

## Supporting Information

### Proton conduction in sulfonated organic-inorganic hybrid monoliths with hierarchical pore structure

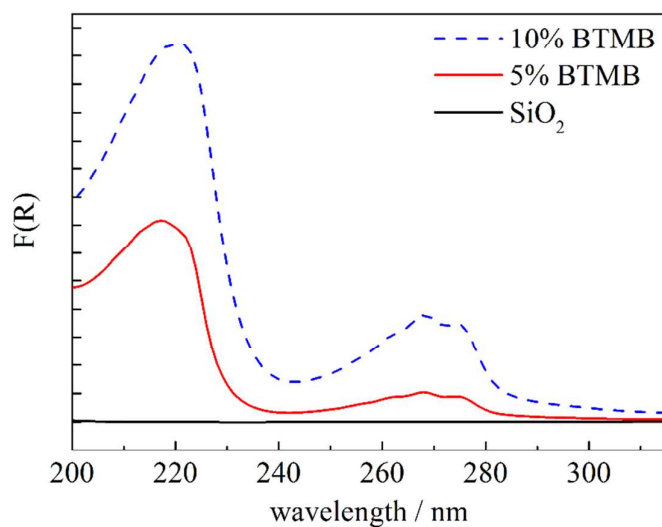
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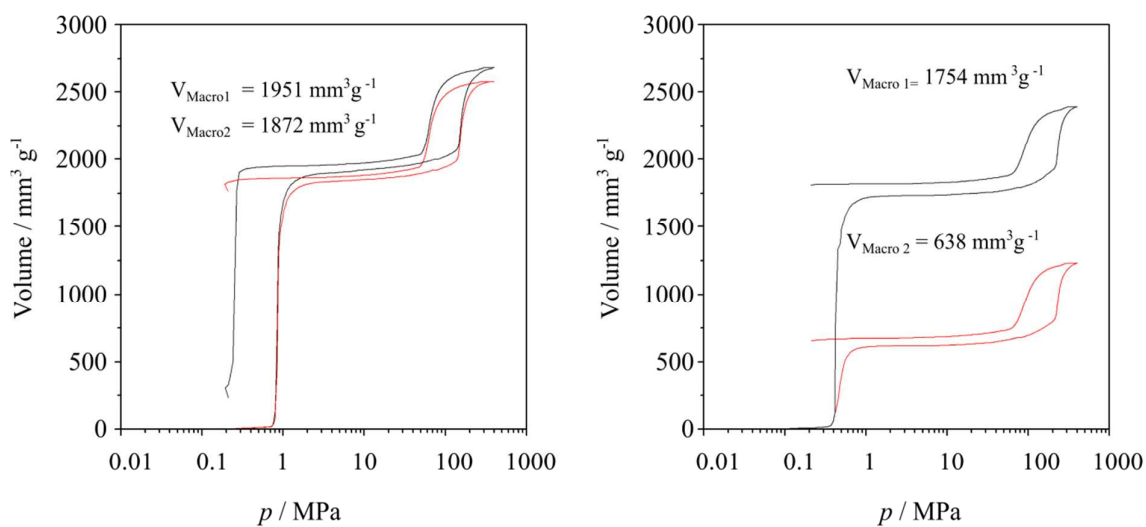
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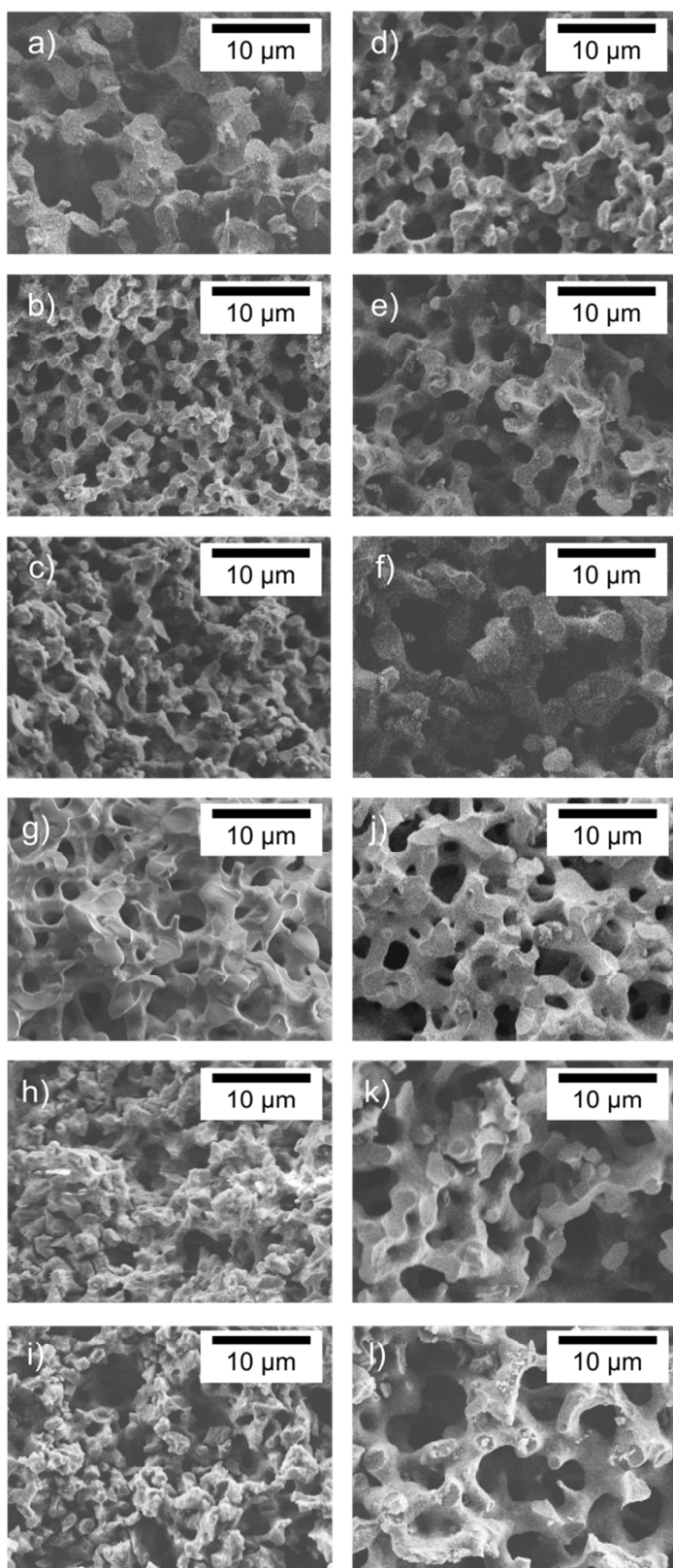
## Results



