

# **Supporting Information**

## **Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> Nanotubes Obtained by Anodization: Effect of Thermal Treatment on the Photocatalytic Activity for Hydrogen Production**

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Figure S1

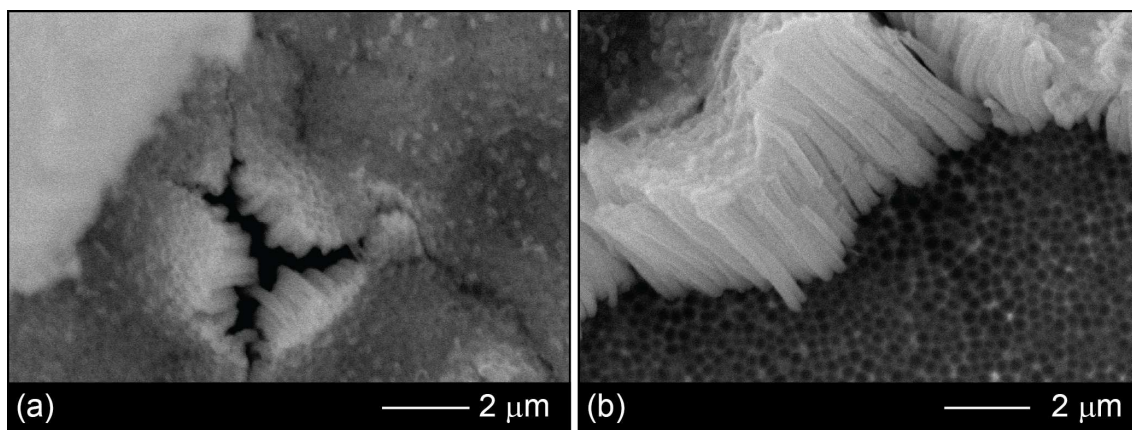


Figure S1. (a) SEM top-view and (b) cross-section images of  $\text{Ta}_2\text{O}_5$  nanotubes anodized in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 + 1\% \text{ HF} + 4\% \text{ water (D.I.)}$  at 50 V for 20 min in room temperature.

Figure S2 show the cross-sectional SEM images of Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NTs obtained after 20 min anodization at 50 V at different temperatures. At all electrolyte temperatures, Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NTs were vertically oriented and self-organized.

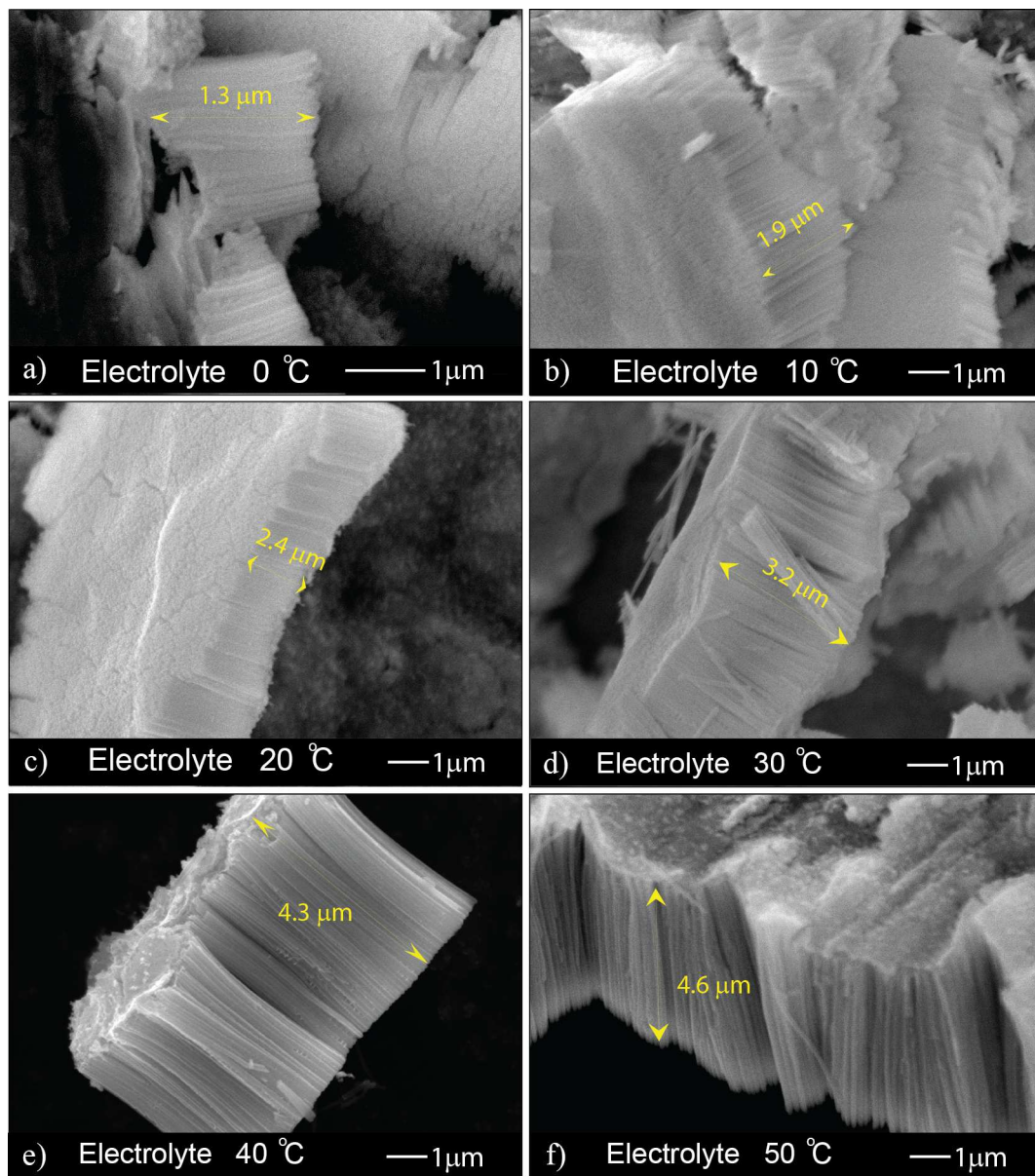


Figure S2. SEM cross-section images of Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NTs prepared by anodization at 50 V with different electrolyte temperatures: (a) 0 °C, (b) 10 °C, (c) 20 °C, (d) 30 °C, (e) 40 °C and (f) 50 °C.

Table S1: Sulfur concentration percent measured by Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDX) to compare the crystallization of the freestanding Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> NTs prepared at 50 °C anodization electrolyte after different annealing temperatures in Air atmosphere for 30 min.

Ta <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> NTs	Annealing temperature (°C)	Sulfur concentration (atom. %)
Freestanding	550	6.0
	750	3.0
	800	1.4
	800 <sup>a</sup>	>0.5

<sup>a</sup>The photocatalyst was annealed for 1 h at 800 °C in Air atmosphere