

Supporting Information for

Tough, Highly Conductive and Flame-Retardant MXene/NR Films Based on Large-Size MXene for Efficient Electromagnetic Interference Shielding

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S1 Supplemental Experimental Procedures

Characterization. The morphology and microstructure (surface and cross-section) of NRL, MXene and nanocomposite films were observed using a cold field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM, Regulus 8100, Hitachi, Japan). The morphology and structure of MXene dispersions were further investigated by transmission electron microscopy (TEM, JEOL JEM-F200, Japan) and atomic force microscopy (AFM Bruker Dimension Icon, Germany). Zeta potential of NR, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR dispersions were tested using a nanoparticle size and zeta potential analyzer (DLS, Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS90, Japan) The identification of MAX, NR, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x NR, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x, and Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR on XRD (Rigaku SmartLab SE, Japan). The chemical compositions of NR, AL-Ti₃C₂T_x, AL-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR nanocomposite films were analyzed by XPS (Thermo Scientific K-Alpha, USA) and FTIR spectroscopy. The mechanical properties of the prepared films were tested at room

temperature using an electronic universal testing machine (KXWW-05C, Chengde Kebiao Testing Instrument Manufacturing Co., Ltd.). The samples were cut into regular long strips and the tensile speed was set at 500 mm min⁻¹. At least three similar curves were obtained for each sample to evaluate the mechanical properties. The electrical conductivity of the prepared films was analyzed by the four-probe method (ST-2258C, Suzhou Jingge Electronics Co., Ltd., probe diameter: 1.02 mm, probe spacing: 2 mm). The electrical conductivity of the prepared composites was calculated according to the following equation: where σ , t , and R_s are the electrical conductivity, thickness, and sheet resistance of the nanocomposite film, respectively.

$$\sigma = 1 / (R_s \times t) \quad \backslash * \text{MERGEFORMAT [1]}$$

The electromagnetic shielding performance is measured by a (Rohde & Schwarz ZNLE18) two-port vector network analyzer in the frequency range from 8.2 to 12.4 GHz (X-band). The reflection (R), transmission (T) and absorption (A) coefficients are governed by the S parameters (S_{11} , S_{12} , S_{21} , S_{22}) of the scattered energy from the material or device.

$$R = |S_{11}|^2 = |S_{22}|^2, T = |S_{12}|^2 = |S_{21}|^2, A = 1 - R - T \backslash *$$

MERGEFORMAT [2]

In addition, the total EMI SE (SE_T), absorption (SE_A), multiple reflection (SE_M) and reflection (SE_R) efficiencies can be calculated using equations relating the A, R and T coefficients.

$$SE_A = -10 \log \left(\frac{T}{1 - R} \right), SE_R = -10 \log (1 - R), SE_T = SE_A = SE_M = SE_R \backslash *$$

MERGEFORMAT [3]

In particular, the value of SE_M is almost zero and negligible when the SE_T exceeds 10 dB, where the major reflected waves are absorbed and converted into heat inside the material. The shielding efficiency of the Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR nanocomposites, which refers to the ability to block waves, can be expressed as followed:

$$shielding\ efficiency(\%)=100-\left(\frac{1}{10^{SE_T/10}}\right)\times 100 \backslash * MERGEFORMAT$$

[4]

Furthermore, SSE and SSE/t are defined to eliminate the effect of thickness and density on the EMI SE of Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/ANF nanocomposites.

$$SSE = EMI\ SE / density = dB \cdot cm^3 \cdot g^{-1} \backslash * MERGEFORMAT [5]$$

$$SSE / t = SSE / thickness = dB \cdot cm^3 \cdot g^{-1} \backslash * MERGEFORMAT [6]$$

The weight loss of NR, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x, and Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR=10/90 films was tested by using (TGA,TA) in nitrogen atmosphere from 30°C to 800°C at a temperature increase rate of 10 °C·min⁻¹. The heat release rate and total heat release of the three films of NR, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x, and Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR=10/90 from 200°C to 700°C at a rate of 1 °C/s were measured by using the microcalorimeter (MCC). Ti₃C₂T_x/NR=10/90 were measured by using a microcalorimeter (MCC) to measure the heat release rate and the total heat release of NR, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x, and Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR=10/90 films from 200°C to 700°C at a rate of 1 °C/s. The macroscopic flame retardant experiments were performed with an alcohol lamp.

