

- **Supplementary Figure 1. Schematic representation of radio-frequency assisted molten-alkali method.** The rhodium (III) chloride (RhCl₃) and potassium hydroxide (KOH) were selected as the raw
- materials and uniformly mixed in crucible. This figure was made with the Cinema 4D Software.

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- **Supplementary Figure 2. Digital image, SEM, SAED, HRTEM and FFT images of P-Tri-RhO2**. (**a**)
- The digital image of P-Tri-RhO² powder. (**b**) TEM image and (**c**) SAED pattern of P-Tri-RhO2. (**d**)
	- HRTEM image and (**e**) its partially enlarged view. (**f**) The fast Fourier transform (FFT) from (**e**).

Supplementary Figure 3. Comparison of XRD pattern and simulated XRD pattern for P-Tri-RhO2.

- Comparison of XRD patterns of P-Tri-RhO² (black curve) and simulated X-ray diffraction peak of 4 P-Tri-RhO₂ (red curve).
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 Supplementary Figure 4. **EDX and elemental analysis of P-Tri-RhO2.** (**a-d**) EDX-mapping images of P-Tri-RhO2, where Rh and O are uniformly distributed in the nanosheet structure. (**e**) EDX analysis of P-Tri-RhO2. (**f**) The table of the mass and atomic ratios of Rh to O in P-Tri-RhO² by elemental analysis

method (elementar EL III).

 $\frac{1}{2}$ **Supplementary Figure 5. BET surface area measurements for different catalysts.** BET surface area measurements for (**a**) P-Tri-RhO2, (**b**) Rutile-RhO2, (**c**) C-Rh/C and (**d**) Pt/C.

Supplementary Figure 6. XRD patterns and SEM images obtained by annealing P-Tri-RhO2 at

- 3 **different temperatures**. (a) Temperature-dependent XRD patterns of annealing P-Tri-RhO₂ at different
- 4 temperatures. The corresponding SEM images of (**b**) P-Tri-RhO₂ and the products by annealing
- P-Tri-RhO² at (**c**) 400 °C and (**d**) 650 °C.

- $\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array}$ 2 **Supplementary Figure 7. XPS measurements for different samples.** XPS spectra of Rh 3*d* peaks for
	- P-Tri-RhO₂, Rutile-RhO₂ and Rh₂O₃.

 Supplementary Figure 8. **EXAFS fitting curves and wavelet transforms for P-Tri-RhO2, Rh-NA/RhO² and Rh foil.** (**a**), (**d**), (**g**) EXAFS fitting curves of P-Tri-RhO2, Rh-NA/RhO² and Rh foil at *R* space. (**b**), (**e**), (**h**) EXAFS fitting curves of P-Tri-RhO2, Rh-NA/RhO² and Rh foil at *q* space. (**c**), (**f**), (**i**)

5 Wavelet transforms of Rh K-edge EXAFS for P-Tri-RhO₂, Rh-NA/RhO₂ and Rh foil.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 **Supplementary Figure 9**. **XRD patterns and SEM images obtained by changing the synthetic**

- 3 **parameters.** (a) XRD pattern and (b) SEM image of the product obtained by directly mixing RhCl₃ and
- 4 KOH. (**c**) XRD pattern and (**d**) SEM image of the product obtained by directly radio-frequency heating
- 5 RhCl₃ without adding KOH.

 Supplementary Figure 10. The chemical stability for P-Tri-RhO2. (**a-d**) The XRD pattern, SEM, TEM images and SAED pattern of P-Tri-RhO² after placing it in air for six months. (**e-h**) The XRD pattern, SEM, TEM images and SAED pattern of P-Tri-RhO² after soaking it in water for two weeks. (**i-l**) The 5 XRD pattern, SEM, TEM images and SAED pattern of P-Tri-RhO₂ after soaking it in ethanol for two 6 weeks. (m-p) The XRD pattern, SEM, TEM images and SAED pattern of P-Tri-RhO₂ after soaking it in 1 M hydrochloric acid solution for two weeks.

Supplementary Figure 11. XRD pattern of Rh-NA/RhO2. The peaks of (111), (200), (220) and (311)

planes of face-centered cubic Rh was detected and marked in red.

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peaks for Rh-NA/RhO₂ and Rh/C.

Supplementary Figure 13. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) tests for P-Tri-RhO² and Rh-NA/RhO2. CV

3 curves of P-Tri-RhO₂ and Rh-NA/RhO₂ in H₂-saturated 0.5 M H₂SO₄.

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- $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 **Supplementary Figure 14. XRD pattern, TEM and HRTEM images of the product obtained by** *in-situ* **electroreduction of Rutile-RhO₂. (a) XRD pattern of the product obtained by** *in-situ*
- *in-situ* **electroreduction of Rutile-RhO2.** (**a**) XRD pattern of the product obtained by *in-situ*
- electroreduction of Rutile-RhO2. (**b-d**) TEM and HRTEM images of the product obtained by *in-situ* electroreduction of Rutile-RhO2.

