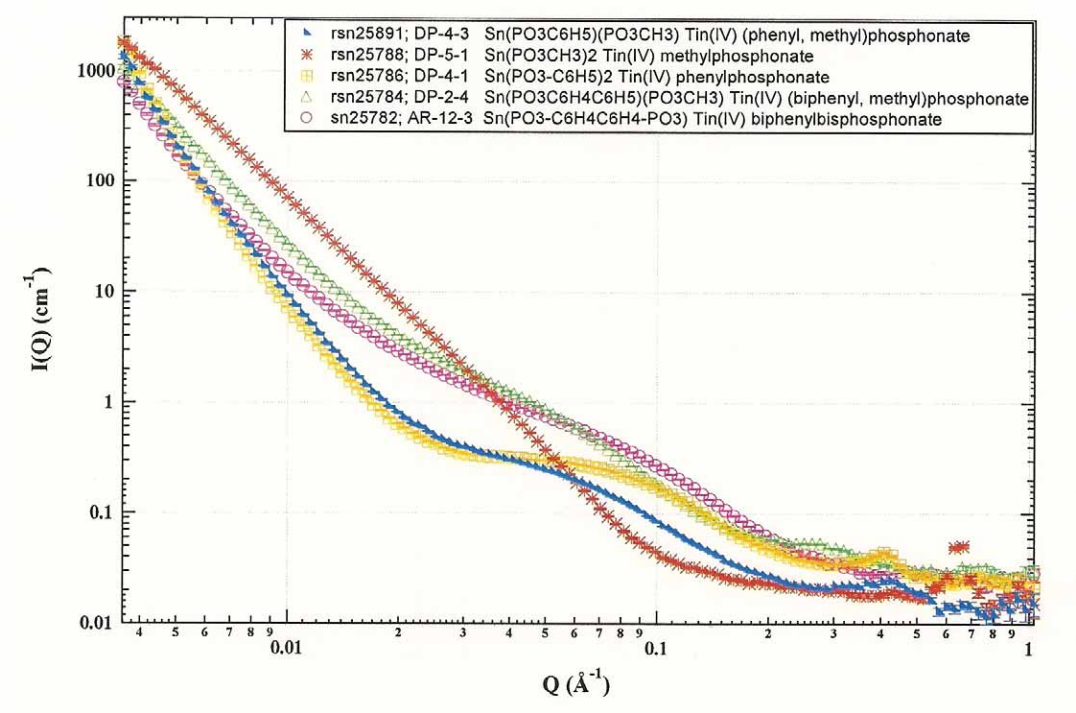

Fig. S1 Small-angle neutron scattering (SANS) plot of the various tin phosphonates as determined by R. A. Narayanan and P. Thiyagarajan at IPNS, Argonne National Laboratory, IL-60439, USA (ref. 43).