**Figure S1.** Absorption measurements of pure  $\text{SiO}_2$  compared to unsulfonated hybrid monoliths containing 5 or 10% BTMB.

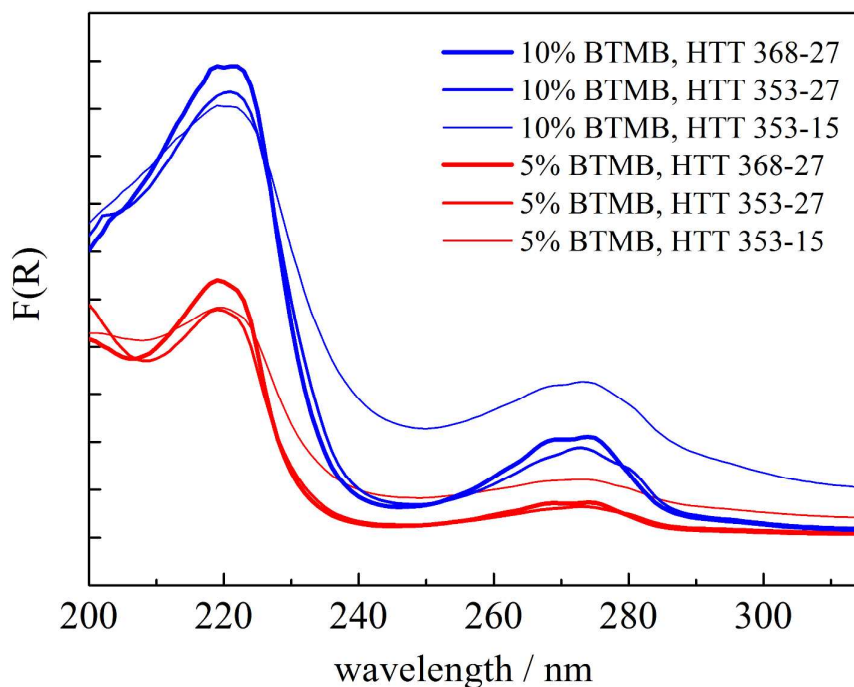


**Figure S2.** Mercury intrusion/extrusion curves of two consecutive cycle runs (1<sup>st</sup> run: black line, 2<sup>nd</sup> run: red line) of the samples HTT 368/27 containing 5% BTMB (left) and 10% BTMB (right), respectively