- **Supplementary Figure 15. Schematic views of crystal matching of Rh-NA/RhO² system.** (**a**) The
- crystal structure information of P-Tri-RhO2. (**b**) The crystal structure information of face-centered cubic Rh.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ **Supplementary Figure 16. Schematic views of Moire pattern obtained by twisting bilayer P-Tri-RhO² region with the rotation angle of 3º**. (**a**) Simulated Moire pattern was obtained by twisting bilayer P-Tri-RhO² region with the rotation angle of 3º. The Rh atoms on different layers are marked with red and blue colors, respectively. (**b, c**) The enlarged areas from (**a**).
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- **Supplementary Figure 17. Schematic views of Moire pattern obtained by twisting one single-layer**
- **P-Tri-RhO² and one single-layer metallic Rh with the rotation angle of 3º.** Simulated Moire pattern
- was obtained by twisting one single-layer P-Tri-RhO² and one single-layer metallic Rh with the rotation
- angle of 3º. (**b, c**) The enlarged areas from (**a**).
-

- $\frac{1}{2}$
- ²⁰ 40 60 80

² **Supplementary Figure 18. Comparison of XRD patterns for Rh-NA/RhO₂ and different layers Rh.

²⁰ ⁴⁰ 60** 80 **

²⁰** *201* **Degree

²⁰** *201* **Degree

²⁰** *201* **Degree**
- The XRD pattern of Rh-NA/RhO₂ and the simulated XRD patterns of different layers Rh.

Supplementary Figure 19. Calibration of the saturated calomel electrode (SCE). Calibration of the

3 SCE electrode with respect to reversible hydrogen electrode (RHE) in 0.5 M H₂SO₄ electrolyte bubbled 4 with pure hydrogen gas at room temperature. Scan rate: 5 mV s^{-1} . Two Pt electrodes were used as the working and counter electrodes to calibrate the SCE.

 $Rh\text{-}NA/RhO₂$ Rutile-RhO₂ C-Rh/C Pt/C

- 2 **Supplementary Figure 20. Comparison of overpotentials for different catalysts.** The overpotentials at
- 3 the current density of -10 mA cm⁻² for Rh-NA/RhO₂, Rutile-RhO₂, C-Rh/C and Pt/C.
- 4

-
- **Supplementary Figure 21. The comparison of specific currents for different catalysts.** The specific
- 3 currents of Rh-NA/RhO₂, Rutile-RhO₂, C-Rh/C and Pt/C in 0.5 M H₂SO₄.

- **Supplementary Figure 22. The calculations of ECSA for different catalysts.** CV curves of (**a**) Rh-NA/RhO2, (**b**) Rutile-RhO2, (**c**) C-Rh/C and (**d**) Pt/C in H2-saturated 0.5 M H2SO⁴ with a scan rate of 4 50 mV s⁻¹.
-

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- **Supplementary Figure 23. The calculations of TOFs for different catalysts.** (**a**) The comparison of
- TOFs for Rh-NA/RhO2, Rutile-RhO2, C-Rh/C and Pt/C at different potentials (vs. RHE). (**b**) The TOFs of
- Rh-NA/RhO2, Rutile-RhO2, C-Rh/C and Pt/C at the overpotential of 0.1 V.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ **Supplementary Figure 24**. **XRD pattern, SEM and STEM images of Rh-NA/RhO² after stability test.**
- (**a**) The XRD pattern of Rh-NA/RhO² after long-term HER stability test, where the (111), (200), (220) and
- (311) planes of face-centered cubic Rh was detected and marked in red. (**b, c**) SEM and STEM images of
- 5 Rh-NA/RhO₂ after long-term HER stability test.

- **Supplementary Figure 25. XPS and FTIR measurements of Rh-NA/RhO² after long-term HER**
- **stability test.** XPS spectra of (**a**) C 1s, (**b**) F 1s and (**c**) O 1s for Rh-NA/RhO² after long-term HER
- 4 stability test. (**d**) FTIR spectrum of Rh-NA/RhO₂ after long-term HER stability test.

1

2 **Supplementary Figure 26. The measurements of hydrogen spillover for Rh-NA/RhO2.** (**a**) The 3 photographic image of WO₃ before and after H₂ treatment at room temperature. clearly showing no color 4 change after H₂ treatment. (**b**) The photographic image of physical mixture for Rh-NA/RhO₂ and WO₃ 5 before and after H_2 treatment at room temperature, clearly showing the color change of WO_3 from yellow 6 to dark blue after H² treatment. (**c**) The photographic image of physical mixture P-Tri-RhO² and WO³ 7 before and after H² treatment at room temperature, clearly showing no color change after H² treatment. (**d**) 8 The photographic image of physical mixture Rh and WO₃ before and after H₂ treatment at room 9 temperature, clearly showing the color change of WO_3 from yellow to dark blue after H_2 treatment.

