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Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI):

## Synthesis of porous In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> microspheres as sensitive materials for early warnings of hydrocarbon explosion

Yang Cao<sup>a,‡</sup>, Jun Zhao<sup>a,c,‡</sup>, Xiaoxin Zou<sup>a</sup>, Pan-Pan Jin<sup>a</sup>, Hui Chen<sup>b</sup>, Ruiqin Gao<sup>a</sup>, Li-Jing Zhou<sup>a</sup>, Yong-Cun Zou\* and Guo-Dong Li<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Inorganic Synthesis and Preparative Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Jilin University, 2699 Qianjin Street, Changchun 130012, China E-mail: zouyc@jlu.edu.cn (Yong-Cun Zou)
<sup>b</sup>School of Materials Science and Engineering, China University of Mining and Technology, Xuzhou 221000, China
<sup>c</sup>College of Science, Hebei University of Science and Technology, Shijiazhuang 050018, China
<sup>‡</sup> The authors contributed equally to this work.

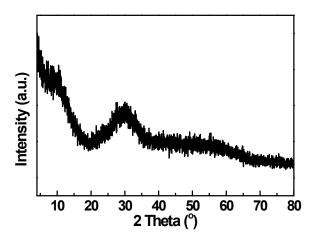
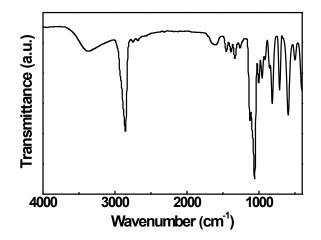
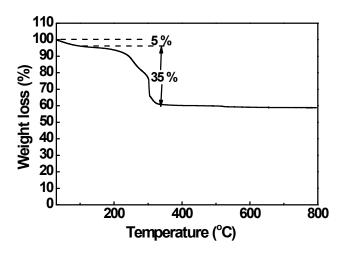


Figure S1 XRD pattern of In-gly. The result demonstrates the In-gly precursor possesses an amorphous structure.



**Figure S2** IR spectrum of In-gly. The broad IR absorption band at ~3390 cm<sup>-1</sup> is attributed to hydrogen-bound hydroxyl groups, and the absorption band at ~2850 cm<sup>-1</sup> is characteristic of the C-H stretching vibrations. In addition, all the bands located below 2000 cm<sup>-1</sup> are generally assigned to In-O, C-C, C-C-O and C-O-In groups. Similar IR results were also observed previously for other metal alkoxides (Nanoscale, 2014, 6, 7255; Dalton Trans., 2013, 42, 4365; Dalton Trans., 2013, 42, 14357).



**Figure S3** TG curve of In-gly measured in air from 25 to 800 °C. Before 100 °C, the weight loss of 5% can be attributed to evaporation of the absorbed organic residues and water species on the In-gly surface. The In-gly precursor completely decomposed at around 350 °C with a total weight loss of ~35 %. From the weight loss values it is estimated that the indium content in the In-gly precursor is ~46.6 wt.%.

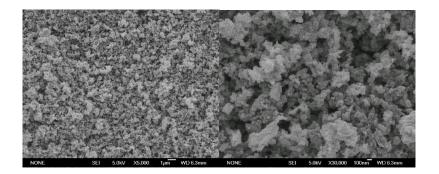


Figure S4 SEM images of com-In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.