Supplementary Information

Breathing porous liquids based on responsive metal-organic framework particles

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Supplementary Methods-Gas sorption measurements

In order to perform gas uptake measurements of the PLs under continuous stirring, the porosimeter, originally manufactured for the analysis of porous solids, was modified. A stirring plate was placed on the lift drive platform in place of the Dewar, and a jacketed glass flask was mounted on it and connected to a circulator to control the temperature. A float level sensor was used to control the height of the glass flask. 0.5 mL sample was injected into a 9 mm sample cell with large bulb and a PTFE stirring bar was added. The liquids (PLs and pure Silicone 704) were kept stirring during all measurements (except for the one dedicated CO₂ sorption experiment of **PL7_10** without stirring).

Supplementary Figure 1: Quantachrome Autosorb iQ MP instrument and the setup used for gas uptake measurements of PLs.

In the measurement routine of the Quantachrome Autosorb iQ MP a sample is considered to have reached equilibrium when the pressure change (∆*p*) is less than 0.81 mbar for a selected time interval (∆*t*) termed as *equilibration time* in the instrument software. Thus, the equilibration criterion is met when the magnitude of the pressure gradient is less than ∆*p*/∆*t* = 0.81 mbar/∆*t*). The equilibrium settings were the following: ∆*t* = 12 min, pressure tolerance value of 1, i.e. 0.006-0.002 mbar for pressure values of 0.012-12.266 mbar, 0.074-0.024 mbar for pressure values from 12.266-306.641 mbar and 7.359- 2.453 mbar for pressure values from 306.641-1226.562 mbar.

Supplementary Methods-In situ XRD

Supplementary Figure 2: Experimental setup used at DELTA facilities for in situ XRD experiments during gas sorption by the PLs.

Supplementary Figures-Powder X-ray diffraction

Supplementary Figure 3: PXRD patterns $(\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ Å})$ with profile fits (Pawley method) of as synthesized and activated ZIF-7 nanocrystals. Crystallographic parameters of reference crystal structures from the literature were used as starting parameters for the profile fits (CCDC code VELVIS¹) for the as synthesized *lp* phase and CCDC code RIPNOV012 for the activated *np* phase).

Supplementary Figure 4: PXRD patterns $(\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ Å})$ with profile fits (Pawley method) of as synthesized and activated ZIF-9 nanocrystals. Crystallographic parameters of reference crystal structures from the literature were used as starting parameters for the profile fits (CCDC code VEJZEO¹) for the as synthesized lp phase and CCDC code RIPNOV01² for the activated np phase).

Supplementary Figure 5: PXRD pattern $(\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ Å})$ with profile fit (Pawley method) of ZIF-8 nanocrystals. Crystallographic parameters of the reference crystal structure from the literature were used as starting parameters for the profile fit (CCDC code $VELVOY¹$).

Supplementary Figure 6: PXRD pattern ($\lambda = 0.45904$ Å) with profile fit (Pawley method) of CO₂ saturated **PL7_10**. Crystallographic parameters of reference ZIF-7 crystal structure from the literature were used as starting parameters for the profile fit (CCDC code $VEJZEQ¹$).

Supplementary Figure 7: PXRD patterns $(\lambda = 1.5418 \text{ Å})$ of ii-2-Mg₂(dobpdc), Mg₂(dobpdc) and a calculated diffraction pattern of the isostructural $Zn₂(dobpdc)$ (CCDC code XUXPUD)³. Green tick marks highlight the allowed Bragg peak positions of $\text{Zn}_2(\text{dobjdc})$.

Supplementary Figures-Scanning electron microscopy

Supplementary Figure 8: SEM micrographs of ZIF-7 nanocrystals (top) and ZIF-9 nanocrystals (bottom) used for the development of PLs. The scale bar is depicted at the right bottom of the images.

 $Mg_2(dobpdc)$

ii-2-Mg₂(dobpdc)

Supplementary Figure 9: SEM micrographs of Mg2dobpdc and ii-2-Mg2dobpdc crystals used for the formulation of respective PLs.