- $\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array}$ 2 **Supplementary Figure 27. Poison experiment for Rh-NA/RhO2.** Polarization curves for (**a**) Rh-NA/RhO₂ and (b) Rh before and after the addition of SCN or TMA⁺ ions in 0.5 M H₂SO₄.
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 $\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array}$ 2 **Supplementary Figure 28. Charge density difference of Rh-NA/RhO2.** Charge density difference of

3 Rh-NA/RhO₂ along z direction.

1 **Supplementary Tables**

1 **Supplementary Table 4. The HER activities of Rh-NA/RhO2, Rutile-RhO2, C-Rh/C and Pt/C in 0.5** $M \, \text{H}_2$ **SO**₄^{\ast}.

Catalyst	Overpotential ω 10 mA cm ⁻² / mV	Geometric activity / mA cm ⁻²	Mass activity / \mathbf{m} A mg _{Rh or Pt} ⁻¹	Tafel slope / mV dec ⁻¹
$Rh-NA/RhO2$	9.8 ± 0.61	200 ± 4.0	4634 ± 30.0	24.0
$Rutile-RhO2$	148 ± 2.4	3 ± 0.1	67 ± 0.9	99.1
$C-Rh/C$	83 ± 1.6	17 ± 0.2	601 ± 5.2	43.7
Pt/C	29 ± 0.9	85 ± 18	1502 ± 12.8	30.0

3 *The geometric activity and mass activity were obtained at -0.1 V vs. RHE.

1 **Supplementary Table 5. The exchange current density (j0) of Rh-NA/RhO2, Rutile-RhO2, C-Rh/C** 2 **and Pt/C in 0.5 M H2SO4.**

1 **Supplementary Table 6. The comparison of HER activity performances of Rh-NA/RhO² with** 2 **previous reported electrocatalysts.**

1 **Supplementary Table 7. The comparison of minimum cluster size and minimum interparticle** 2 **distance with previous reported materials.**

- 1 **Supplementary Notes**
- 2 **Supplementary Note 1. The calculation of surface densities (SDs) of Rh atoms for different Moire**
- 3 **patterns and Rh-NA/RhO2.**
- 4 **1. For Moire patterns consisting of two single-layer P-Tri-RhO²**
- 5 For a single-layer P-Tri-RhO2, the surface density of Rh atom is:

$$
SD = 1 \div \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \times 0.3091^2 \, nm^2\right) = 12.086 \, nm^{-2}
$$

- 6 If Moire patterns were obtained by twisting two single-layer P-Tri-RhO₂ with different rotation angles, the
- maximum surface density was determined to be $\leq 2 \times 12.086 = 24.172$ nm⁻². So the range of surface
- 8 density for Moire patterns obtained by twisting bilayer P-Tri-RhO₂ was determined to be 12.086 nm^{-2} < 9 $SD \leq 24.172 \ nm^{-2}$.
- 10 **2. For Moire patterns consisting of two single-layer metallic Rh**
- 11 For a single-layer metallic Rh, the surface density of Rh atom is:

$$
SD = 1 \div \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \times 0.2689^2 \text{ nm}^2\right) = 15.969 \text{ nm}^{-2}
$$

- 12 If Moire patterns were obtained by twisting two single-layer metallic Rh with different rotation angles, the
- 13 maximum surface density was determined to be $2 \times 15.969 = 31.938 \text{ nm}^{-2}$. So the range of surface

14 density for Moire patterns obtained by twisting bilayer face-centered cubic Rh was determined to be 15.969 $nm^{-2} \le SD \le 31.938$ nm^{-2} .

16 **3. For Moire patterns consisting of one single-layer P-Tri-RhO² and one single-layer metallic Rh**

17 If Moire patterns were obtained by twisting one single layer P-Tri-RhO₂ and one single layer metallic Rh 18 with different rotation angles, the maximum surface density was determined to be $15.969 + 12.086 =$ 19 28.055 nm⁻². So the range of surface density for Moire patterns obtained by twisting P-Tri-RhO₂ and 20 metallic Rh was determined to be 12.086 $nm^{-2} \le SD \le 28.055$ nm^{-2} .