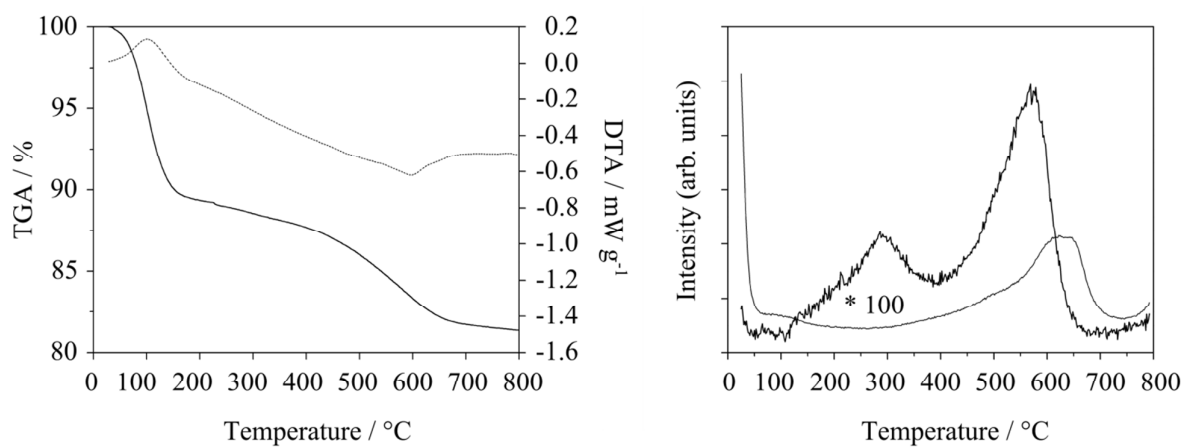


**Figure S3.** SEM images of solvothermally treated samples before sulfonation, a) 5% BTMB HTT 353/15, b) 5% BTMB HTT 353/27, c) 5% BTMB HTT 368/27, d) 10% BTMB HTT 353/15, e) 10% BTMB HTT 353/27, f) 10% BTMB HTT 368/27 and after sulfonation g) 5% BTMB HTT 353/15, h) 5% BTMB HTT 353/27, i) 5% BTMB HTT 368/27, j) 10% BTMB HTT 353/15, k) 10% BTMB HTT 353/27, l) 10% BTMB HTT 368/27.

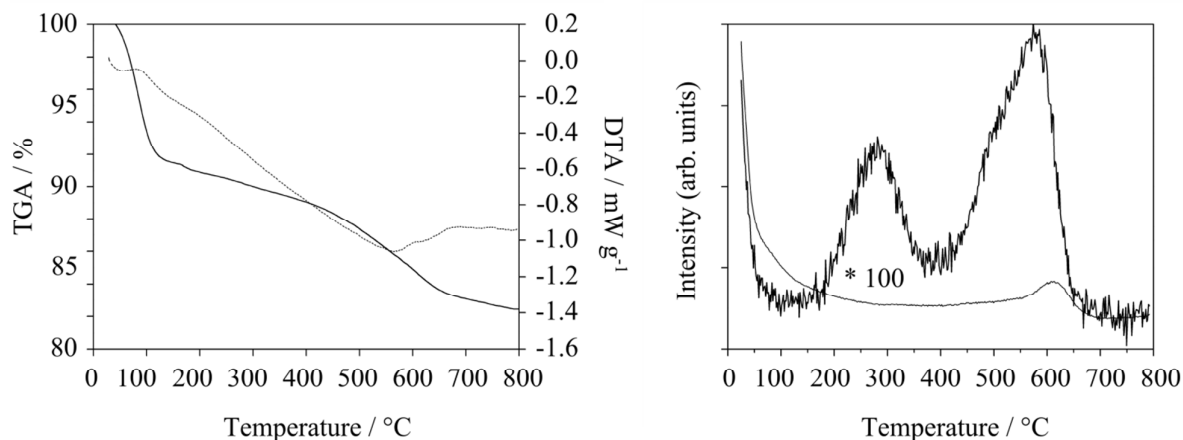
5% BTMB HTT 353/27, i) 5% BTMB HTT 368/27, j) 10% BTMB HTT 353/15, k) 10% BTMB HTT 353/27, l) 10% BTMB HTT 368/27.



