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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## A new route through the layered hydroxide form for the synthesis of GdVO<sub>4</sub> dispersible in polar solvents

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**Fig. S1** Powder XRD patterns of (a) LGdH:Eu and its products obtained after reaction in (b) 10, (c) 25, and (d) 50 mM NaVO<sub>3</sub> solutions for 12 h at room temperature. Relative diffraction intensities of GdVO<sub>4</sub> according to its JCPDS card (No. 86-0996) are given for comparison.



Fig. S2 FE-SEM images of (a) LGdH and its products obtained after reaction in (b) 10, (c) 25, and (d) 50 mM NaVO<sub>3</sub> solutions for 12 h at room temperature.



**Fig. S3** Powder XRD patterns of LGdH:Eu (a) before and after reaction in 50 mM NaVO<sub>3</sub> solution for (b) 5 min, (c) 30 min, (d) 1 h, (e) 2 h, (f) 3 h, (g) 6 h, and (h) 12 h at room temperature. Relative diffraction intensities of GdVO<sub>4</sub> according to its JCPDS card (No. 86-0996) are given for comparison.



**Fig. S4** FE-SEM images of LGdH:Eu (a) before and after reaction in 50 mM aqueous NaVO<sub>3</sub> solution for (b) 5 min, (c) 30 min, (d) 1 h, (e) 2 h, (f) 3 h, (g) 6 h, and (h) 12 h at room temperature.



**Fig. S5** Excitation ( $\lambda_{em} = 618$  nm) and emission ( $\lambda_{ex} = 314$  nm) spectra of LGdH:Eu before (black curve) and after reaction in 50 mM NaVO<sub>3</sub> solution for 5 min – 6 h at room temperature.



**Fig. S6** FE-SEM images of  $GdVO_4$ :Eu obtained after reacting LGdH:Eu in 50 mM aqueous NaVO<sub>3</sub> solution at pH = 8 for (a) 1 h, (b) 2 h, and (c) 3 h and at pH = 9 for (d) 1 h, (e) 2 h, and (f) 3 h at room temperature.



**Fig. S7** FE-SEM images of GdVO<sub>4</sub>:Eu obtained after reacting LGdH:Eu in 50 mM NaVO<sub>3</sub> / 100 mM NaCl solution for (a) 1 h, (b) 2 h, and (c) 3 h and in 50 mM NaVO<sub>3</sub> / 1.0 M NaCl solution for (d) 1 h, (e) 2 h, and (f) 3 h at room temperature.



**Fig. S8** FT-IR spectra of (a) LGdH:Eu and (b) GdVO<sub>4</sub>:Eu obtained after its reaction in 50 mM  $VO_3^-$  solution for 2 h.



**Fig. S9** TG curves of GdVO<sub>4</sub>:Eu obtained after reacting LGdH:Eu in 50 mM  $VO_3^-$  solution at various conditions for different reaction times.



**Fig. S10** Excitation and emission spectra of aqueous colloidal suspensions containing LGdH:Eu (50 mg/L) and GdVO<sub>4</sub>:Eu (50 mg/L and 10 mg/L).