S2 Supplementary Figures and Tables

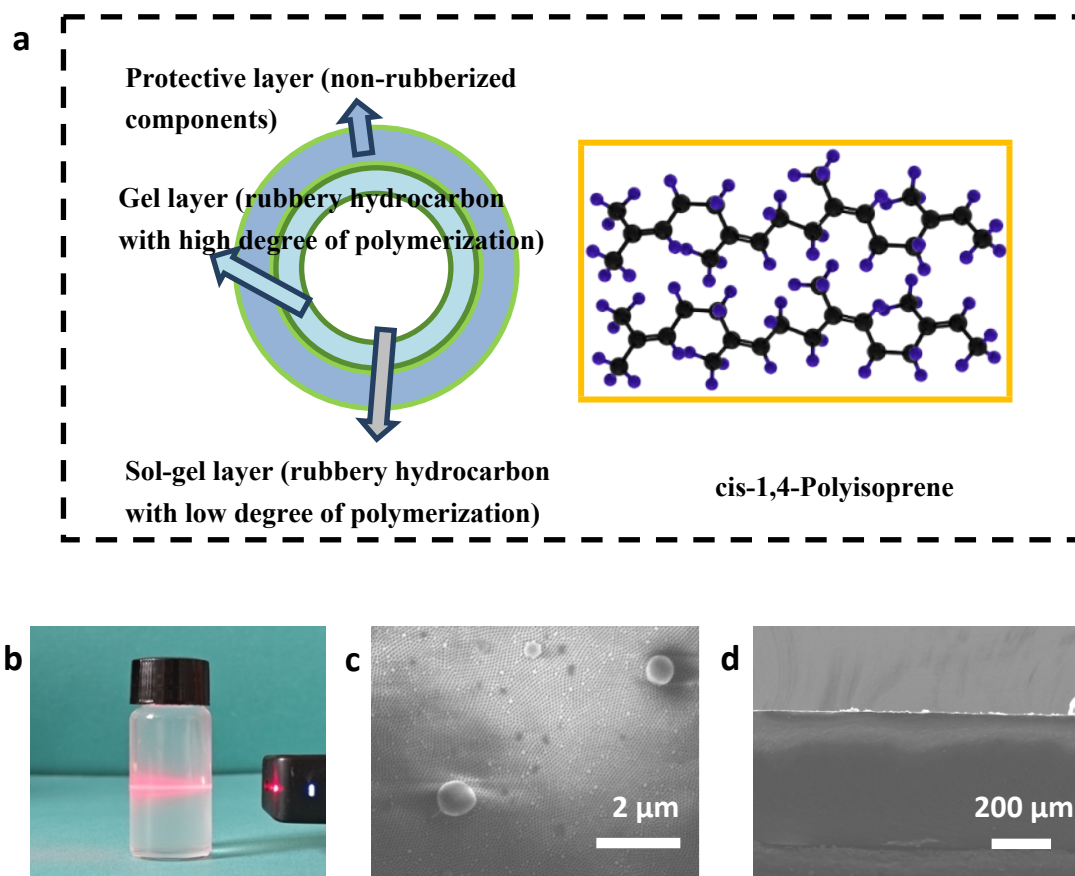


Fig. S1 **a** Structural composition of rubber particles. **b** Tyndall effect. **c** SEM image of NR dispersion. **d** Cross-sectional SEM image of NR film after vacuum filtration and drying.

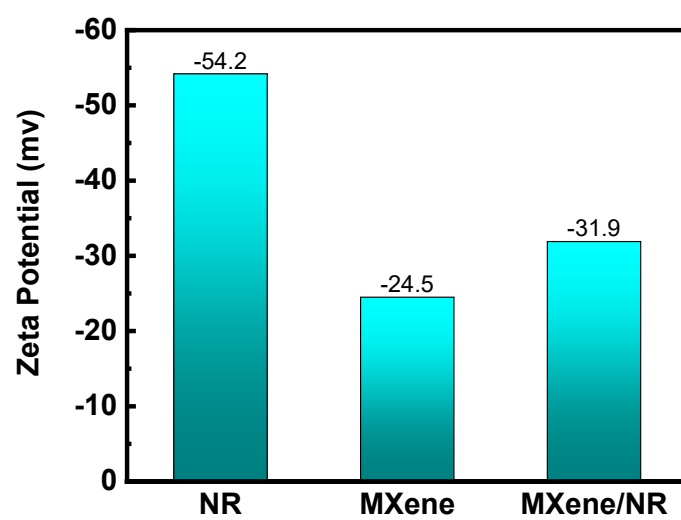


Fig. S2 Zeta potential of NR, Al-Ti₃C₂T_x and Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR dispersion.

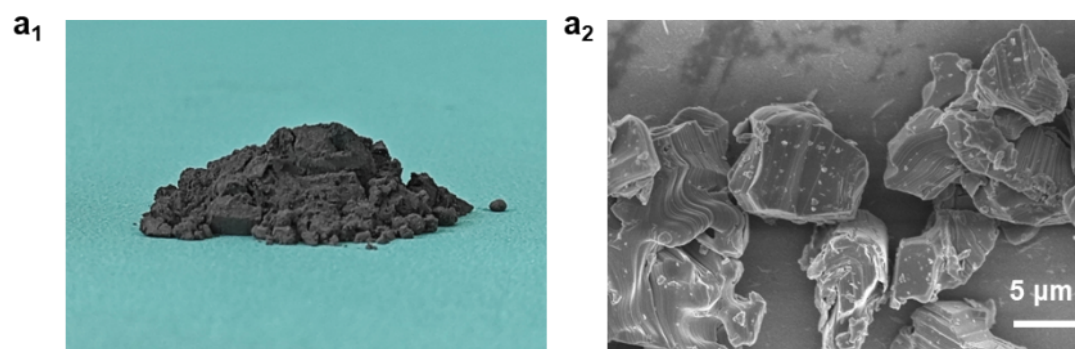


Fig. S3 a₁ optical photograph of MAX. a₂ SEM images of MAX.

