

1 Supporting Information

2

3 Synergistic Upper Critical Solution Temperature–Lower Critical Solution Temperature 4 Microgel-Hydrogel Composites for Bidirectional Thermoresponsive Smart Windows 5 with Superior Optical Modulation and Dimensional Stability

6

7 Jiaying Lei,^{†[a]} Yuze Zhou,^{†[a]} Yumeng Wang,^[a] Yang Luo,^[a] Xin Wang,^[a] Yaocheng Yang,^[a]

8 Wei Ye,^[a] Tengling Ye,^{*[a,c]} Dongyan Tang^{*[a,b]}

9

10 [a] J. Lei, Y. Zhou, Y. Wang, Y. Luo, X. Wang, Y. Yang, W. Ye, Prof. T. Ye, Prof. D. Tang

11 School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin,

12 China

13 [b] Prof. D. Tang

14 State Key Laboratory of Space Power-Sources, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin

15 150001, China

16 [c] Prof. T. Ye

17 State Key Laboratory of Photoelectric Conversion and Utilization of Solar Energy, Dalian

18 Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian, 116023, Liaoning,

19 China.

20 E-mail: dytang@hit.edu.cn; ytl@hit.edu.cn

21 † these authors contributed equally to this work, * corresponding author

22

23

24 Calculation formula

25 The integrated luminous transmittance T_{lum} (380–780 nm), NIR transmittance T_{NIR} (780-

26 2500 nm), solar transmittance T_{sol} (280-2500 nm) and corresponding transmittance

27 modulations were calculated by Equations (1), (2), and (3), respectively:

$$T_{lum/NIR/sol} = \frac{\int \varphi_{lum/NIR/sol}(\lambda) T(\lambda) d\lambda}{\int \varphi_{lum/NIR/sol}(\lambda) d\lambda} \quad (1)$$

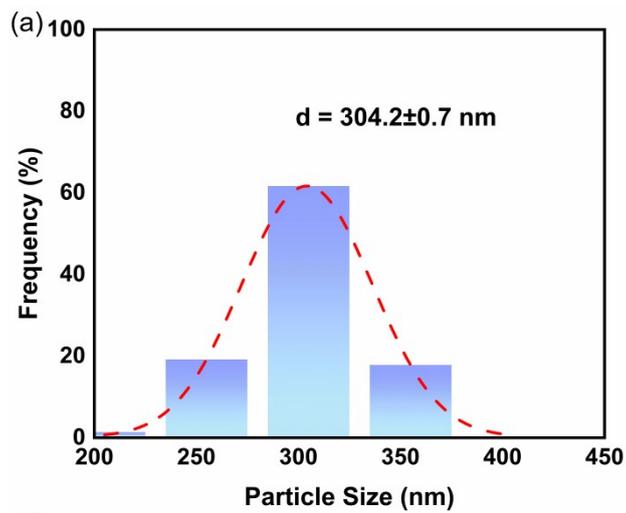
$$\Delta T_{lum/NIR/sol,low} = T_{lum/NIR/sol, 24^\circ\text{C}} - T_{lum/NIR/sol, 4^\circ\text{C}} \quad (2)$$

1
$$\Delta T_{lum/NIR/sol,high} = T_{lum/NIR/sol,24^{\circ}C} - T_{lum/NIR/sol,40^{\circ}C} \quad (3)$$

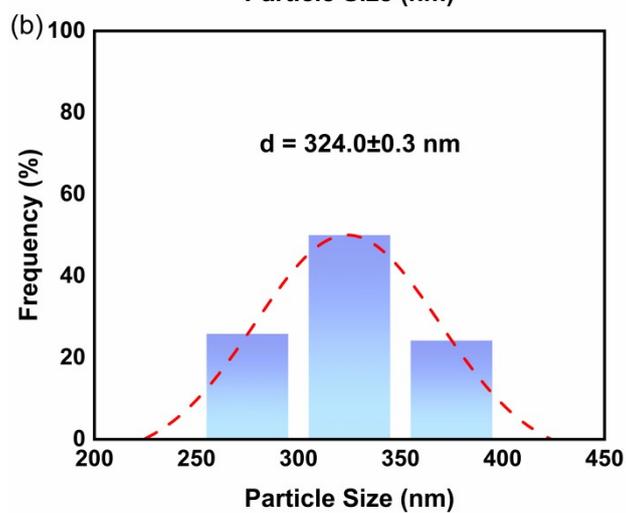
2 where $T(\lambda)$ denotes the recorded transmittance at a selected wavelength, $\varphi_{lum}(\lambda)$ is the
3 standard luminous efficiency function for the photopic vision of human eyes (the wavelength
4 range of 380–780 nm), $\varphi_{NIR/sol}$ is the NIR/solar irradiance spectrum for air mass 1.5G
5 (wavelength coverage of 250–2500 nm, the sun standing 37° above the horizon, and solar zenith
6 angle of 48.2° with 1.5-atmosphere thickness). Due to the bidirectional optical features of
7 PAM/PNM5 MGs smart window, the optical modulation capabilities at low temperature and
8 high temperature were quantified with $\Delta T_{lum/NIR/sol,low}$ and $\Delta T_{lum/NIR/sol,high}$ respectively.