Supplementary Figures-Transmission electron microscopy

Supplementary Figure 10: TEM image of ZIF-7 (left) and ZIF-9 (right) nanocrystals used for the development of porous liquids.

Supplementary Figure 11: TEM image of ZIF-8 nanocrystals used for the development of **PL8_5.**

Supplementary Figures-Viscosity measurements

Supplementary Figure 12: Graph of the dynamic viscosity vs. shear rate for Silicone 704 at –10 °C. The respective measurement at 25° C is also included for the sake of comparison. Clearly, the variations in the measured viscosity at 25 °C at shear rates below 10 s^{-1} must be ascribed to measurement errors and not to non-Newtonian behaviour. The measurement performed at -10 °C proves the Newtonian behaviour of Silicone 704.

Supplementary Figures-DLS measurements

Supplementary Figure 13: DLS measurements of **PL7_10.** The sample was diluted 750-fold to obtain accurate DLS data. The calculated average particle size is 469 ± 74 nm with a polydispersity index of 0.058.

Supplementary Figures-1 H NMR spectroscopy

Supplementary Figure 14: ¹HNMR spectrum of a digested sample of as synthesized Mg₂(dobpdc). Residual proton signals from DMSO and D_2O are marked with \sim and \degree , respectively. Methanol and DMF guest molecules present in the framework are marked with # and *, respectively.

Supplementary Figure 15: ¹H NMR spectrum of a digested sample of ii-2-Mg₂(dobpdc). Residual proton signals from DMSO and D_2O are marked with \sim and \degree , respectively. Diamine loading is an average of the ratios calculated using each diamine signal and equals to 94 mol%, i.e. a chemical composition of (*N,N*-diisopropylethylenediamine)_{1.88}Mg₂(dobpdc).

Supplementary Figures-Stability of PLs

Supplementary Figure 16: Photographs of the formulated ZIF-based PLs after 3 months of storage without any agitation. The samples rested for 3 months in an isolated area in the lab. Sedimentation of the ZIF particle agglomerates is not observable.

Supplementary Figure 17: Photographs of PL-ii-2-Mg2(dobpdc) (5 wt% ii-2-Mg2(dobpdc) in Silicone 704) directly after synthesis (left), after 12 days of storage (right). The sample was stored at ambient conditions without any agitation. Sedimentation of the MOF particles is not observable. The slight colour changes in PL are due to different lighting conditions in the laboratory.

Supplementary Figures-Thermogravimetric analysis

Supplementary Figure 18: TGA curves of Silicone 704, **PL7_5**, **PL7_10**, **PL9_10** and **PL8_5** under dynamic heating (10 °C min⁻¹) in N₂ atmosphere.

Supplementary Figure 19: TGA curves of ZIF-7, ZIF-9 and ZIF-8 nanocrystals under dynamic heating $(10^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹) in N₂ atmosphere.

Supplementary Figure 20: TGA curve of Mg₂(dobpdc) under dynamic heating (3 °C min^{-1}) in N₂ atmosphere.

Supplementary Figure 21: TGA curve of ii-2-Mg₂(dobpdc) under dynamic heating (3 °C min⁻¹) in N_2 atmosphere.

Supplementary Notes-Gas sorption measurements

An *equilibration time* of 12 min was selected for our experiments. Hence, for ∆*t* = 12 min the pressure change should be less 0.068 mbar min⁻¹. The total amount of time elapsed for each pressure point was thus higher than 12 min. A column graph with the total time for each pressure point for $CO₂$ measurement of **PL7** 10 at 25 °C is provided below (Supplementary Figure 22) to offer insight to the reader.

We investigated the influence of the *equilibration criterion* ∆*t* on the shape of the CO₂ sorption isotherm. Specifically, we prepared a new batch of ZIF-7, formulated a new sample of **PL7_10** and collected CO2 isotherms at 25 °C applying an *equilibration criterion* of ∆*t* = 12 min (as in the original experiment) and also ∆*t* = 18 min in a second experiment (both done with continuous stirring). The relevant Supplementary Figures 23 and 24 are provided below. Despite the fact that a ∆*t* of 18 min resulted in longer elapsed time for each pressure point (except for two pressure points) and overall an about 50% longer data collection time (the total experiment time was 19.7 h for a ∆*t* of 12 min and 29.1 h for a ∆*t* of 18 min), the transition steps occurred at virtually the same pressures and a diminished hysteresis was not observed for a ∆*t* of 18 min.