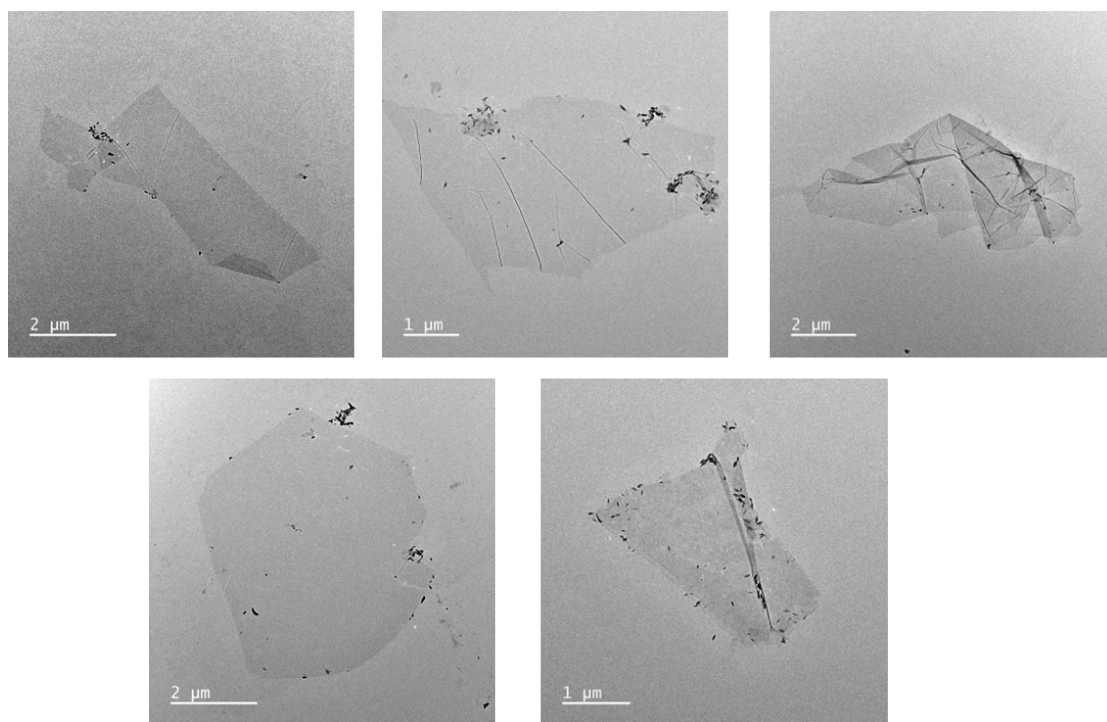


Fig. S4 TEM images of Al-Ti₃C₂T_x single-layer nanosheets.

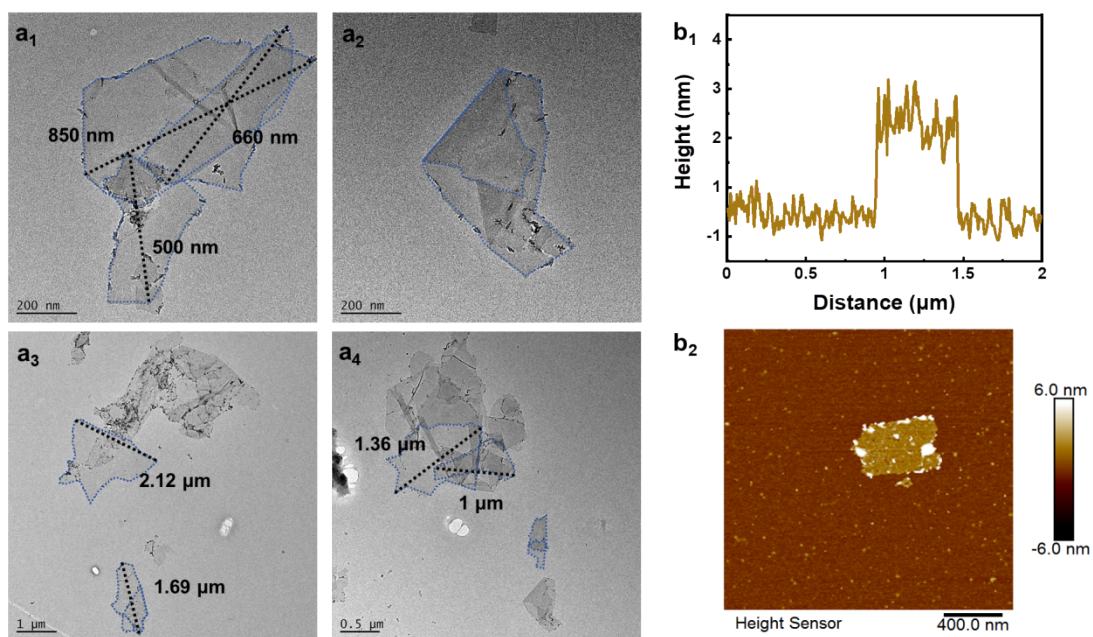


Fig. S5 TEM (a₁-a₄) and AFM (b₁-b₂) characterization and statistical results of conventional MXene nanosheets.

