

Supporting Information

Cobalt-Doped ZnIn₂S₄ for Highly Efficient Photocatalytic Oxidation of 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural to 2,5-Diformylfuran

Xiaohan Xing^a, Xu Tang^{a}, Zhi Zhu^{a, b*}, Binrong Li^{c*}, Yixuan Liu^b, Wenhua Xue^b, Pengwei Huo^a, Jun Zhao^{b*}*

^a Institute for Advanced Materials, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang 212013, China

^b Applied Research Centre for Pearl River Delta Environment, Department of Biology, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR, China

^c National and Local Joint Engineering Laboratory of Municipal Sewage Resource Utilization Technology, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Suzhou University of Science and Technology, Suzhou, 215009, China

***Corresponding authors:**

X.Tang (tangxu@ujs.edu.cn), B. Li (libr@usts.edu.cn), Z.Zhu (zhuzhi@hkbu.edu.hk), J. Zhao (zhaojun@hkbu.edu.hk);

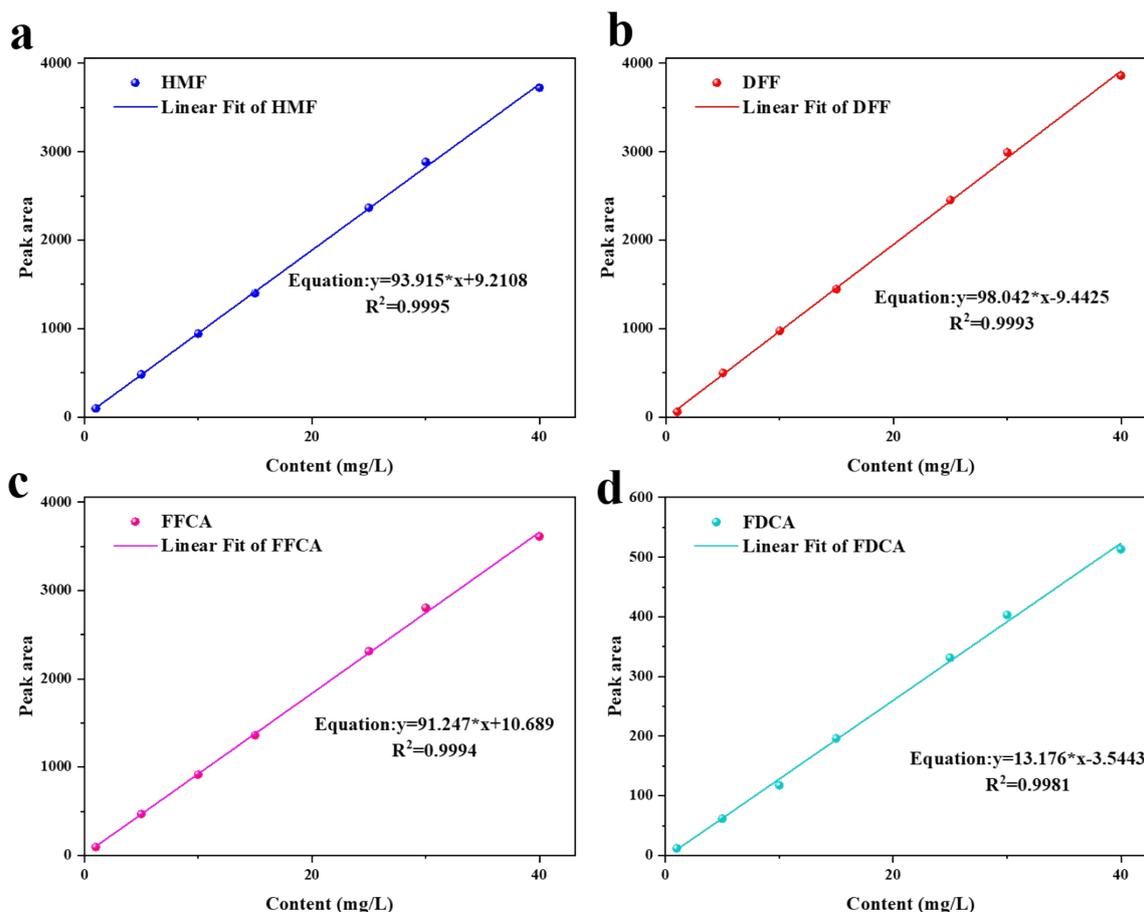
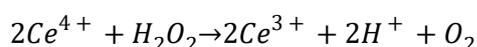


Figure S1. The standard curve for the calibration of : (a) HMF; (b) DFF; (c) FFCA; (d) FDCA.

Quenching Experiment: In order to further understand the photocatalytic mechanism of Co/ZIS-2, in same reaction conditions, different sacrificial agents were added for trapping experiments, such as Triethanolamine (TEOA) as hole scavenger, benzoquinone (BQ) as $\cdot O_2^-$ scavenger, and Furfuryl alcohol (FA) as 1O_2 scavenger.

Determination of H₂O₂ concentration: The H₂O₂ concentration was measured by a traditional cerium sulfate Ce(SO₄)₂ titration method based on the mechanism that a yellow solution of Ce⁴⁺ can be reduced by H₂O₂ to colourless Ce³⁺. Thus, the concentration of Ce⁴⁺ before and after the reaction can be measured via the UV-vis spectrophotometer. The absorption peak used for the measurement was 316 nm.



Therefore, the concentration of H₂O₂ can be determined by equation

$$M = \frac{1}{2} \times M_{Ce^{4+}}$$

where $M_{Ce^{4+}}$ is the mole of consumed Ce^{4+} .

