## **Online Supplementary Information**

## Labeling and monitoring the distribution of anchoring sites on functionalized CNTs by atomic layer deposition

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**Figure 1.** HRTEM images of the different CNTs prior to TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD. CNT700: (a, b), CNT1500: (c, d) and CNT3000, the latter before nitric acid treatment: (e, f).



**Figure 2.** a) Shows the part of a  $TiO_2$  coated CNT from where the EELS signal was recorded (Film thickness ~ 16nm). The recorded intensity is shown in (b) as a three-dimensional plot in the energy dispersive plane. It nicely reveals the development of the C-K, Ti-L and O-K edges across the tube. The EELS spectra abstracted from the coating (red) and from a region where signal is due to the film on the top and bottom surface plus the CNTs walls (black) are shown in (c).

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Figure 3. Overview TEM images of CNTs coated with  $TiO_2$  by ALD. (a) CNT700 (100cycles), (b) CNT1500 (50cycles), (c) CNT3000 (50cycles), (d) CNT700D (100cycles).



Figure SI1. SEM images of the CNT700 coated with 65 TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles recorded using secondary electrons (left) and backscattered electrons (right)



**Figure 4.** HRTEM (a) and SEM (b) images recorded from the CNT1500 coated during 50 cycles. (c), (d) and (e), (f) show uncoated regions on tubes in HRTEM and HAADF-STEM images recorded from tubes coated during 100 cycles.

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Figure SI2. (a) HRSEM image recorded from the CNT1500 coated during 50 cycles. HRTEM images recorded from tubes coated during 100 (b) and 500 (c) cycles.



**Figure 5.** (a) SEM, (b) HAADF-STEM, (c,d) HRTEM and (e,f) TEM images of the CNT3000 coated with (b) 25, (a,c,d) 50 and (e,f) 500 TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles.

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Figure SI3. HAADF-STEM image of the CNT3000 coated with 25 TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles



Figure SI4. HRTEM image of the CNT3000 coated with 50 TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles



Figure SI5. HRTEM image of the CNT3000 coated with 50  $TiO_2$  ALD cycles



Figure SI6. HRTEM image of the CNT3000 coated with 100 TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles



Figure SI7. HRTEM image of the CNT3000 coated with 500 TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles



**Figure SI8.** Low resolution TEM image of the CNT3000 coated with 500  $TiO_2$  ALD cycles showing the nucleation at defect sites which is comparable at different region of the CNT3000.



Figure 6. HRTEM (a) and SEM (b) images of CNT700D coated with 50  $TiO_2$  ALD cycles.



**Figure SI9.** a) HAADF-STEM image of CNT700D coated with 100 TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles. HRTEM images of CNT700D coated with 0 (b), 100 (c), 500 (d) and 1000 (e) TiO<sub>2</sub> ALD cycles. N.B. in (c) two neighboring tubes are imaged.



**Figure SI10.** SEM images of the uncoated CNT700 (a), CNT1500 (b) and CNT3000 (c)

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Figure SI11. HAADF-STEM images of the uncoated CNT3000