## **Description of Additional Supplementary Files**

File name: Supplementary Movie 1

Description: Reconfiguration of a PS-microgel assembly upon local temperature change via

fluorescence illumination cycles (ON and OFF).

File name: Supplementary Movies 2 and 3

Description: Dynamical control of active PS-microgel assemblies under AC electric field (f= 1kHz and

Vpp= 4V) during various ON and

OFF cycles of fluorescent illumination. Only the fluorescent PS particles are visible (40×magnification

in different ROIs).

File name: Supplementary Movie 4

Description: Control experiments using fluorescent and non-fluorescent PS to fabricate the

dumbbells, switching the fluorescent illumination

on and off.

File name: Supplementary Movie 5

Description: Reversal of swimming direction of an active PS-microgel dumbbell due to an increase of

local temperature when illuminating at

high fluorescence intensity (63x magnification).

File name: Supplementary Movies 6 and 7.

Description: Active motion of L-shaped clusters at different illumination conditions exhibiting chirality inversion upon selfreconfiguration. The Movie S6 is recorded with the fluorescence channel only and Movie S7 by combining the transmission channel with fluorescence.

File name: Supplementary Movies 8 and 9

Description: Interactions mediated by EHDFs for PS particles and microgels at a fixed AC field of Vpp= 5V undergoing a global change of temperature mediated by illumination using green light (band-pass filter  $\lambda$ = 500–550nm) with  $\rho$ FL= 54mW(mm)–2. Light-absorption by the gold film coating the electrodes causes local heating above the VPTT of the microgels. Upon heating, the flow surrounding the PS particles remains repulsive, while it goes from repulsive to attractive for the microgels, as shown by the melting of a particle lattice into local transient clusters.