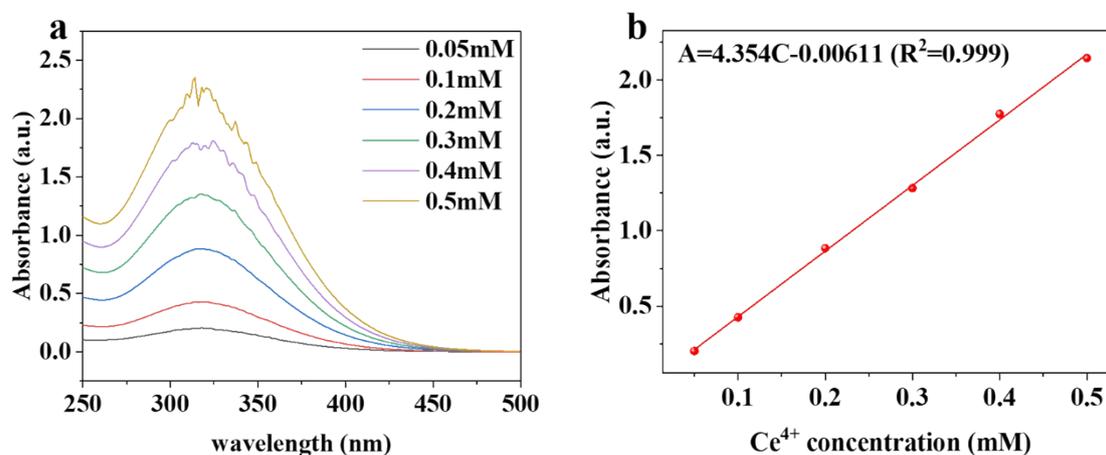


Figure S2. (a) UV-Vis Absorption Spectra of Ce^{4+} Solutions at Various Concentrations; (b) Standard curves at the 316 nm absorption peak.

Electrochemical measurement

Photoelectrochemical tests were performed on the electrochemical workstation CHI660E using the classical three-electrode mode, where in the three-electrode setup, the electrolyte is a 0.5 M Na_2SO_4 aqueous solution, the reference electrode is an Ag/AgCl electrode (saturated KCl), and the counter electrode is a Pt plate. The working electrodes for photocurrent and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) were prepared by adding 0.05 g of photocatalyst and 0.01 g of PVP to 3 mL of ethanol, dispersing them homogeneously, adding 0.03 ml of oleic acid, and sonicating for 2 h, after which the dispersions were spin-coated onto 1.0 cm^2 indium-tin-oxide (ITO) substrates.

Density Functional Theory computation details

All the density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed for structural optimization as implemented in the Vienna Ab-initio Simulation Package (VASP). The PBE exchange-correlation function of the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) was used to describe the exchange correlation energy. A plane-wave kinetic-energy cutoff of 400 eV and a maximum force tolerance of 0.05 eV/Å were employed to obtain well-converged results. A vacuum thickness of 20 Å was used in the z-direction to avoid interactions between periodic slab images.

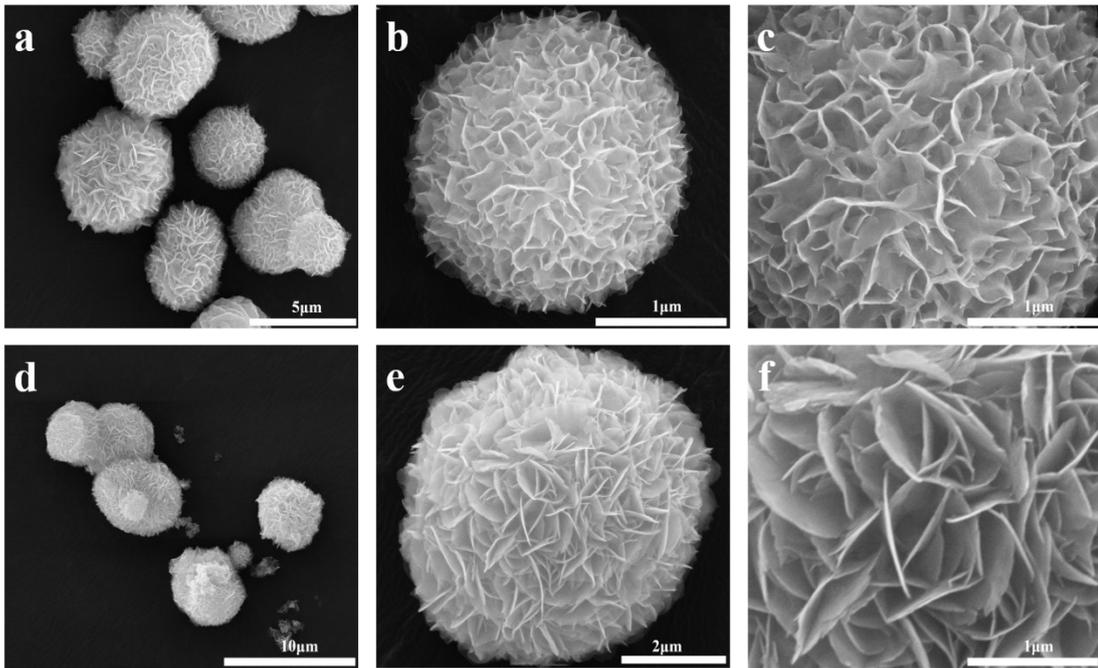


Figure S3. (a-c) SEM image of ZnIn_2S_4 ; (d-f) SEM image of Co/ZIS-2.