9

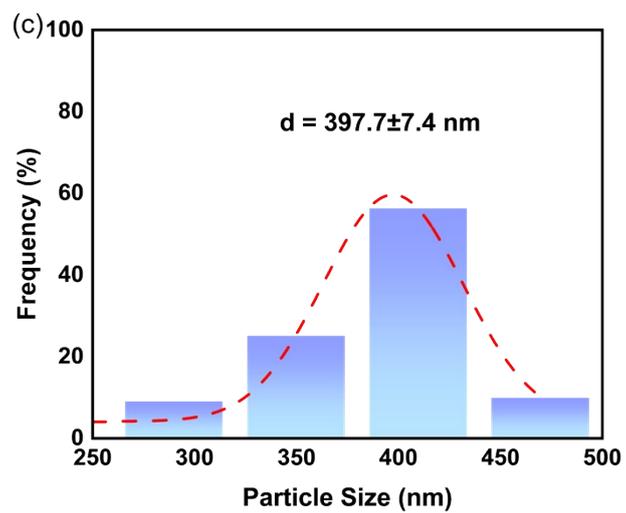
Figure S1	Histogram of particle size distribution of a) PNI MGs, b) PNM5 MGs, and c) PNM10 MGs.
Figure S2	The transmittance curves of PAM : PNI MGs = 20:1 composite hydrogel, PAM:PNM10 MGs = 24:1 composite hydrogel and PAM hydrogel in the visible region (380–780 nm) at different temperatures.
Figure S3	Optical images of composite hydrogels at different temperatures.
Figure S4	Response time test of PNIPAM hydrogel, PAM/PNM5 MGs composite Hydrogel and PNM5 MGs solution.
Figure S5	Temperature sweep spectra of G' , G'' , and $\tan\delta$ of PAM/PNM MGs composite hydrogel.
Figure S6	Optical stability and modulation efficiency of the PAM/PNM5 MGs composite hydrogel under various accelerated aging conditions at different temperatures. a) 4 °C, b) 24 °C, and c) 40 °C.
Figure S7	Dimensional stability of the smart window after aging. a) Original state. b) After 240 hours of xenon-lamp aging. c) Original state. d) After 240 hours of damp heat aging (85 °C, 85% RH).
Figure S8	Time-dependent internal temperature changes of model houses with three different windows in response to 200 mW cm ⁻² xenon lamp irradiation.
Figure S9	Time-dependent internal temperature changes of model houses with three different windows in response to 300 mW cm ⁻² xenon lamp irradiation.
Figure S10	Epicotyl elongation in mung bean seedlings under hydrogel and normal roof panels.
Table S1	Optical properties of PAM/PNM5 MGs smart window.
Table S2	Performances of representative smart windows in the literature.
Movie S1	Comparative heating response rate test movie of PNM5 MGs solution and PNIPAM hydrogel.
Movie S2	Comparative cooling response rate test movie of PNM5 MGs solution and PNIPAM hydrogel.