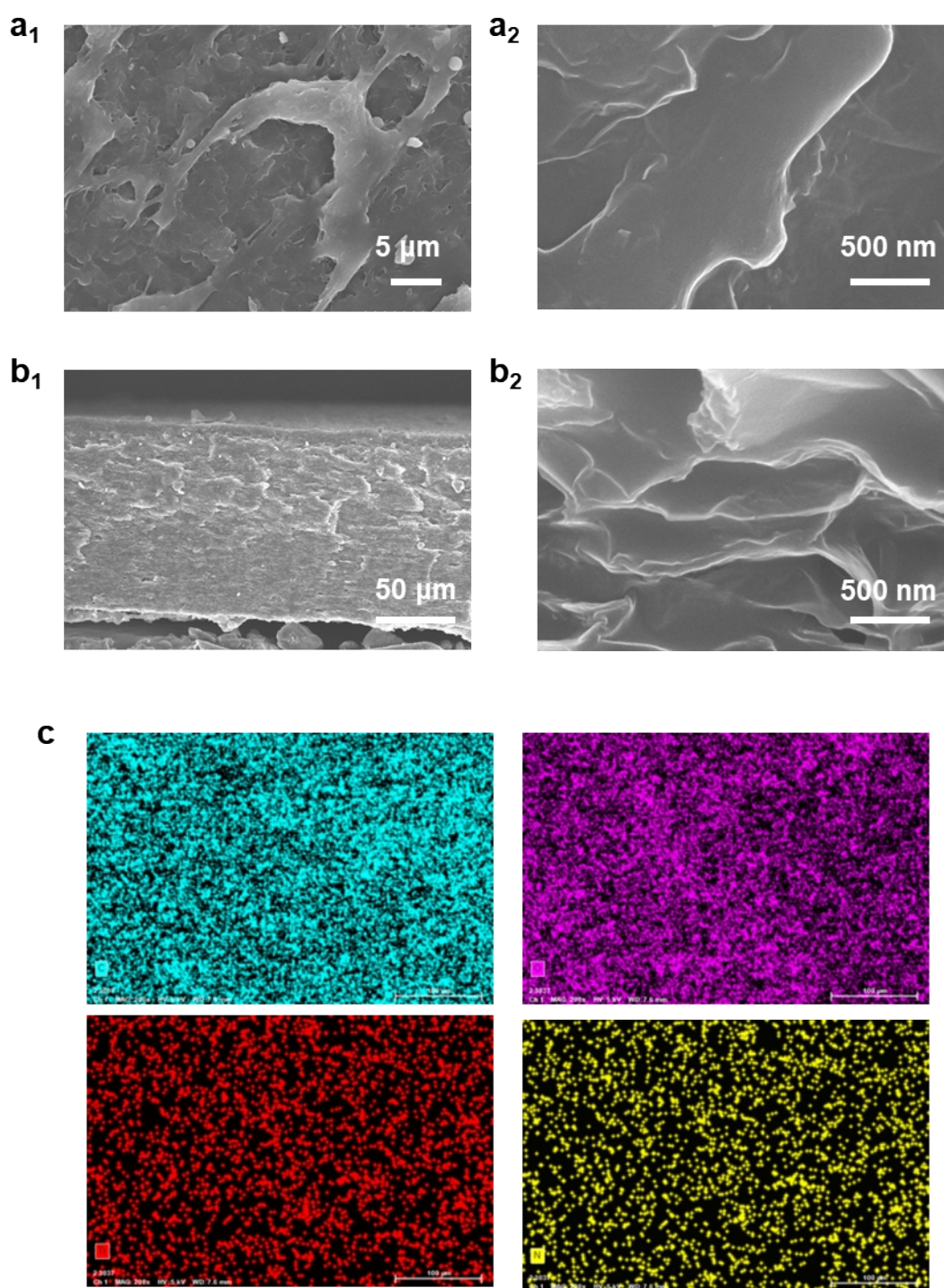


Fig. S6 (a₁, a₂) Surface SEM images. (b₁, b₂) Cross-sectional SEM images, c EDS mapping images of a 10 wt% Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR composite film.