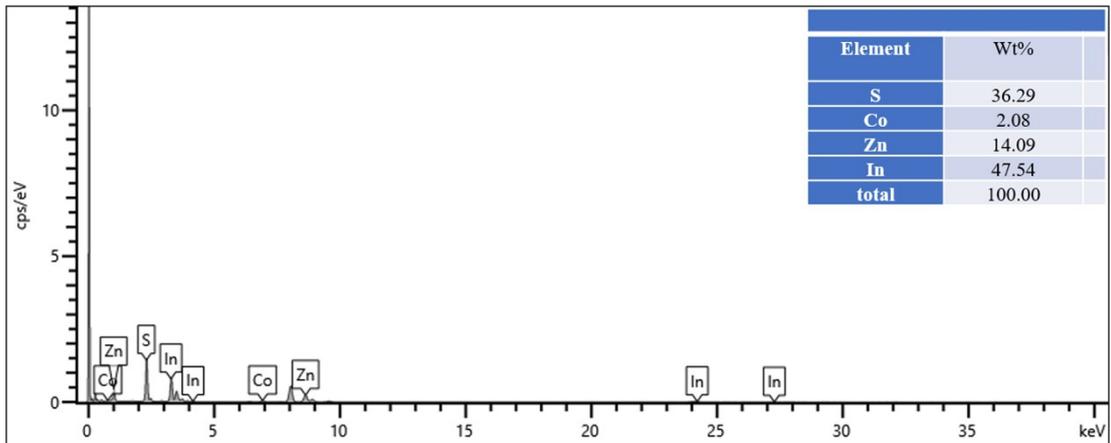


Figure S4. Elemental mapping image of Co/ZIS-2

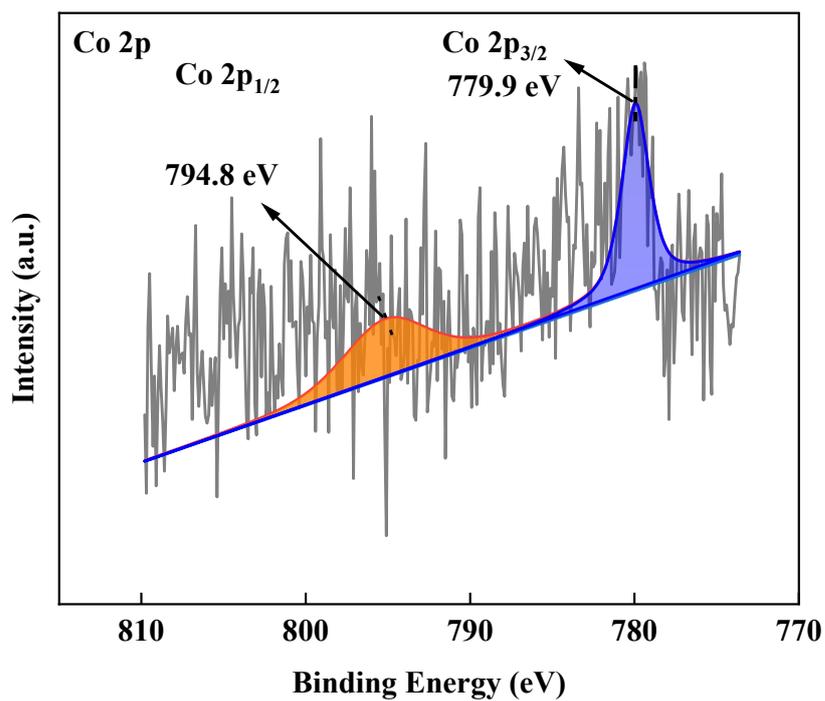


Figure S5. XPS spectrum of Co

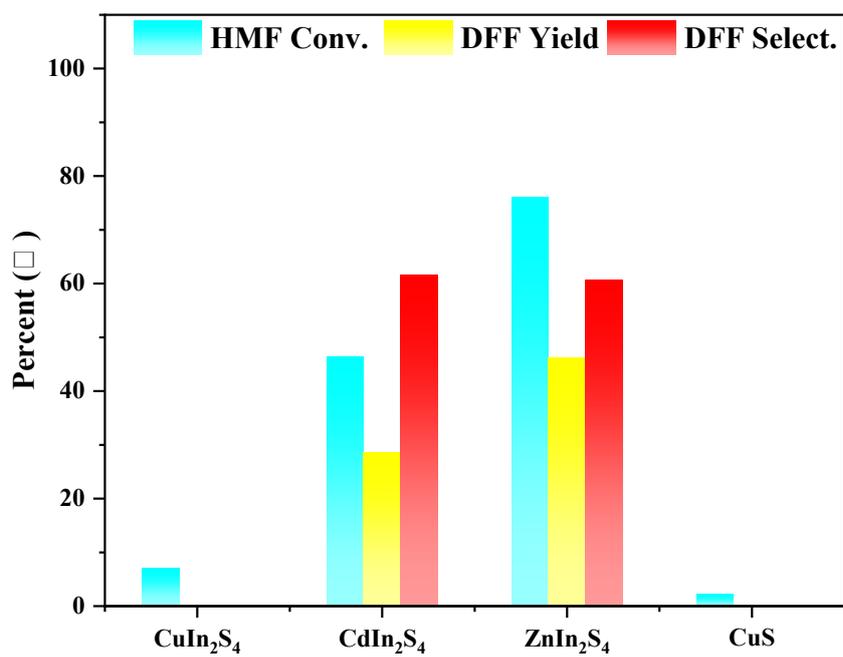


Figure S6. Photocatalytic HMF oxidation activity of different metal sulfides. Reaction conditions: 10 mM HMF, 20 mg catalyst, 20 °C

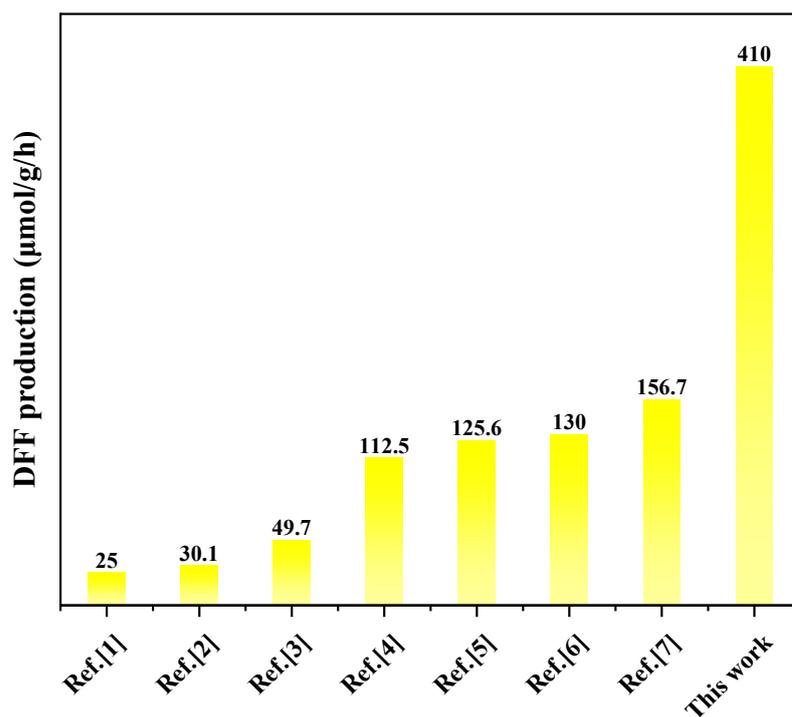


Figure S7. Comparison of photocatalytic DFF production performance in air conditions with some reported photocatalysts.