1



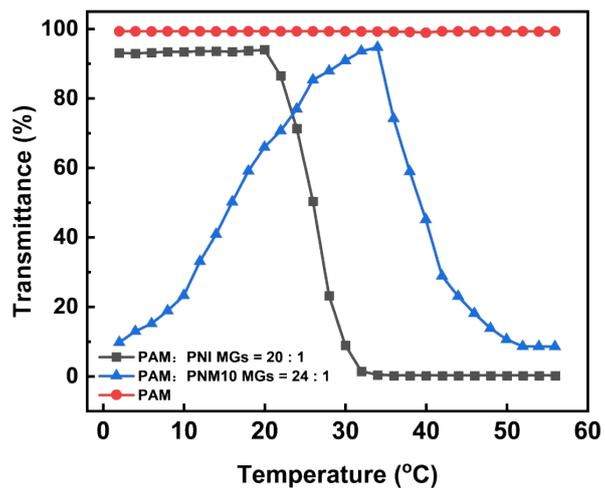
2



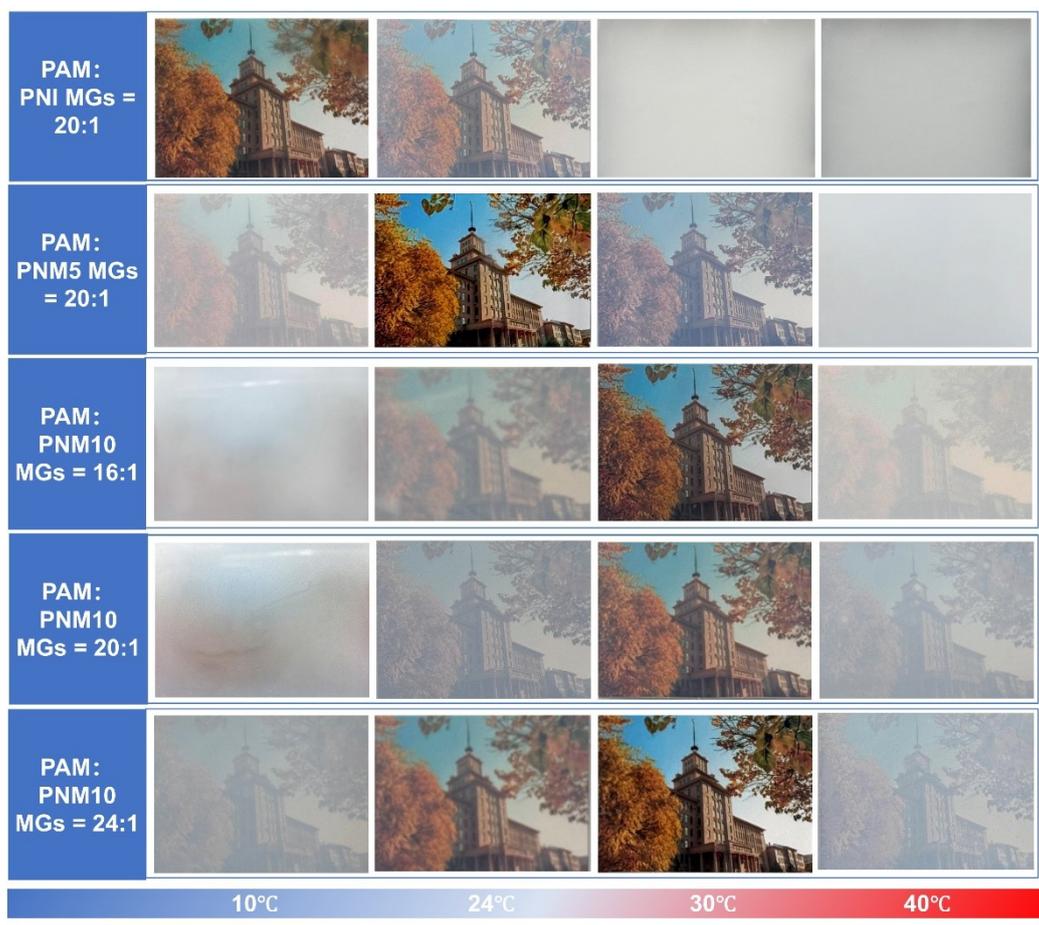
3

4 **Figure S1.** Histogram of particle size distribution of PNI MGs, PNM5 MGs, and PNM10 MGs.