Supplementary Figure 22: Column graph with the time elapsed at each pressure point during **PL7_10** $CO₂$ adsorption (top) and desorption (bottom) isotherms collection at 25 °C. The data correspond to the isotherm displayed in Figure 4b.

Supplementary Figure 23: Left: CO_2 sorption isotherms of ZIF-7 nanoparticles at 25 °C (left). Right: CO2 sorption isotherms of **PL7_10** at 25 °C applying an equilibration time of 18 min (blue) and 12 min (light blue). The adsorption branch is shown with filled symbols and the desorption branch with empty symbols.

Supplementary Figure 24: Column graph with the time elapsed at each pressure point during **PL7_10** CO2 adsorption (top) and desorption (bottom) isotherms collection at 25 °C applying a ∆*t* of 18 min (blue) and 12 min (light blue). The total experiment time has been 29.1h for ∆*t* = 18 min and 19.7 h for $\Delta t = 12$ min.

The ideal uptakes of **PL7_10** and **PL7_5**, based on the weighted contributions of their constituents, were calculated according to the following equation: $n_{PL_{id}} = (\omega_S \cdot n_S) + (\omega_{ZIF} \cdot n_{ZIF})$, where ω_{ZIF} and ω_s refer to the mass ratio of ZIF-7 and Silicone 704 in the formulated PLs, and n_s and n_{ZIF} denote the $CO₂$ uptake per mass unit of Silicone 704 and ZIF-7. The $CO₂$ uptake of Silicone 704 at the investigated pressures was calculated based on the fit of its experimental isotherm that is displayed below.

The uptakes of **PL7_10** and **PL7_5** normalized per unit mass of ZIF-7 (Figure 2d) were calculated according to the following equation: $n_{\text{PL/g_{ZIF}}} = \frac{n_{\text{PL}}^2 - \omega_s n_s}{\omega_{\text{ZIF}}}$, where n_{PL} is the experimental CO₂ uptake of the PL. The CO2 uptake of Silicone 704 at the investigated pressures was calculated based on the fit of its experimental isotherm that is displayed below.

Supplementary Figure 25: Fits of the experimentally measured CO₂ isotherms by Silicone 704 at 25 °C. Solid and dashed lines display the fits of the adsorption and the desorption branch, respectively. Tables summarizing the parameters of the fits are provided.

A linear isotherm for CO2 sorption in silicone 704 would be expected. It appears though that the absorption of $CO₂$ is kinetically hindered, so that the isotherm features a slight curvature and a slight hysteresis between absorption and desorption (Supplementary Figure 23) indicating that the isotherm does not represent equilibrium conditions.

In order to investigate if equilibrium can be reached by longer equilibration times, we then collected additional CO2 sorption isotherms of Silicone 704 using larger ∆*t* values (*"equilibration times"*, see above) of 16 and 24 mins (instead of 12 min used previously). The results are provided in Supplementary Figure 24. It appears that longer Δt leads to a small increase in the overall CO₂ uptake at ca. 1200 mbar. The width of the hysteresis between absorption and desorption, however, is largely unaffected by the longer Δ*t*. This experiment established that CO₂ sorption in Silicone 704 is indeed kinetically hindered, even though the liquid is continuously stirred during data collection.

Linear fits to the sorption isotherms are not satisfactory because of the slight curvature of the isotherms and the hystereses. Thus, we applied polynomial (absorption) and Langmuir (desorption) functions to derive much better fits to the experimental data.