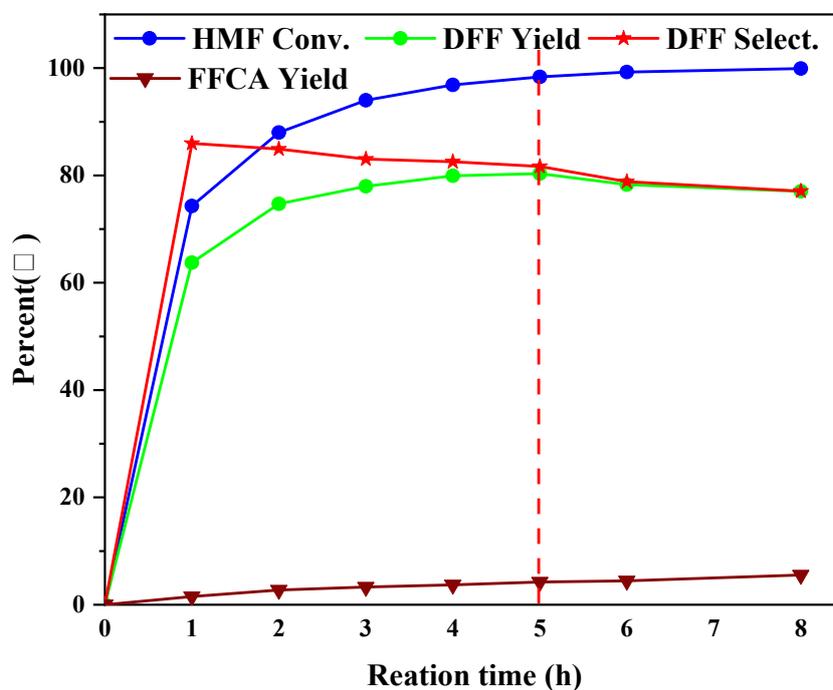


Figure S8. Kinetic plot of Co/ZIS-2.

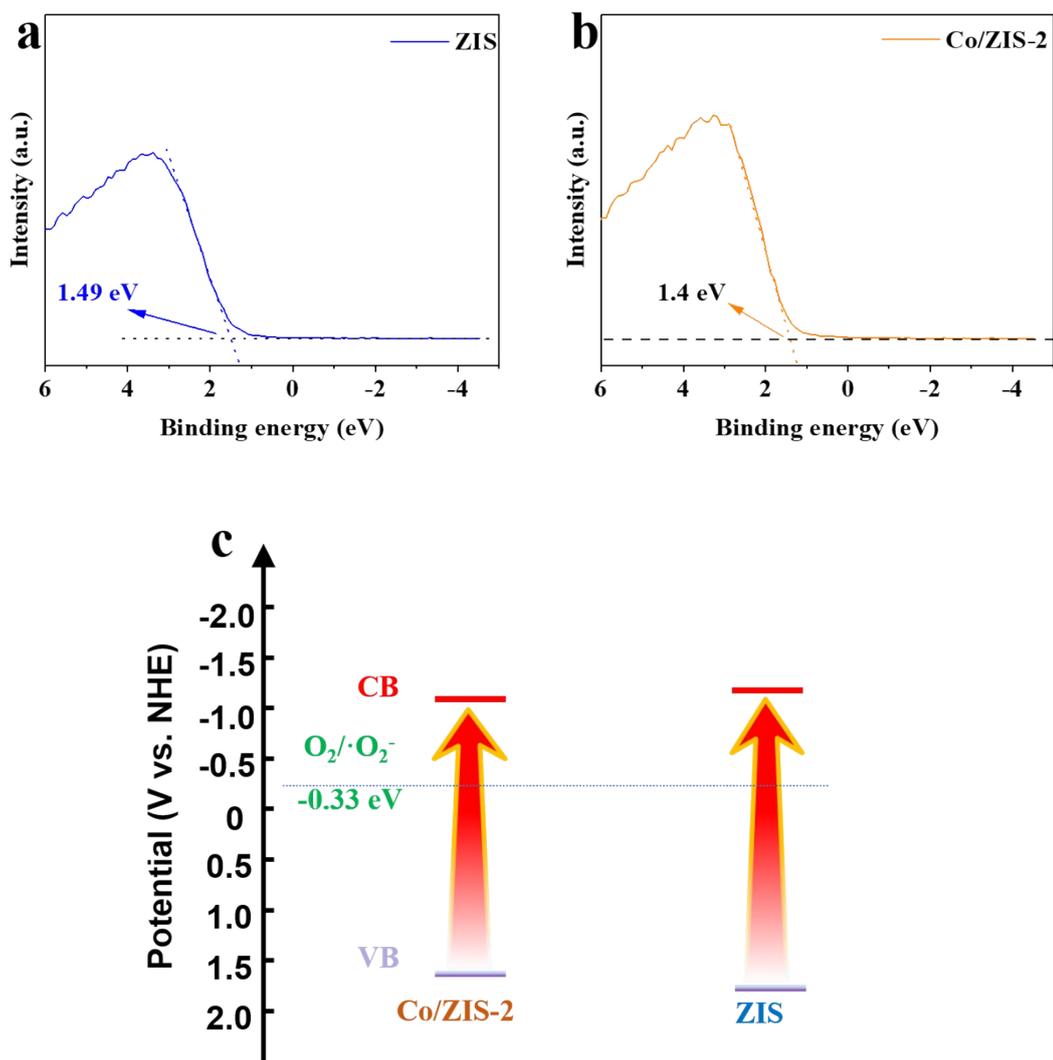


Figure S9. (a) XPS valence band spectra of ZIS; (b) XPS valence band spectra of Co/ZIS-2; (c) The schematic band structure diagrams of ZIS and Co/ZIS-2 are presented.