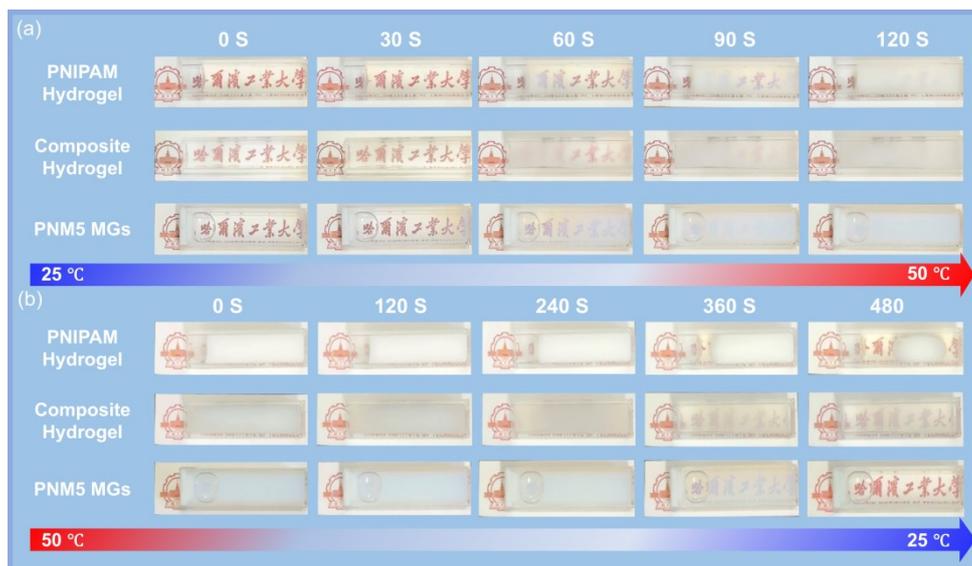
5



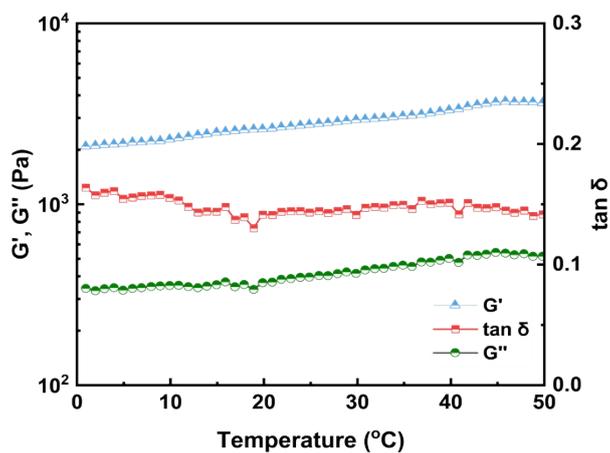
1
 2 **Figure S2.** The transmittance curves of PAM: PNI MGs = 20:1 composite hydrogel, PAM: PNM10 MGs =
 3 24:1 composite hydrogel and PAM hydrogel in the visible region (380–780 nm) at different temperatures.
 4



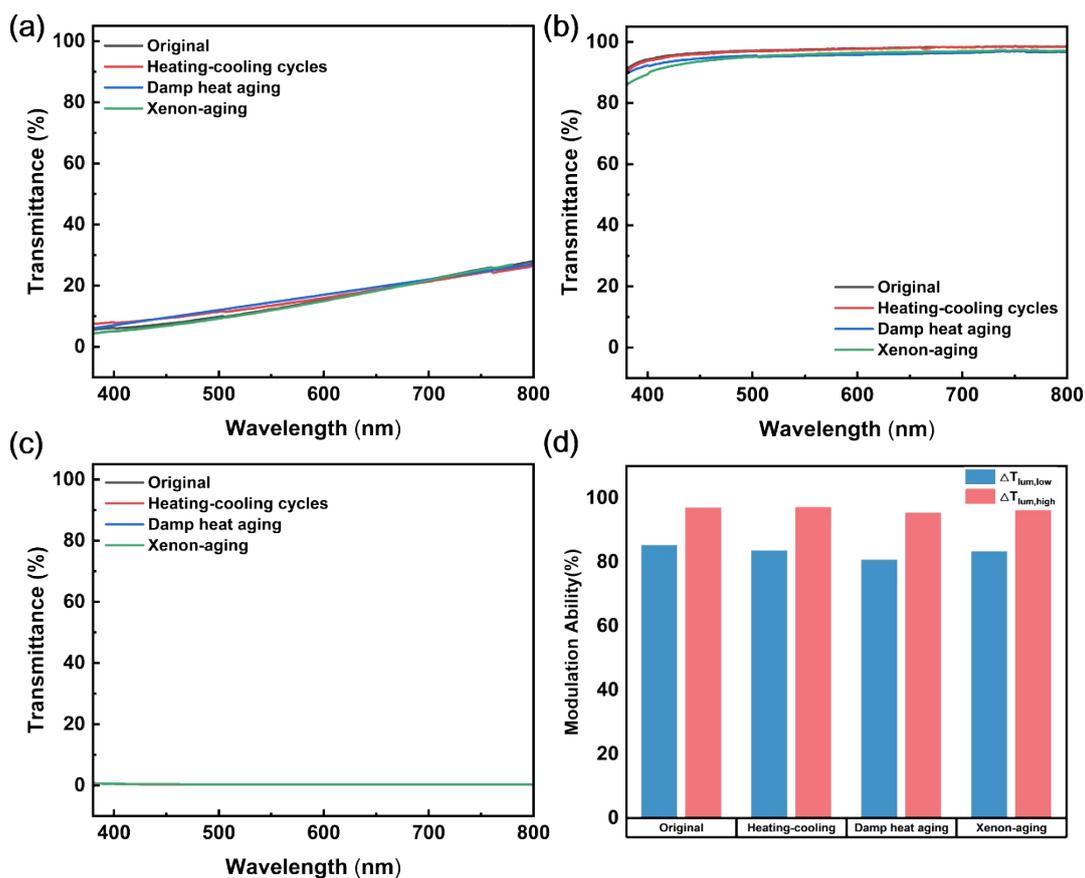
5
 6 **Figure S3.** Optical images of composite hydrogels at different temperatures.