We used the isotherm collected with a ∆t of 12 min for the comparison of the sorption behaviour of silicone 704 with the PLs reported here, since the data of the PLs have also been collected with the same ∆t setting. One might argue that the isotherms of pure silicone 704 are not fully equilibrated when the rather short ∆t of 12 min is applied, however, a reference experiment of PL7_10 with an increased ∆t (18 min instead of 12 min, see Supplementary Figures 21 and 22) shows that the increased ∆t leads to insignificant changes in the isotherm shape (i.e. phase transition pressures and hysteresis width) and overall gas uptake of the PL. Thus, all the reported gas sorption isotherms of the PLs in this work must be regarded as reasonably well equilibrated.

We may note again that breathing MOFs typically show step-shaped gas sorption with a rather strong hysteretic behaviour. The hysteresis between ad- and desorption is a consequence of the activation energy of the phase transitions (i.e. it is a kinetic effect) and real thermodynamic equilibrium is not achievable when recording sorption isotherms of such systems with experimental time scales.⁴ In other words, the phase transition region of an experimental sorption isotherm of a breathing MOF is never a representation of thermodynamic equilibrium. Naturally the same is true for the breathing PLs discussed in this work.

Supplementary Figure 26: Silicone 704 CO2 isotherms at 25 °C recorded with a *∆t* setting of 12 min (cyan), 16 min (purple) and 24 min (dark green).

Supplementary Figure 27: CO₂ sorption isotherm for ZIF-7 nanocrystals at 10 °C (burgundy), 25 °C (blue) and 35 °C (light purple). For all isotherms the adsorption branch is shown with filled symbols and the desorption branch with empty symbols.

Supplementary Figure 28: CO₂ sorption isotherms for **PL7_10**, filled symbols denote the adsorption branch and empty symbols denote the desorption branch, collected at 10, 20, 25 and 30 °C. The logarithmic horizontal axis is plotted in relative pressure (p/p_0) .⁵ The isotherm for **PL7_10** recorded at 35° C was not included because 35 °C is above the critical temperature of CO₂, so that the saturation pressure p_0 is not defined.

Supplementary Figure 29: Phase transition pressures measured in adsorption (filled symbols) and desorption (empty symbols) isotherms for ZIF-7 (circles) and **PL7_10** (squares) as a function of temperature. The transition pressures are identified at the onset of the gate opening (or gate closing for desorption) in the isotherms.

Supplementary Figure 30: CO₂ sorption isotherms for ZIF-9 collected at 25 °C. Filled symbols denote the adsorption branch and empty symbols denote the desorption branch. The phase transition to the *lp* phase is not yet completed at a pressure of 1224 mbar (the maximum gas pressure of the instrument used).

Supplementary Figure 31: CO_2 sorption isotherms for **PL9_10** collected at 25 °C. Filled symbols denote the adsorption branch and empty symbols denote the desorption branch. The phase transition of ZIF-9 to the *lp* phase is not yet completed at a pressure of 1225 mbar (the maximum gas pressure of the instrument used).

Supplementary Figure 32: Propane (purple) and propylene (orange) sorption isotherms for ZIF-7 collected at 25 °C. Filled symbols denote the adsorption branch and empty symbols denote the desorption branch.

Supplementary Figure 33: Propane (light purple) and propylene (light orange) sorption isotherms for **PL7** 10 collected at 25 °C. Filled symbols denote the adsorption branch and empty symbols denote the desorption branch.

Supplementary Figure 34: CO₂ sorption isotherm of **PL8 5** (left) and its constituents, ZIF-8 nanocrystals and Silicone 704 (right), at 25 °C. For all isotherms the adsorption branch is shown with filled symbols and the desorption branch with empty symbols.