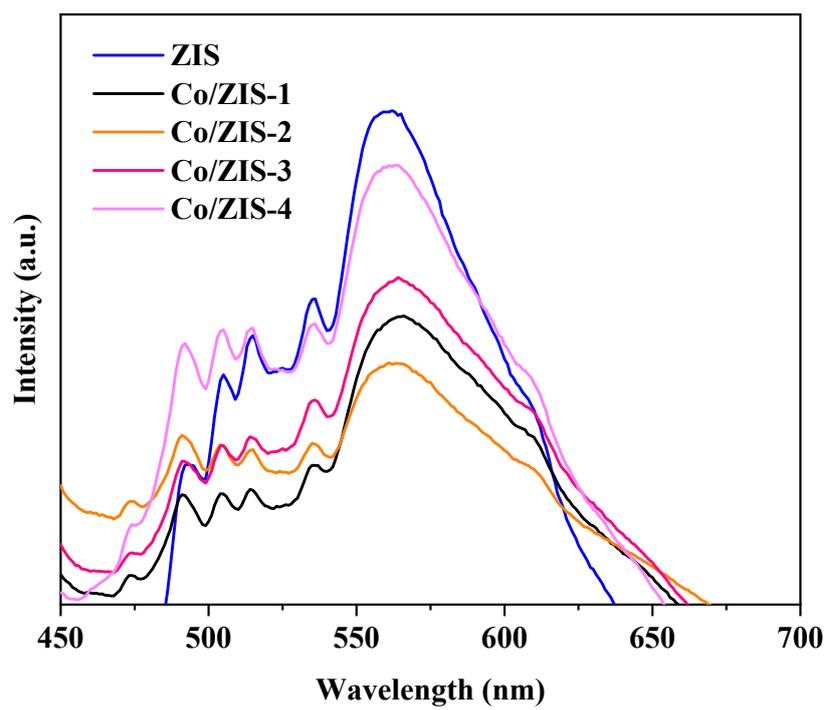


Figure S10. Steady-state PL spectra.

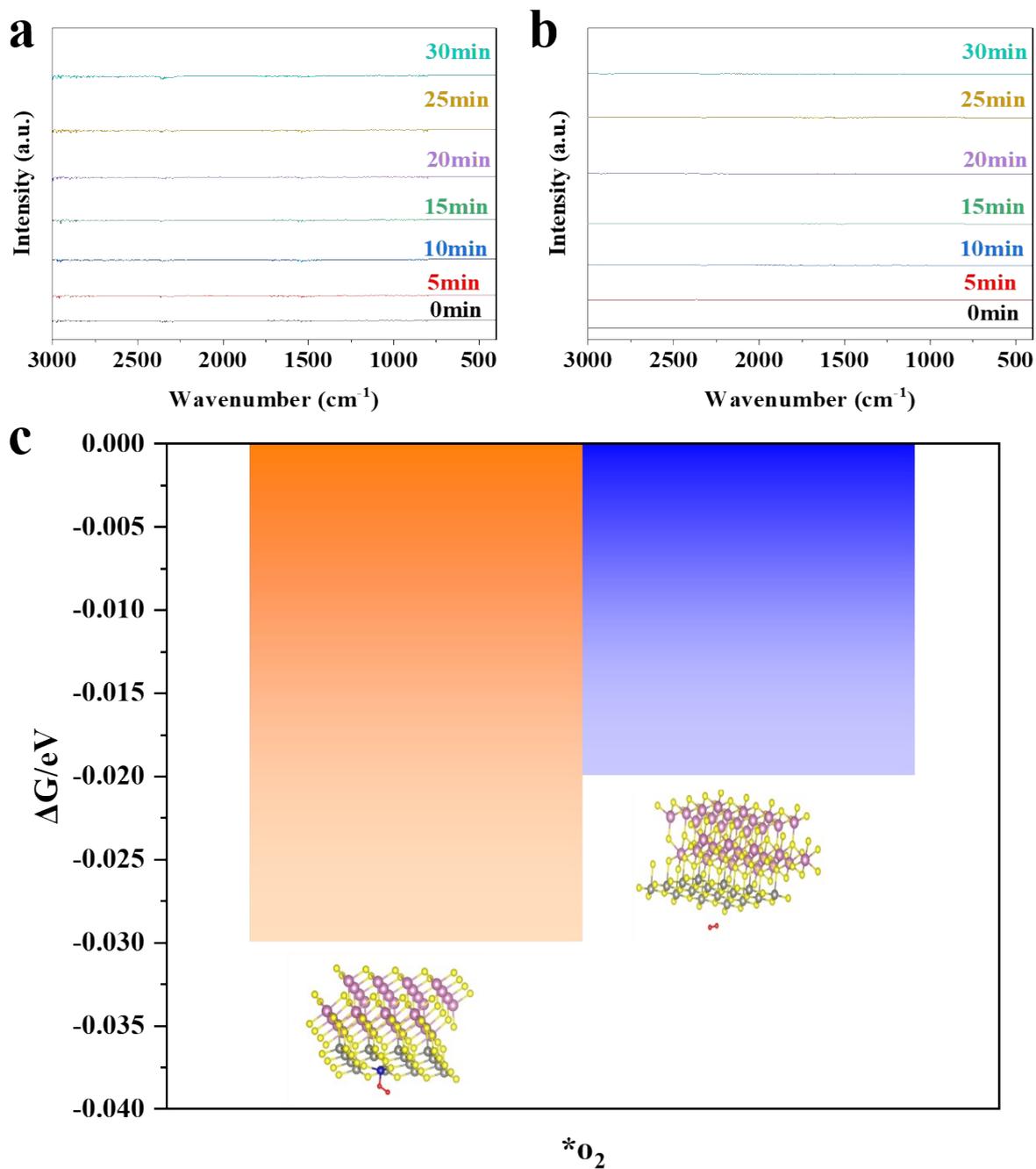


Figure S11. In situ infrared spectra of oxygen adsorption for ZIS and Co/ZIS-2. (a) ZIS. (b) Co/ZIS-2. (c) The DFT calculations of the adsorption energies of oxygen on ZIS and Co/ZIS-2.