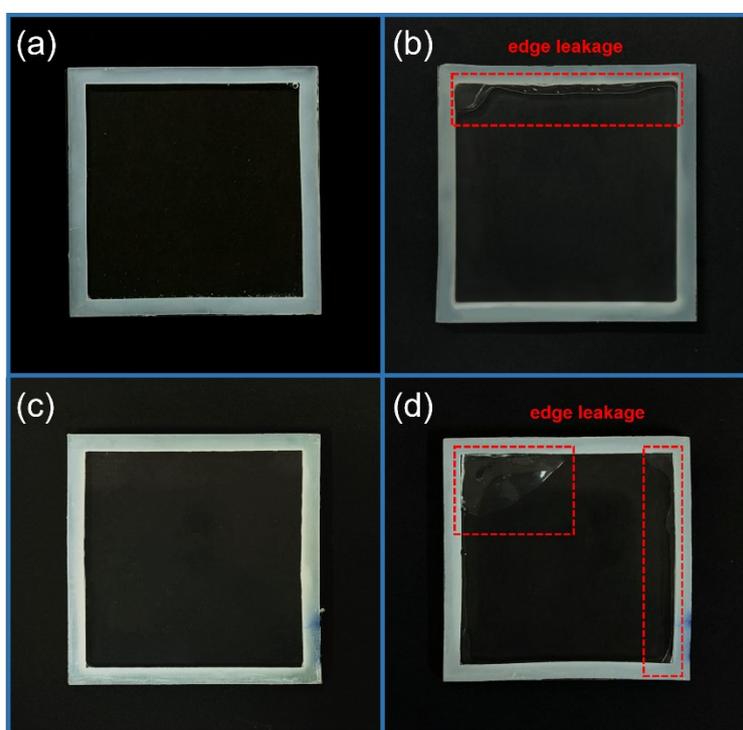
1
 2 **Figure S4.** Response time test of PNIPAM hydrogel, PAM/PNM5 MGs composite Hydrogel and PNM5
 3 MGs solution.
 4



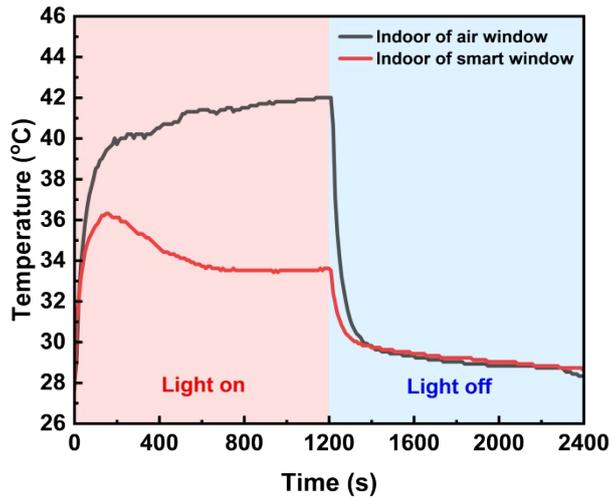
5
 6 **Figure S5.** Temperature sweep spectra of G' , G'' , and $\tan \delta$ of PAM/PNM MGs composite hydrogel.
 7



