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## (I) High Performance Nano-Engineered Ion-Exchange Membranes for Clean Energy Systems

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The increasing energy demand and global climate change entails for designing next-generation clean energy technologies. It is critical to address increasing global concerns pertaining decarbonization of economy and development of clean and sustainable energy conversion and storage technologies using advanced materials. Many types of clean energy storage and conversion systems are still emerging technologies, and these will continue to be part of extensive research over the next twenty years due to the increasing demand of clean energy and challenges in the existing technologies. Moreover, to focus on newly emerging applications, such as wearable electronics and powering electric vehicles, advanced materials with superior multifunctional capabilities that enable high performance, durability and lightweight designs for robust and flexible energy storage and conversion devices are highly demanded. For realizing this, serious efforts need to be undertaken to improve the performance of the electrodes and designing novel solid-state electrolytes by engineering multifunctional materials to achieve significantly improved capacity, high-rate capability, enhanced safety, and longer life cycle.

We designed and created high performance solid-state electrolytes by nanoengineering a special class of layered materials using novel technology for scalable production. These electrolytes are electrochemically stable, highly conductive, and mechanically robust, which provide specific ion conduction for various types of ions, including protons, hydroxides, and lithium ions. The strategy of synthesizing solutions for creating the chemical structure of ion exchange membranes (IEMs) is using advanced functional two-dimensional (2D) nanomaterials which provide requisite properties to the final structure of IEMs. The casted IEMs exhibit outstanding ion transport performance and cross the threshold of benchmark IEMs, conventionally used in the electrochemical energy storage and conversion industry such as fuel cells, electrolyzers, batteries, and supercapacitors.

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