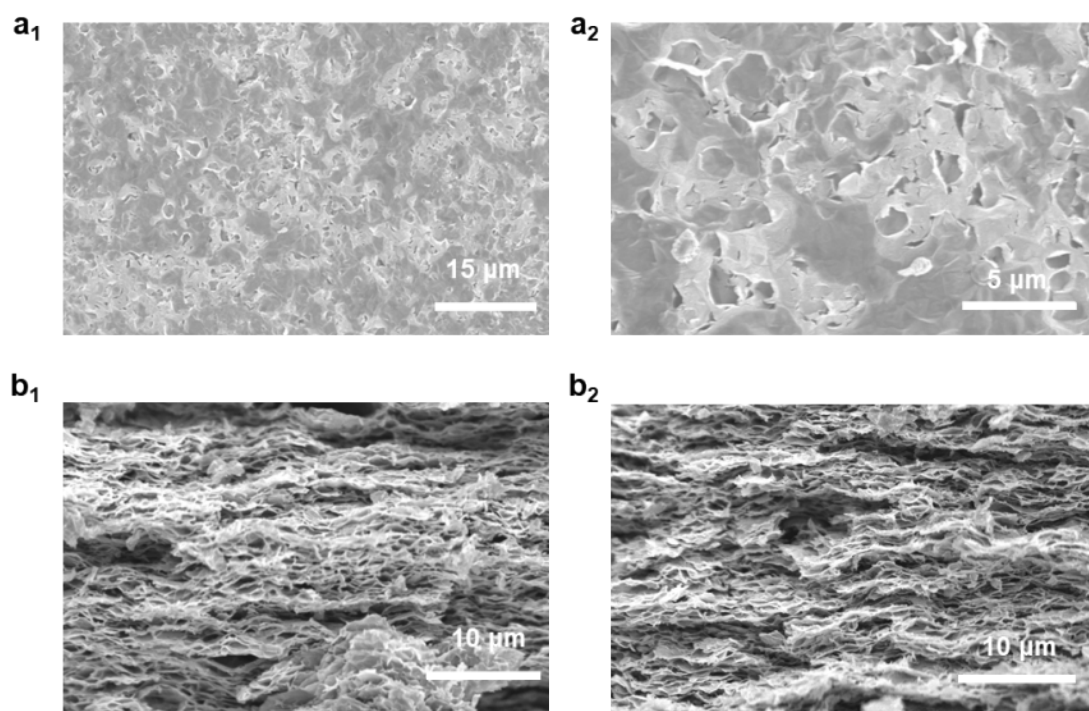


Fig. S7 (**a₁**, **a₂**) Surface SEM images. (**b₁**, **b₂**) Cross-sectional SEM images of a 10 wt% Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR composite film. after heat treatment.

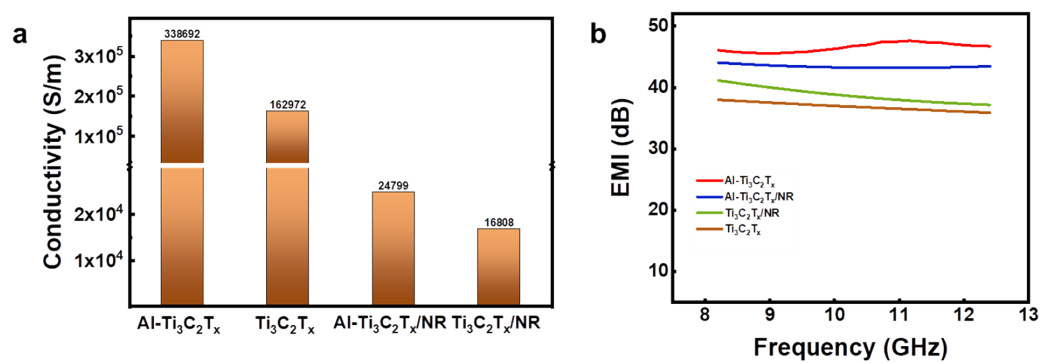


Fig. S8 Electrical conductivity (a) and EMI SE (b) of Al-Ti₃C₂T_x, Ti₃C₂T_x, and their composite films with NR.