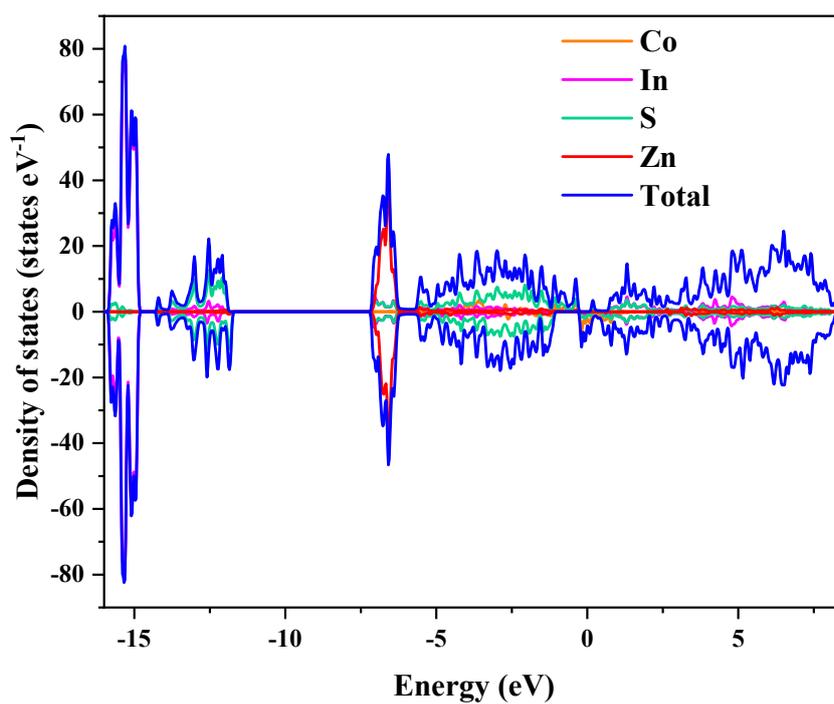


Figure S12. TDOS and Co, Zn, S, O, In PDOS of Co/ZIS-2.

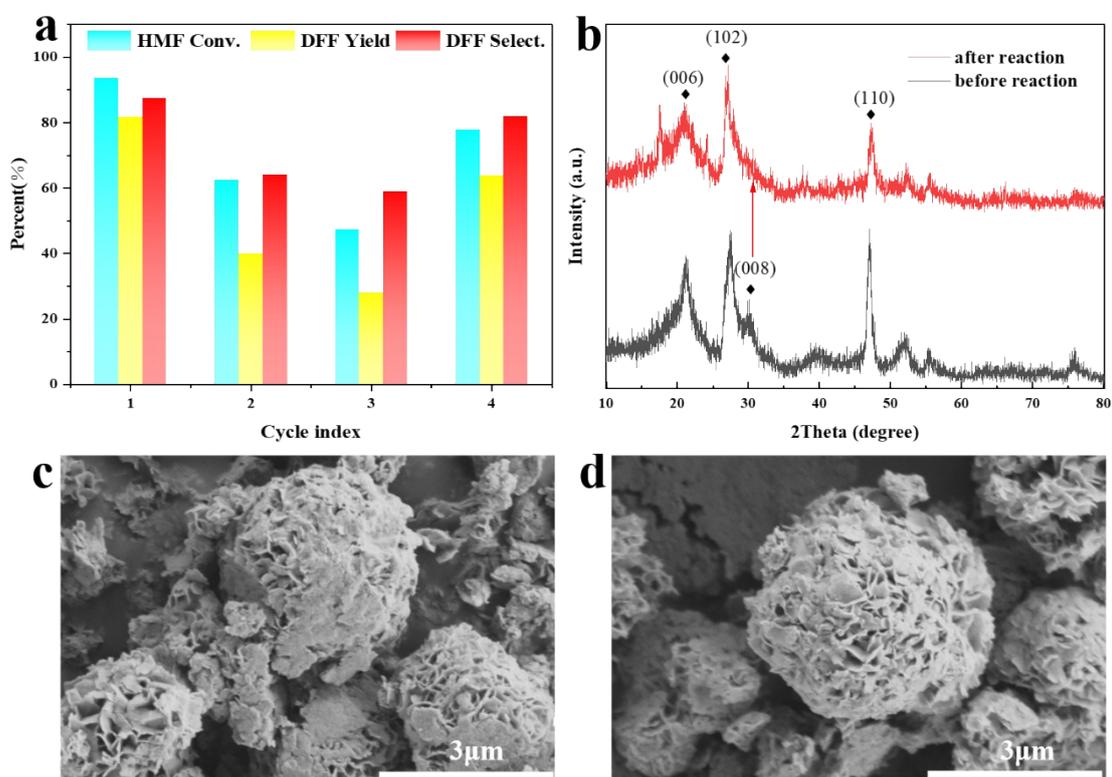


Figure S13. (a) Cycle times activity of Co/ZIS-2, (b) The XRD pattern of the used Co/ZIS-2 is presented; (c-d) SEM topography of Co/ZIS-2 recovery samples.

