## **Supporting Infomation**

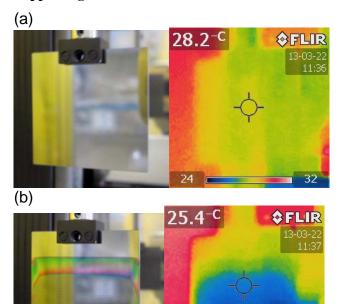


Fig.~S1 Photograph (left) and IR thermometer image (right) of (a) bare Si substrate before coating and (b) coated with film (precursor solution) during the reference process.

The temperature of the film at the centre of the substrate in the preparation process (Fig. S1b right) is about 3°C lower than that of the substrate before the coating process (Fig. S1a right). This indicates the existence of the cooling effect; however it is difficult to quantify the amount of the absorbed water from these data. Considering the large latent heat of vaporization of the alcohols (equal to condensing 1.4  $\mu$ m of water if it is converted completely), it should be reasonable that the cooling effect is the cause of the water uptake.