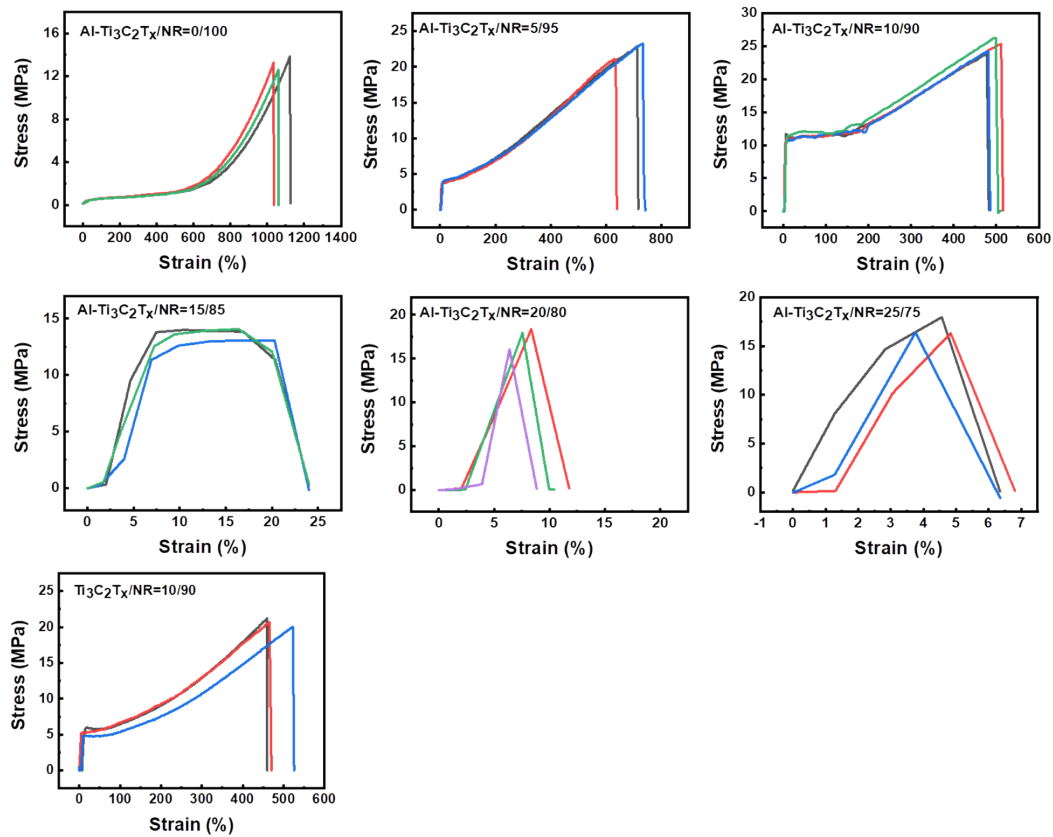


Fig. S9 Stress–strain curves of MXene/NR films with varying MXene mass ratios.

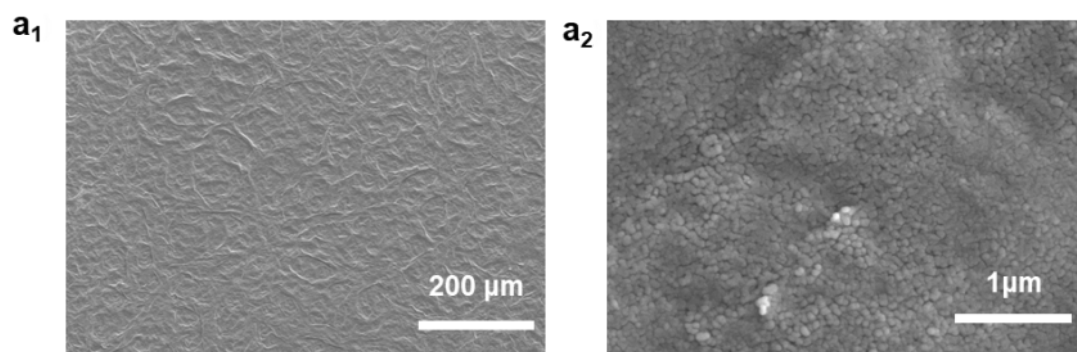


Fig. S10 (**a₁**, **a₂**) SEM images of Al-Ti₃C₂T_x film after heat treatment.

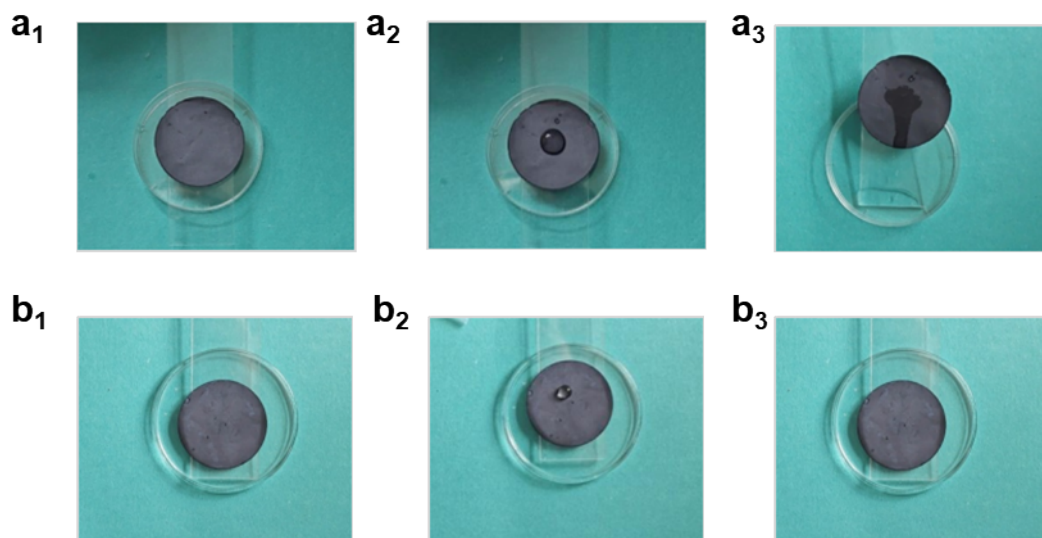


Fig. S11 Droplet test on the film before (**a**) and after (**b**) the hydrophilic modification.