21 **4. For face-centered cubic Rh nanocrystal arrays**

22 The theoretical surface density of rhodium atoms for face-centered cubic Rh along the [111] growth 23 direction.

$$
SD = 3 \div \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \times 0.2689^2 \text{ nm}^2\right) = 47.904 \text{ nm}^{-2}
$$

24 **5. The actual SD of Rh atoms in Rh-NA/RhO² counted from the (scanning transmission electron** 25 **microscopy) STEM image (Fig. 2f)**

- 26 As shown in Fig. 2f, the actual SD of Rh atoms in Rh-NA/RhO₂ is counted to be 47.3 ± 1.2 nm⁻².
- 27

1 **Supplementary Note 2. Proposed H spillover assisted HER mechanism for Rh-NA/RhO2.**

- 2 Based on the simulation, a possible path is proposed to explain the electrocatalysis of Rh-NA/RhO₂. HER
- 3 may take place on any Rh nanoparticles by themselves and with the help of H spillover from Rh
- 4 nanoparticle to contact interface between Rh nanoparticle and $P-Tri-RhO₂$ substrate.

5

6 Assuming that H spillover is from Rh nanoparticle $(Rh_m)_{particle}$ to contact interface $(Rh_n)_{interface}$,

the first step is the adsorption of H atom on the surface of Rh nanoparticle $(Rh_m)_{particle}$,

$$
8 (Rh_m)_{particle} - (Rh_n)_{interface} + H^+ + e^- \Leftrightarrow H - (Rh_m)_{particle} - (Rh_n)_{interface}
$$
\n
$$
(S1)
$$

Secondly, the spillover of H atom from $(Rh_m)_{particle}$ to $(Rh_n)_{interface}$,

$$
10 \t H - (Rh_m)_{particle} - (Rh_n)_{interface} \Leftrightarrow (Rh_m)_{particle} - (Rh_n)_{interface} - H
$$
\n(S2)

Thirdly, the Heyrovsky process on the interface of Rh nanoparticle and P-Tri-RhO₂ $(Rh_n)_{interface}$,

12
$$
(Rh_m)_{particle} - (Rh_n)_{interface} - H + H^+ + e^- \rightarrow H_2 + (Rh_m)_{particle} - (Rh_n)_{interface}
$$
 (S3)

13 The kinetics may be complicated. The reaction velocity of hydrogen evolution may be written as 14 $r = k_3 \theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H} C_{H^+}$, where r is the reaction rate; k the rate constant; θ the fractional 15 occupancy of the H-adsorption sites; and C_{H^+} the concentration of hydrogen ion.

16 In the steady state, for
$$
\theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}
$$
,
\n17
$$
\frac{d\theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}}{dt} =
$$
\n18 $k_2\theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H}(1 - \theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}) - k_{-2}\theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}(1 - \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H}) -$

- 19 $k_3\theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}C_{H^+};$
- 20 and for $\theta_{(Rh_m)_{particle}-H}$

$$
1 \frac{d\theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H}}{dt} = k_1(1 - \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H})C_H + k_{-1}\theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H} - k_2\theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H}(1 - \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H}) + k_{-2}\theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}(1 - \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H}).
$$

3 At low overpotential,

$$
\theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H} \approx \frac{k_2 \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H}}{k_2 \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H} + k_{-2} - k_{-2} \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H} + k_3 C_{H^+}}
$$
\n
$$
\approx \frac{k_{20}}{k_{-20}} \theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H} e^{-\frac{FA\phi}{RT}}
$$
\n
$$
\theta_{(Rh_m)particle-H} \approx \frac{k_1 C_{H^+} + k_{-2} \theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}}{k_1 C_{H^+} + k_{-1} + k_2 + k_{-2} \theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H} - k_2 \theta_{(Rh_n)interface-H}} \approx \frac{k_{10}}{k_{-10}} C_{H^+} e^{-\frac{FA\phi}{RT}}
$$
\nthen. $r = k_2 \theta_{(Ph_n)}$. $\frac{L}{L} = \frac{k_{10}k_{20}k_{30}}{k_{-10}} C_{H^+}^2 e^{-\frac{(2+a)FA\phi}{RT}}$ (S4)

4 Then,
$$
r = k_3 \theta_{(Rh_n)interface - H} C_{H^+} = \frac{\kappa_{10} \kappa_{20} \kappa_{30}}{\kappa_{10} \kappa_{20}} C_{H^+}^2 e^{-\frac{(3.15 \times 10^{-14} \text{J})}{RT}}
$$
 (S4)

5 And
$$
-j = Fr = \frac{k_{10}k_{20}k_{30}}{k_{-10}k_{-20}}FC_H^2 + e^{-\frac{(2+\alpha)F_A\phi}{RT}}
$$

\n6 $lg(-j) = Const + 2 lg C_H + \frac{(2+\alpha)F}{2.303PT} \Delta\phi$ (S5)

Therefore, the Tafel slope is:
$$
\frac{2.303RT}{(2+\alpha)F} = 0.024 \text{ V dec}^{-1} \text{ (assuming } \alpha = 0.5).
$$

2.303

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