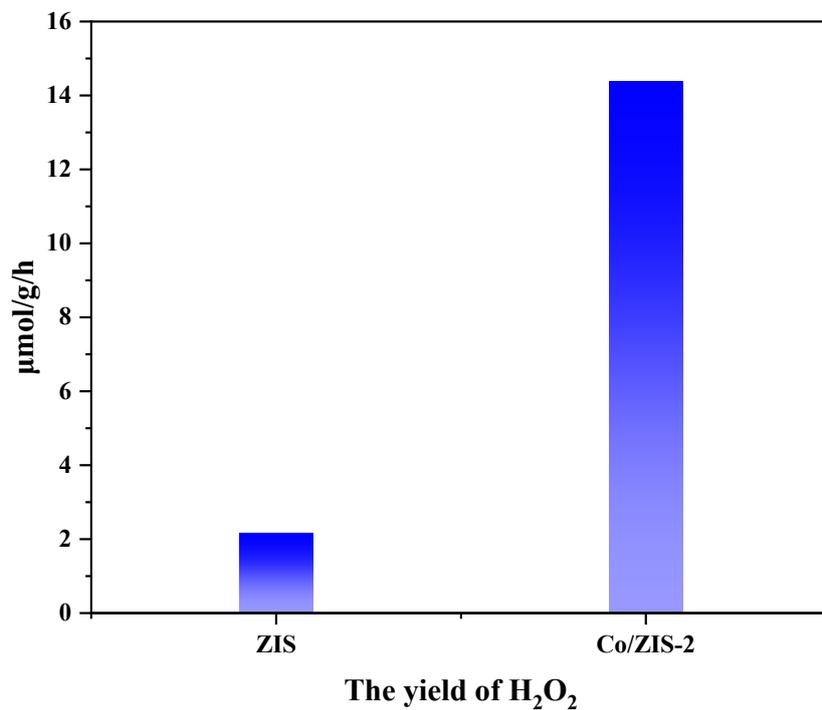
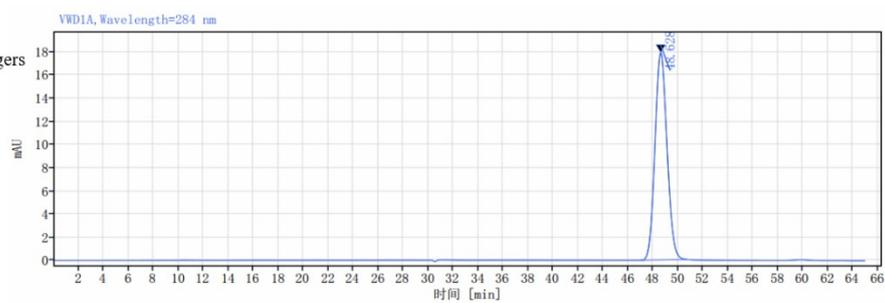


Figure S14. The yield of H₂O₂ (5h).

Some raw data

Sample: Co/ZIS-2
 Before the reaction starts
 Reaction conditions: No scavengers

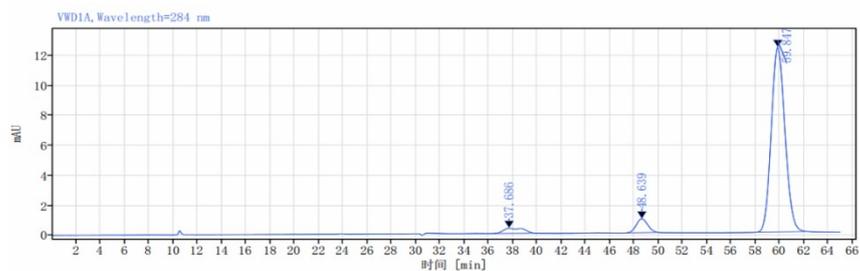


VWD1A, Wavelength=284 nm

Retention time (min)	width (min)	area	Height
48.628	3.64	1199.06	17.86
Total		1199.06	100.00

Figure S15. HPLC chromatogram of HMF before the reaction.

Sample:Co/ZIS-2
 After the reaction
 Reaction conditions: oxygen



VWD1A, Wavelength=284 nm

Retention time (min)	width (min)	area	Height
37.686 MM m	1.35	39.30	0.34 3.68
48.639 MM m	0.78	60.60	0.93 5.67
59.847 BB	4.27	968.93	12.32 90.65
Total		1068.83	

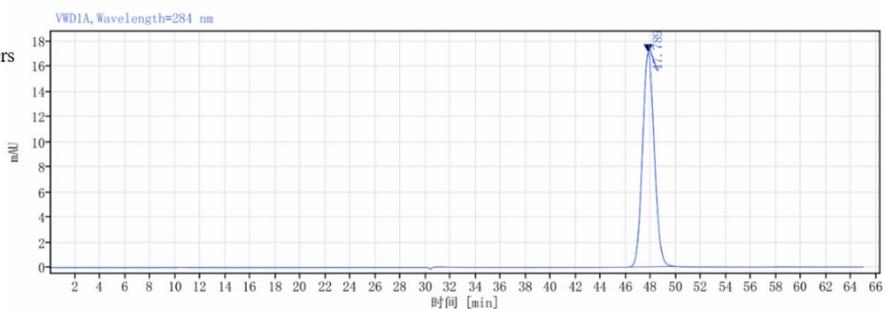
Figure S16. HPLC test diagram of HMF and DFF after reaction.

Calculate result :

Co/ZIS-2	Figure3c						
	Oxygen						
peak area	HMF	DFF	HMF mmol	DFF mmol	Conv.	Yield	Selec.
	1199.06		10.04633				
	60.6	968.93	0.433898	7.767533	95.68	80.04	83.66

Figure S17. Calculate result.

Sample:Co/ZIS-2
 Before the reaction starts
 Reaction conditions: No scavengers

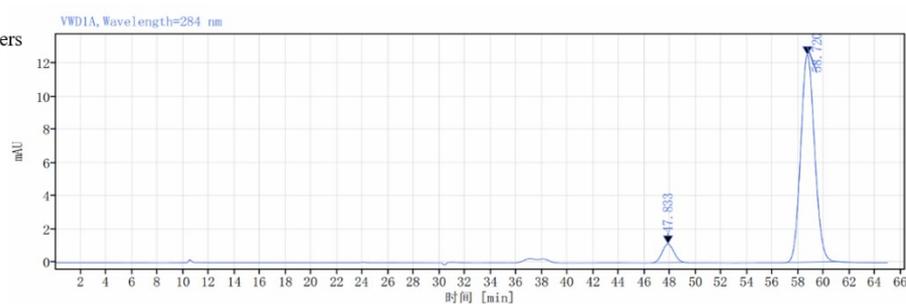


VWD1A, Wavelength=284 nm

Retention time (min)	width (min)	area	Height
47.789 BB	3.67	1116.56	17.03 100.00
Total		1116.56	

Figure S18. HPLC chromatogram of HMF before the reaction.