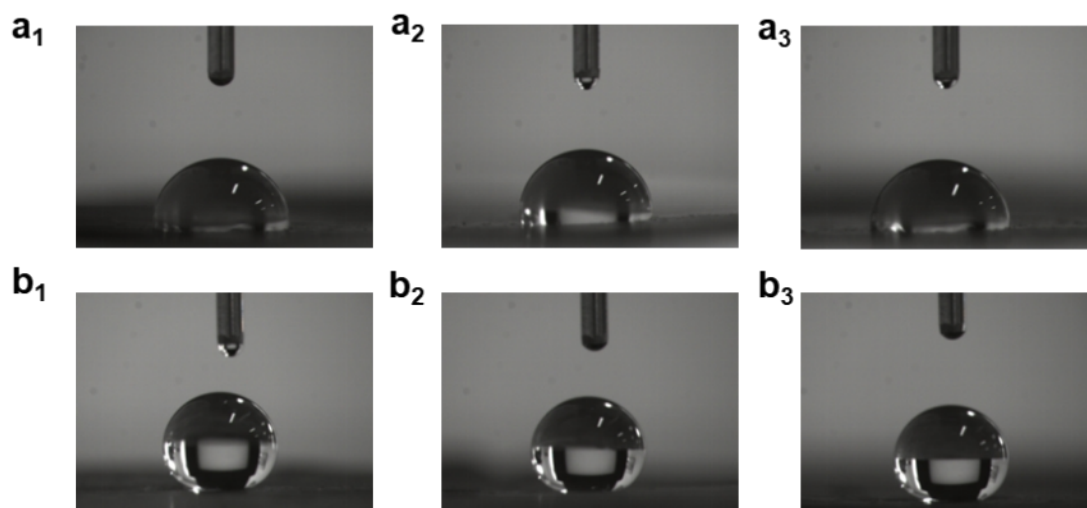


Fig. S12 Contact angle test on the film (a_1 , a_2 , a_3) before, (b_1 , b_2 , b_3) after the hydrophilic modification.

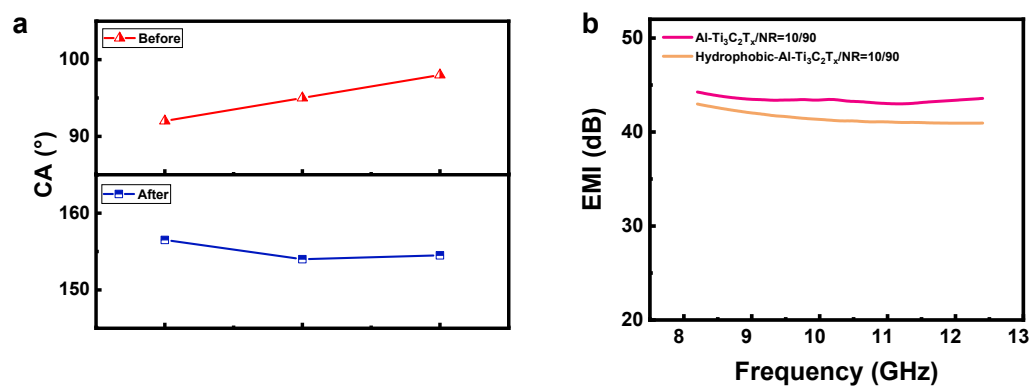


Fig. S13 Contact angle **a** and EMI **b** before and after hydrophobic modification.

