Supplementary Information (SI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry C. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2025

## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

## Zinc oxide-decorated MIL-53(Al)-derived porous carbon for supercapacitor devices

Arpad Mihai Rostas,<sup>a,§</sup> Ahmet Gungor,<sup>b,d,§</sup> Angela M. Kasza,<sup>a</sup> Feray Bakan Misirlioglu,<sup>c</sup> Alexandru Turza,<sup>a</sup> Lucian Barbu-Tudoran,<sup>a</sup> Emre Erdem,<sup>b,d\*</sup> and Maria Mihet<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies -INCDTIM, Donat Street, 67-103, 400293 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

<sup>b</sup>Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Sabancı University, 34956 Istanbul, Türkiye

<sup>c</sup>Sabancı University, Nanotechnology Research and Application Center (SUNUM), 34956 Istanbul,

## Türkiye

<sup>d</sup>Center of Excellence for Functional Surfaces and Interfaces for Nano-Diagnostics (EFSUN), Sabancı University, Tuzla 34956, Istanbul, Türkiye

<sup>§</sup>Contributed equally

\*Corresponding authors: emre.erdem@sabanciuniv.edu; maria.mihet@itim-cj.ro



**Figure S1**. TGA profiles measured in Ar flow for the un-impregnated (*as*) and (*lt*) MIL-53(Al) samples.



Figure S2. XRD patterns of the un-impregnated (as) and (lt) MIL-53(Al)-derived carbon samples.



Figure S3. SEM images of the MIL-53(Al)-derived C samples.



**Figure S4**. SEM images at different magnifications for the ZnO@C MIL-53(Al)-derived composites (red circles randomly mark small pores within the samples).



Figure S5. FTIR spectra of the ZnO@C MIL-53(Al)-derived composites.

## Methods

The equations used to determine the specific capacitance (F/g), energy density (Wh/kg), and power density (W/kg) of a supercapacitor are provided below. In this study, specific capacitance (F g<sup>-1</sup>) was calculated from the CV curves, while specific capacity (mA h g<sup>-1</sup>) was derived from the GCD data. These two parameters represent different aspects of the electrochemical performance of the ZnO@C electrode material. Detailed calculation methods for both parameters are provided below. The specific capacitance values ( $C_{p}$ , F/g) were calculated from the CV curves using Equation 1, where I (mA) represent the applied current, dV (V) is the operated voltage window, v (mV/s) is the applied scan rate, and m (g) is the mass of the electrode material used.

$$C_p = \frac{\int_{V_1}^{V_2} I(V) dV}{2mv\Delta V} \tag{1}$$

The energy density and power density for the prepared electrodes were calculated according to Equations 2 and 3, respectively.

$$E_D = \frac{0.5 * C_p * \Delta V^2}{3.6}$$
(2)

$$P_D = \frac{E_D}{(\Delta t/3600)} \tag{3}$$

where,  $C_p$  is the specific capacitance (F/g),  $\Delta V$  (V) is the maximum potential window,  $E_D$  is the energy density, and  $\Delta t$  is the discharging time.

The electrochemical properties, along with all other results, were obtained using the software (EC-Lab) of the BioLogic VMP 300 electrochemical device.

Equivalent Circuit						
	ZnO-sym	ZnO@C(as)-sym	ZnO@C(lt)-sym	ZnO-asym	ZnO@C(as)-asym	ZnO@C( <i>lt</i> )-asym
<b>R</b> 1	5	9.4 x10 <sup>-9</sup>	19.5	1000	1.5	1.3
<b>R</b> <sub>2</sub>	57221	$0.2 \text{ x} 10^{42}$	0.1 x10 <sup>36</sup>	100	10.3 x10 <sup>-9</sup>	43659
R3	473032	2.8 x10 <sup>-3</sup>		10	157.5	3735
R4	31481	1156		1	224264	
C1				1 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.12 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	
<b>C</b> <sub>2</sub>						0.1 x10 <sup>-3</sup>
<b>C</b> <sub>3</sub>	23.5 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	25073				
C4	69.8 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	42.5 x10 <sup>-6</sup>		1 x10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.14 x10 <sup>-9</sup>	
<b>Q</b> 1						
<b>Q</b> <sub>2</sub>			0.11 x10 <sup>-3</sup>	1 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	28.35 x10 <sup>-6</sup>	
Q3			30.2 x10 <sup>-6</sup>			14.9 x10 <sup>-6</sup>
Q4						46.9 x10 <sup>-6</sup>
A1						
A2			0.46	0.7	0.69	

 Table S1. Fitted equivalent circuit parameters of the ZnO@C-based SCs.