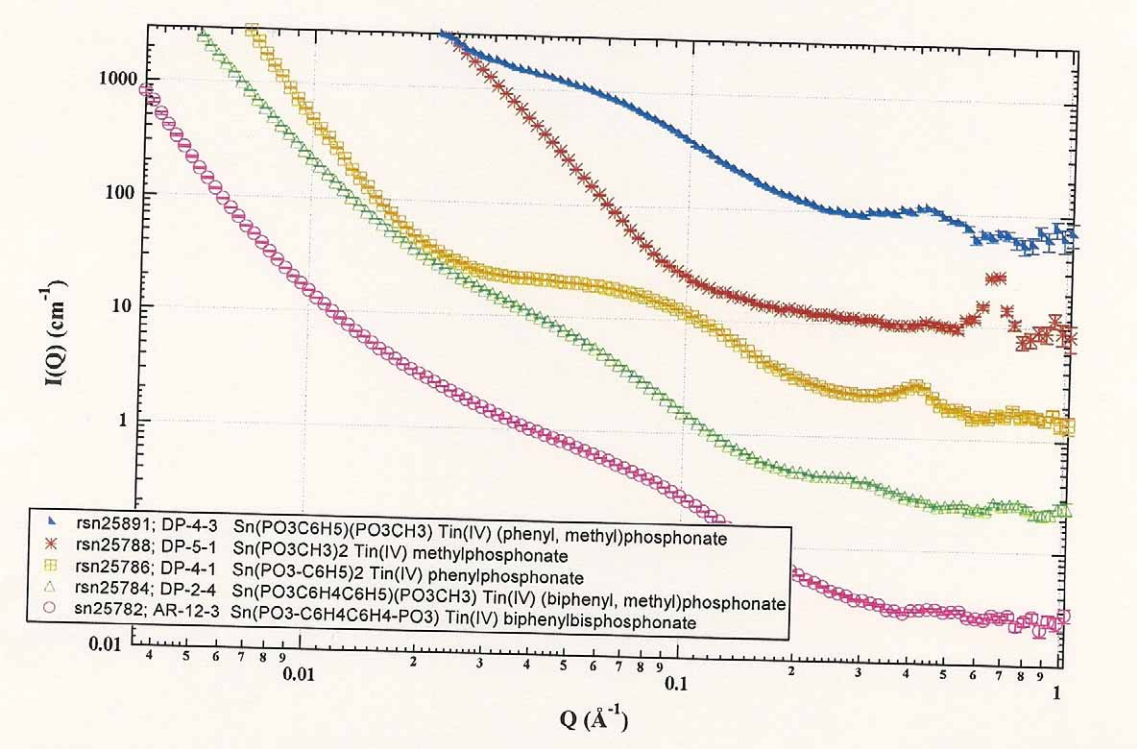

Fig. S1 (cont) SANS curves from previous figure intensity shifted for better clarity

Sample	Diffraction peak (Å)	Cross-sectional radius for the rod (Å)	Length of the rod (Å)
Methyl phosphonate DP 5-1	9.47, 6.73 $Q_2 : Q_1 = \sqrt{2} : 1$	/	/
Phenyl phosphonate DP 4-1	15.41	10.73	43.68
Phenyl, methyl phosphonate DP 4-3	14.68	14.91 ± 0.14	77.83
Methyl, biphenyl phosphonate DP 2-4	22.78	24.22 ± 0.07	94.42
Biphenyl bisphosphonate AR 12-3	14.27	13.4 ± 0.07	93.67

Table 3. Parameters obtained by fitting the SANS data assuming thin rods as determined by R. A. Narayanan and P. Thiyagarajan at IPNS, Argonne National Laboratory (ref. 43).

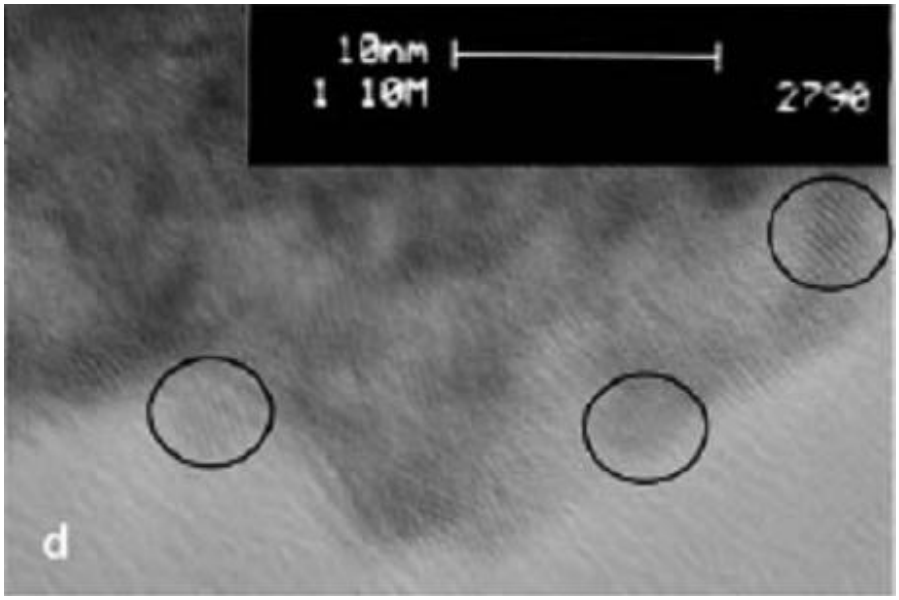

Fig. S2. Detailed TEM image of the border of a spherical Tin(IV)phenylphosphonate nanosphere showing the random packing of layers of about 3.8 nm in size, which are highlighted by the circles indicating significant damage by the electron beam (as determined by my colleagues at the University of Malaga, ref. 48).