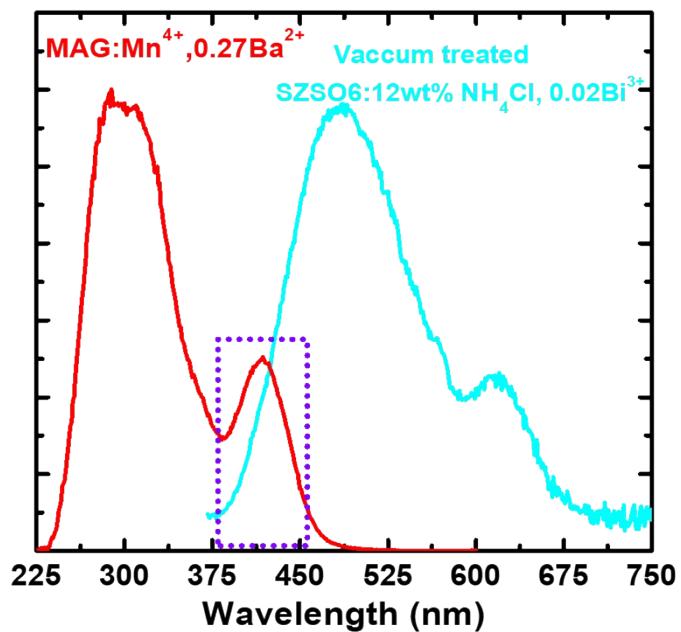


**Fig. S2.** (a) SEM image and (b) TEM image of SZSO6: 12wt% NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, 0.02Bi<sup>3+</sup> sample.

(c) The EDAX spectrum and atomic percentage of elements in SZSO6: 12 wt% NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, 0.02Bi<sup>3+</sup>. (d) EDAX elemental mapping of Sr, Zr, Si, O and Bi for SZSO6: 12 wt% NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, 0.02Bi<sup>3+</sup> phosphor.



**Fig. S3.** Persistent luminescence mechanism of SZSO<sub>6</sub>: 12wt%NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, 0.02 Bi<sup>3+</sup>.



**Fig. S4** PLE spectrum of MAG: Mn<sup>4+</sup>, 0.27Ba<sup>2+</sup> ( $\lambda_{\text{em}}$ : 659 nm) and PL emission ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ : 284 nm) spectrum of SZSO<sub>6</sub>: 12wt% NH<sub>4</sub>Cl.