Supplementary Figure 35: CO_2 sorption isotherms of ii-2-Mg₂(dobpdc) (top) and its respective 5wt% PL in Silicone 704 (bottom) at 25 °C. For all isotherms the adsorption branch is shown with filled symbols and the desorption branch with empty symbols, while the lines are a guide to the eye. Similar to the observations for the **PL7** and **PL9** materials, the step during adsorption is shifted to slightly higher gas pressures, whereas the step during desorption is shifted to slightly lower gas pressures. The uptake of the PL at 1224 mbar is in good agreement with the uptake expected from the constituents, with the experimental value being equal to 93% of the ideal uptake. It is estimated that the Silicone 704 contributes a CO_2 uptake of about 1.13 cm³ (STP) g^{-1} PL, while the ii-2-Mg₂(dobpdc) particles contribute about 3.60 cm³ (STP) g^{-1} PL. This is quite impressive, since the 5 wt% ii-2-Mg₂(dobpdc) particles in the PL contribute about 76% of the $CO₂$ uptake capacity of the PL at 1224 mbar. Three adsorption/desorption cycles were carried out with the PL being regenerated under vacuum at 100 °C and 120 °C, before cycle 2 and cycle 3, respectively. Between cycles 1 and 2 the sample rested for 4 days at ambient conditions.

Supplementary Figures-In situ XRD

Supplementary Figure 36: XRD pattern of neat Silicone 704 in comparison to the pattern of activated **PL7_10**.

Supplementary Figure 37: Time-resolved *in situ* XRD patterns during gas uptake by **PL7_10** (cycle 1). Exposure time and detector readout time sum up to about $4 - 5$ min. So that diffraction patterns could only be measured in time intervals of about $4 - 5$ min. Top: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling CO₂ through **PL7_10**. Bottom: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling N₂ through **PL7_10**.

Supplementary Figure 38: Time-resolved *in situ* XRD patterns during gas uptake by **PL7_10** (cycle 2). Exposure time and detector readout time sum up to about $4 - 5$ min. So that diffraction patterns could only be measured in time intervals of about 4 – 5 min. Top: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling CO₂ through **PL7_10**. Bottom: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling N₂ through **PL7_10**.

Supplementary Figure 39: Time-resolved in situ XRD patterns during gas uptake by **PL7_10** (cycle 3). Exposure time and detector readout time sum up to about $4 - 5$ min. So that diffraction patterns could only be measured in time intervals of about $4 - 5$ min. Top: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling CO₂ through **PL7_10**. Bottom: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling N₂ through **PL7_10.**

Supplementary Figure 40: Time-resolved *in situ* XRD patterns during gas uptake by **PL9_10**. Exposure time and detector readout time sum up to about $4 - 5$ min. So that diffraction patterns could only be measured in time intervals of about 4 – 5 min. Top: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling propylene through **PL9_10**. Bottom: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling N2 through **PL9** 10.

Supplementary Figure 41: Time-resolved in situ XRD patterns during gas uptake by **PL9_10**. Exposure time and detector readout time sum up to about $4 - 5$ min. So that diffraction patterns could only be measured in time intervals of about $4 - 5$ min. Top: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling propane through **PL7 10**. Bottom: Sequential XRD patterns recorded during bubbling N₂ through **PL7_10**.

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1: Unit cell parameters and corresponding *R*wp, *R*exp and GOF values determined by the above displayed structureless profile fits (Pawley method).

Supplementary Table 2: CO₂ uptake values at ambient/sub-ambient conditions by PLs reported in the literature in comparison to the values recorded for the PLs investigated in this work (highlighted in blue colour).

* these values are based on optical observation of the relevant graphs provided in the literature.

+ Notice, this material has a melting point around room temperature, so that the viscosity of the liquid is expected to be very high and not comparable to the other PLs documented here.

Nomenclature of the solvents acronyms used in Supplementary Table 2: Genosorb 1753 = CH₃(OCH₂CH₂)_nOCH₃, n = 4–10, $[P_{6,6,6,14}][NTf_2]$ = trihexyltetradecylphosphonium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide, $[P_{4,4,4}][OAc]$ = tetrabutylphosphonium acetate, $[P_{4,4,4}][Lev]$ = tetrabutylphosphonium levulinate, $[BPv][NTf_2]$ = pyridinium bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imide, $[BMIM][NTf_2] = 1$ -butyl-3-methylimidazolium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide, $[P_{6,6,6,14}][C] =$

trihexyltetradecylphosphonium chloride, PEGS : poly(ethylene glycol) sulfonate, [M2070][IPA] = polyethylenepolypropylene glycol monomethylether(2-propyl) ammonium isophthalate

Supplementary References

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