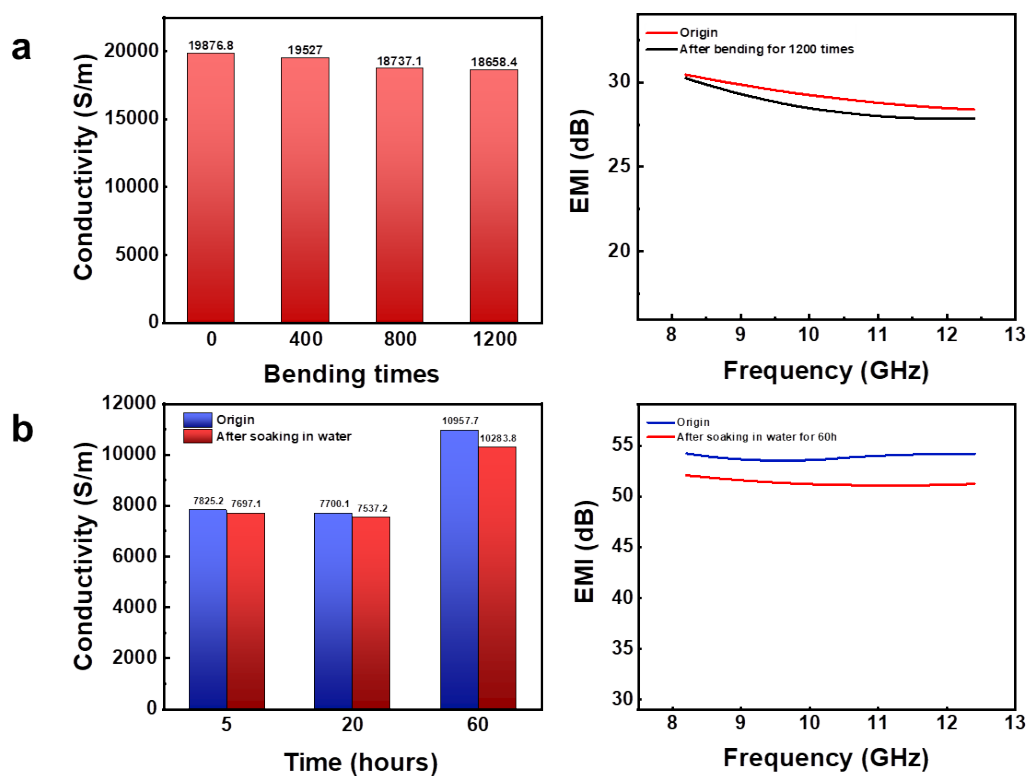


Fig. S14 Electrical conductivity and electromagnetic interference (EMI) shielding performance of the composite film under (a) mechanical bending cycles and (b) water immersion conditions.

Table S1. Comparison of the mechanical performance of MXene/NR composite films with other MXene-based composite materials.

Material	Stress (MPa)	Strain (%)	Ref
13.8 wt% PIF/MXene	21.72	11.24	20
20 wt% MXene/cellulose	11.5	4	21
6 wt% MXene/EPDM	3.06	285	22
NRMF-3	0.55	689	23
MXene/NR	34	4.5	24
Fe ₃ O ₄ @Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /DEN R-10	14.15	675	25
PRT/HENR	4.93	1042	26
6 wt% S-MXene/S-ENR	4.55	388	27
SBR-Ti ₃ C ₂	9.05	461	28
NRMX-0.6	7.33	863.1	29
AMTE	21.57	880.06	32
MR7	18.2	761	30
FMNC-3.2	17.5	610	31
10 wt% Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR	25.4	511.5	This Work

Table S2. Mechanical and EMI properties of MXene/NR composite films.

Sample	Tensile Strength (MPa)	Elongation at break (%)	Tensile modulus (MPa)	Toughness (MJ/m ³)	EMI SE (dB)
Al-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /NR=0/100	12.6	1059.1	0.22	31.21	0
Al-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /NR=5/95	22.0	641.3	1.448	74.21	55
Al-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /NR=10/90	25.4	511.5	4.59	83.25	73
Al-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /NR=15/85	13.1	20.3	0.905	2.18	81
Al-Ti ₃ C ₂ T _x /NR=20/80	18.4	8.4	2.98	0.89	90

Al-Ti₃C₂T_x/NR=25/75	16.3	2.8	5.71	0.48	95
Ti₃C₂T_x/NR=10/90	20.15	470.34	1.66	52.73	41

Table S3. Comparison of the EMI shielding performance of MXene/NR composite films with other EMI composite materials.

Types	Materials	Thickness (mm)	EMI (dB)	SSE/t (dB cm² g⁻¹)	Ref.
CNT-based	CNTs/PC	2.1	39	164	7
	MWCNTs/PS	2	30	285	8
	SWCNTs/PS	1.2	18.5	275	9
	MWCNTs/ABS	1.1	40	318	10
	CNTs/Cellulose	0.15	35	1372	11
	MWCNT-based composite paper	0.6	56	3583	12
Metal-based	CF /Ni/PC	0.31	72.7	1376	2
	Ni filaments	2.85	87	164.9	1
	Ni fiber/PES	2.85	58	108.7	
Graphene - based	Graphene/PDMS	1	20	3	13
	Graphene/PS	2	29	258	14
	Graphene/PMMA	2.4	19	100	15
	Graphene/PI	0.8	17-21	848	16
rGO-based	rGO/PDMS	1	30	5000	13
	rGO/PEI	2.3	12.8	191	17
	rGO/PS	2.5	45.1	692	6
	rGO/PMMA	0.24	19	1042	15
	rGO/PEDOT	0.8	70	841	18
	Aligned rGO/epoxy	0.1	38	3530	19
All carbon materials	Carbon foam	0.2	40	1250	3
	CNF mat	0.29	52.2	1362	4
	CNT/Graphene	1	26-28	2143	5

	rGO	2.5	45.1	692	6
MXene/NR	MXene/NR=5/95	0.12	55	4608	This work
	MXene/NR=10/90	0.12	73	6115.6	
	MXene/NR=15/85	0.12	81	6786	
	MXene/NR=20/80	0.127	90	7539	
	MXene/NR=25/75	0.131	95	7958.7	

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