

**Fig S1. Overexpression of SecYEG mutants**. (A) IMVs containing endogenous SecYEG levels or overexpressed Cys-less SecYEG, SecY(R255E,R256E)EG or SecY(R357E)EG was analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Coomassie brilliant blue staining. (B) Translocation of fluorescein labeled proOmpA(C290S) into IMVs containing the indicated overexpressed SecYEG mutants.



**Fig. S2. Interaction between ribosomes and RNCs and purified SecYEG mutants.** Fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (FCS) was used to quantify binding of ribosomes and RNCs to SecY(L148C)EG-AlexaFluor 488 (black bars), and its derivatives bearing the SecY mutations R357E (grey bars) or R255E,R256E (white bars). Binding was analyzed both for detergent-solubilized and nanodisc-reconstituted SecYEG. SecYEG was reconstituted into nanodiscs in parallel preparations using SecYEG:MSP:lipid ratio of 1:8:200, and fraction 15 of size-exclusion chromatography was used for the binding assay. Analysis of FCS data is described in the main text.



**Fig. S3. Reconstitution of SecYEG in nanodiscs.** SecY(L148C)EG conjugated with AlexaFluor 488 fluorophore (AF488) was reconstituted with phospholipids in presence of MSP1D1 scaffold protein (MSP). MSP-encapsulated nanodiscs were isolated using size-exclusion chromatography, and collected in 1 mL fractions. SDS-PAGE confirmed that SecYEG and MSP co-eluted in fractions 12 to 16, as visualized by (A) fluorescence and (B) Coomassie staining. (C) Individual nanodiscs (Fraction 15) were imaged using cryo-electron microscopy, and showed as circular entities of ~10 nm diameter (encircled in white).



**Fig. S4. AMP-PNP-stimulated SecA binding abolishes SecYEG:RNC interactions.** FCS was used to quantify RNC binding to nanodisc-reconstituted SecY(L148C)EG-AlexaFluor 488 in the absence and presence of increasing amounts of SecA. AMP-PNP at 5 mM was used to promote SecA binding to the translocon. In presence of SecA an up to 3-fold reduction in SecYEG:RNC binding was observed.