## Electronic Supplementary Material

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Figure S1. XPS spectra of exfoliated graphene sheets. Presence of N 1s confirms functionalization of the exfoliated graphene sheets by  $BMIBF_4$ .



**Figure S2**. Dependence of the UV–vis absorbance on the concentration of exfoliated graphene sheets: 0.04, 0.06, 0.08, 0.12, and 0.20 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>. The reference solution used was the BMIBF<sub>4</sub> ionic liquid.



Figure S3. UV–vis absorption spectrum of the  $BMIBF_4$  ionic liquid (the reference solution used was neat  $BMIBF_4$ ).



**Figure S4**. Tyndall effect confirming the colloidal nature of the exfoliated graphene dispersions after standing for one month.



Figure S5. FE-SEM image for the surface of the filtered graphene paper.



Figure S6. Electrical conductivity of the filtered graphene paper.



Figure S7. XRD patterns for the expanded HOPG.