Sample:Co/ZIS-2
 After the reaction
 Reaction conditions: No scavengers



VWD1A, Wavelength=284 nm

Retention time (min)	width (min)	area	Height
47.833	MM m	0.75	71.57
58.720	BB	949.27	12.52
Total		1020.83	92.99

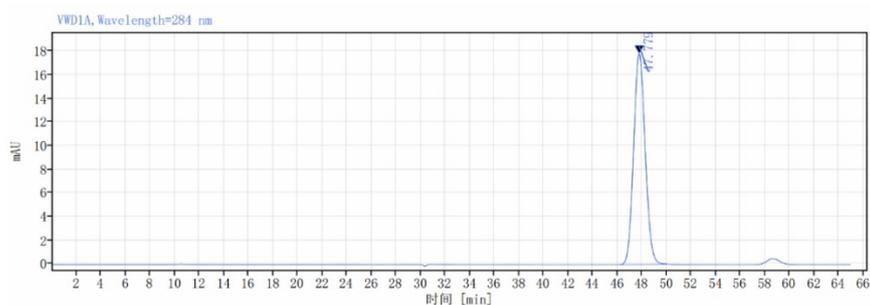
Figure S19. HPLC test diagram of HMF and DFF after reaction.

Calculate result :

Co/ZIS-2	Figure3d						
	No scavenger						
peak area	HMF	DFF	HMF mmo	DFF mmol	Conv.	Yield	Selec.
	1116.56		9.349752				
	71.57	949.27	0.526521	7.879973	94.37	84.28	89.31

Figure S20. Calculate result.

Sample:Co/ZIS-2
 Before the reaction starts
 Reaction conditions: In ACN

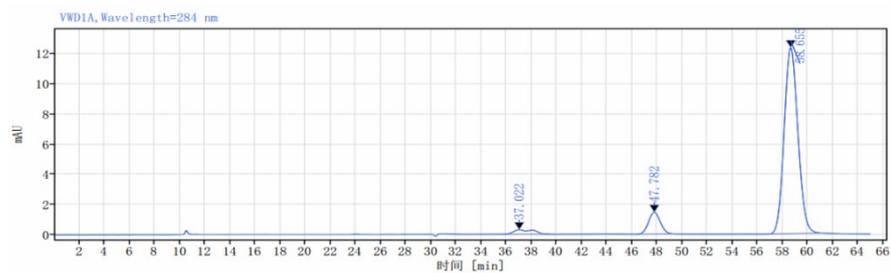


VWD1A, Wavelength=284 nm

Retention time (min)	width (min)	area	Height
47.779	BB	3.75	1167.34
Total		1167.34	100.00

Figure S21. HPLC chromatogram of HMF before the reaction.

Sample: Co/ZIS-2
 After the reaction
 Reaction conditions: In ACN



Retention time (min)	width (min)	area	Height
37.022 MM m	1.31	32.63	0.29 3.07
47.782 MM m	0.78	93.13	1.44 8.77
58.655 BB	4.25	935.59	12.32 88.15
<u>Total</u>		1061.35	

Figure S22. HPLC test diagram of HMF and DFF after reaction.

Co/ZIS-2	Figure3e						
	In ACN						
peak area	HMF	DFF	HMF mmol	DFF mmol/	Conv.	Yield	Selec.
	1167.34		9.778506				
	93.13	935.59	0.70856	7.767533	92.75	79.43	85.64

Figure S23. Calculate result.

Reference

1. Zhu, Q.; Zhuang, Y.; Zhao, H.; Zhan, P.; Ren, C.; Su, C.; Ren, W.; Zhang, J.; Cai, D.; Qin, P. 2,5-Diformylfuran Production by Photocatalytic Selective Oxidation of 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural in Water Using MoS₂/CdIn₂S₄ Flower-like Heterojunctions. *Chinese J. Chem. Eng.* 2023, 54, 180–191. DOI: 10.1016/j.cjche.2022.04.018.
2. Qian, H.; Hou, Q.; Zhang, W.; Nie, Y.; Lai, R.; Ren, H.; Yu, G.; Bai, X.; Cai, D.; Ju, M. Construction of Electron Transport Channels and Oxygen Adsorption Sites to Modulate Reactive Oxygen Species for Photocatalytic Selective Oxidation of 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural to 2,5-Diformylfuran. *Appl. Catal. B: Environ.* 2022, 319, 121907. DOI: 10.1016/j.apcatb.2022.121907.
3. Cui, J.; Yu, Z.; Sun, L.; Zhang, M.; Guo, M.; Xiong, J.; Qiao, Y.; Zhang, R.; Lu, X. Photocatalytic Selective Oxidation of Biomass-derived 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural to 2,5-Diformylfuran under Ambient Conditions over CdIn₂S₄/g-C₃N₄ Heterojunctions. *Catal. Sci. Technol.* 2023, 13, 5892–5901. DOI: 10.1039/d3cy00794d.
4. Zhang, M.; Li, Z.; Xin, X.; Zhang, J.; Feng, Y.; Lv, H. Selective Valorization of 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural to 2,5-Diformylfuran Using Atmospheric O₂ and MAPbBr₃ Perovskite under Visible Light. *ACS Catal.* 2020, 10, 14793–14800. DOI: 10.1021/acscatal.0c04330.
5. Zhang, M.; Zhang, Y.; Ye, L.; Liu, R.; Qiao, Y.; Sun, L.; Cui, J.; Lu, X. In Situ Fabrication of Ti₃C₂F_x MXene/CdIn₂S₄ Schottky Junction for Photocatalytic Oxidation of HMF to DFF under Visible Light. *Appl. Catal. B: Environ.* 2023, 330, 122635. DOI: 10.1016/j.apcatb.2023.122635.
6. Khan, A.; Goepel, M.; Kubas, A.; Łomot, D.; Lisowski, W.; Lisovytskiy, D.; Nowicka, A.; Colmenares, J. C.; Gläser, R. Selective Oxidation of 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural to 2,5-Diformylfuran by Visible Light-Driven Photocatalysis over In Situ Substrate-Sensitized Titania. *ChemSusChem.* 2021, 14, 1351–1362. DOI: 10.1002/cssc.202002687.
7. Guo, Y.; Gong, M.; Xu, X.; Dong, Y.; Wang, G. Efficient Photocatalytic Selective Oxidation of 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural on Bi₂₄O₂₉Br₁₀(WO₄)₂ Solid Solution via Enhanced Charge Separation. *Catal. Sci. Technol.* 2025, DOI: 10.1039/d4cy01420k.