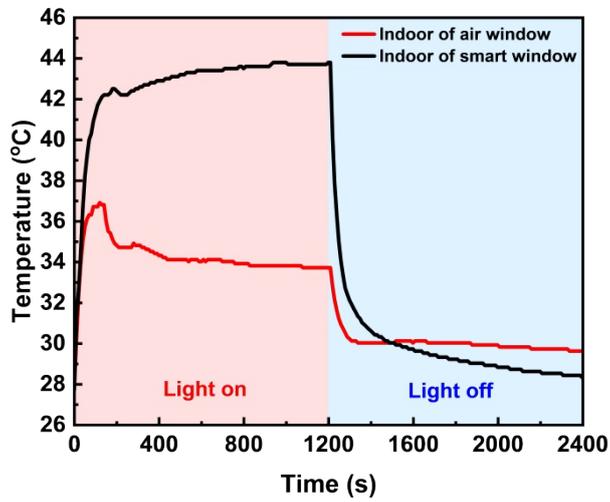
1
 2 **Figure S6.** Optical stability and modulation efficiency of the PAM/PNM5 MGs composite hydrogel under
 3 various accelerated aging conditions at different temperatures. a) 4 °C, b) 24 °C, and c) 40 °C.



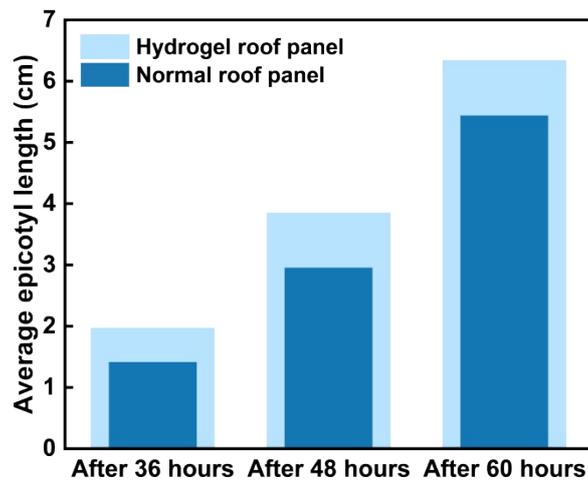
4
 5 **Figure S7.** Dimensional stability of the smart window after aging. a) Original state. b) After 240 h of
 6 xenon-lamp aging. c) Original state. d) After 240 h of damp heat aging (85 °C, 85% RH).



1
2 **Figure S8.** Time-dependent internal temperature changes of model houses with different windows in
3 response to 200 mW cm⁻² xenon lamp irradiation.



4
5 **Figure S9.** Time-dependent internal temperature changes of model houses with different windows in
6 response to 300 mW cm⁻² xenon lamp irradiation.



7
8 **Figure S10.** Epicotyl elongation in mung bean seedlings under hydrogel and normal roof panels.

9

Table S1. Optical properties of PAM/PNM5 MGs smart window.

Sample	$T_{lum,4}$ °C (%)	$T_{NIR,4}$ °C (%)	$T_{sol,4}$ °C (%)	$T_{lum,24}$ °C (%)	$T_{NIR,24}$ °C (%)	$T_{sol,24}$ °C (%)	$T_{lum,40}$ °C (%)	$T_{NIR,40}$ °C (%)	$T_{sol,40}$ °C (%)
PAM/PNM 5 MGs	11.78	25.06	17.99	96.97	57.73	78.43	0.06	1.46	0.01

Sample	$\Delta T_{lum, low}$ (%)	$\Delta T_{NIR, low}$ (%)	$\Delta T_{sol, low}$ (%)	$\Delta T_{lum, high}$ (%)	$\Delta T_{NIR, high}$ (%)	$\Delta T_{sol, high}$ (%)
PAM/PNM5 MGs	85.19	32.67	60.44	96.91	56.27	78.42

Table S2. Performances of representative smart windows in the literature

Materials	T_{lum} (%)	ΔT_{sol} (%)	Transition temperature (°C)	Stimuli	Ref.
PAM-Agar/PNIPAM/W-VO ₂ composite hydrogel	86.81	83.59	32.6	Thermal	[1]
W-VO ₂ /PNIPAm-HPC hybrid hydrogel	87.16	65.71	29	Thermal	[2]
PNIPAm-AgNW mesh composite film	78.3	58.4	31	Thermal	[3]
PAAm-SDS-C18	99.05	33.42	20-50	Thermal	[4]
Noncovalent crosslinked viscous PNIPAM GW solutions	89.2	60.8	19.1-32.7	Thermal	[5]
KCA/Na ₂ SiO ₃ /PNIPAm hydrogel	87.37	69.65	27.2	Thermal	[6]
P(AAm-co-AA) /NIPAm /AAm	84.4	69.5	33.1-47.8	Thermal	[7]
SDS/NaCl/PNIPAM-PAM	80.3	47.2	24.9-32.4	Thermal	[8]
PNIPAM/HPC/CMC- Gelatin(PHC-Gel) hydrogel	95.2	57.2	20-35	Thermal	[9]
HPC-PAM-PAA hydrogels	88.7	53.9	30	Thermal	[10]
HBPEC/PNIPAM hydrogel	87.5	71.2	24.1-33.2	Thermal	[11]
UCNPs@SiO ₂ -NH ₂ /PNIPAm hydrogel	82.79	79.76	32	Thermal	[12]
PAM/P(NIPAM-co- MAA5)(PAM/PNM5 MGs)	96.97	78.42	26-38	Thermal	This Work

*N.M. not mentioned

1 References

- 2 [1] H. Guan, Y. Lu, Y. You, S. Gao, L. Liu and G. Wu, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2024, **16**,
3 52997–53006, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.4c13133.
- 4 [2] Y. Feng, W. Ma, H. Li, M. Yang, Y. Yu, S. Liu, X. Zeng, F. Huang, Y. Yang and Z. Li,
5 *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2023, **15**, 5836–5844, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.2c19237.
- 6 [3] C. J. Lin, J. Hur, C. Y. H. Chao, G. Z. Liu, S. H. Yao, W. H. Li and B. L. Huang, *Sci. Adv.*,
7 2022, **8**, DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.abn7359.
- 8 [4] G. Xu, H. Xia, P. Y. Chen, W. She, H. N. Zhang, J. Ma, Q. S. Ruan, W. Zhang and Z. M.
9 Sun, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2022, **32**, 2109597, DOI: 10.1002/adfm.202109597.
- 10 [5] G. Li, J. W. Chen, Z. A. Yan, S. C. Wang, Y. J. Ke, W. Luo, H. R. Ma, J. G. Guan and Y.
11 Long, *Mater. Horiz.*, 2023, **10**, 2004–2012, DOI: 10.1039/d3mh00057e.
- 12 [6] R. Guo, Y. Shen, Y. Chen, C. Cheng, C. Ye and S. Tang, *Chem. Eng. J.*, 2024, **486**, 150194,
13 DOI: 10.1016/j.cej.2024.150194.
- 14 [7] W. Wang, K. Wang, Y. Cheng, C. Wu, R. Wu, J. Huang and Y. Lai, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*,
15 2024, 2413102, DOI: 10.1002/adfm.202413102.
- 16 [8] M. Dai, J. Zhao, Y. Zhang, H. Li, L. Zhang, Y. Liu, Z. Ye and S. Zhu, *ACS Appl. Mater.*
17 *Interfaces*, 2022, **14**, 53314–53322, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.2c16319.
- 18 [9] L. Xie, X. Wang, X. Zou, Z. Bai, S. Liang, C. Wei, S. Zha, M. Zheng, Y. Zhou, O. Yue and
19 X. Liu, *Small*, 2023, **19**, 2304321, DOI: 10.1002/smll.202304321.
- 20 [10] Y. C. Niu, Y. Zhou, D. X. Du, X. C. Ouyang, Z. J. Yang, W. J. Lan, F. Fan, S. S. Zhao, Y.
21 P. Liu, S. Y. Chen, J. P. Li and Q. Xu, *Adv. Sci.*, 2022, **9**, 2105184, DOI:
22 10.1002/advs.202105184.
- 23 [11] M. Sun, H. Sun, R. Wei, W. Li, J. Lai, Y. Tian and M. Li, *Gels*, 2024, **10**, 494, DOI:
24 10.3390/gels10080494.
- 25 [12] J. Tian, H. Peng, X. Du, H. Wang, X. Cheng and Z. Du, *J. Alloys Compd.*, 2021, **858**,
26 157725, DOI: 10.1016/j.jallcom.2020.157725.