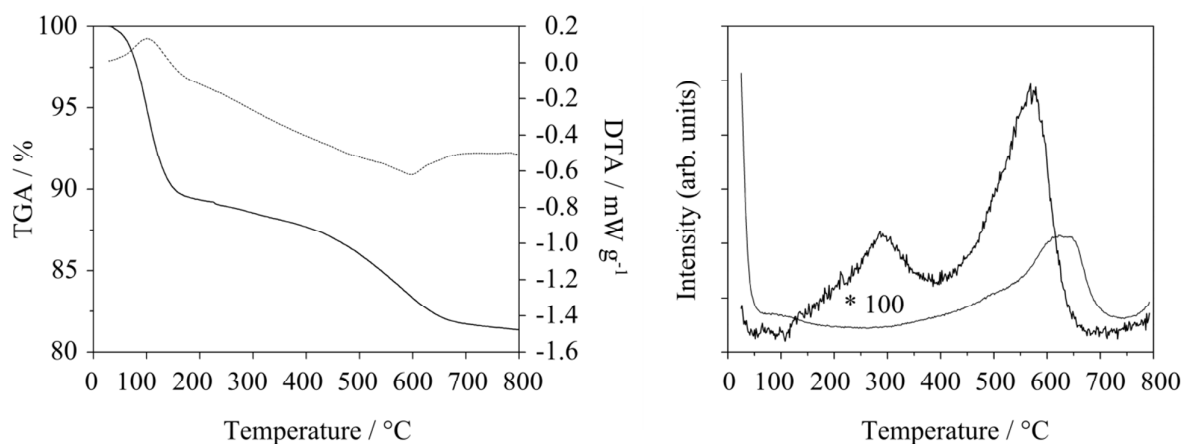
**Figure S4.** Absorption spectra of sulfonated hybrid monoliths.



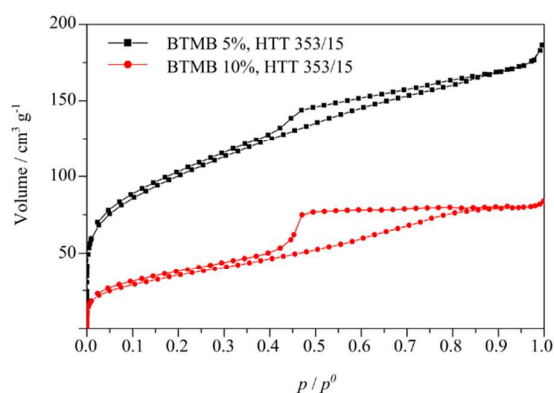
**Figure S5.** Left: TGA and DTA (dashed line) of monolithic hybrid (HTT 353/15) containing 5% BTMB; Right: according TG-MS traces with detected  $m/z = 44$  ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and  $m/z = 64$  ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) as annealing products from the decomposition of the sulfonated aromatic moiety.



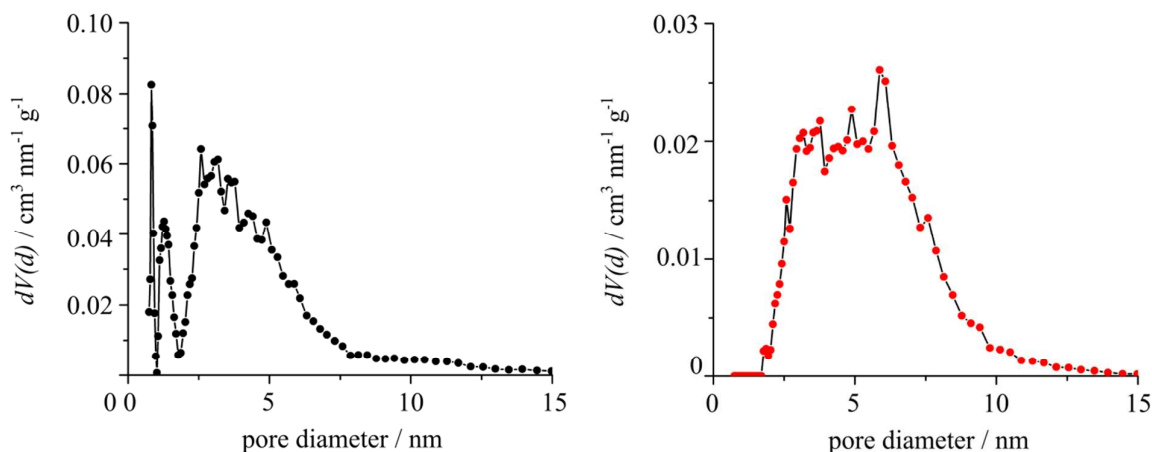
**Figure S6.** Left: TGA and DTA (dashed line) of monolithic hybrid (HTT 353/27) containing 5% BTMB; Right: according TG-MS traces with detected  $m/z = 44$  (CO<sub>2</sub>) and  $m/z = 64$  (SO<sub>2</sub>) as annealing products from the decomposition of the sulfonated aromatic moiety.



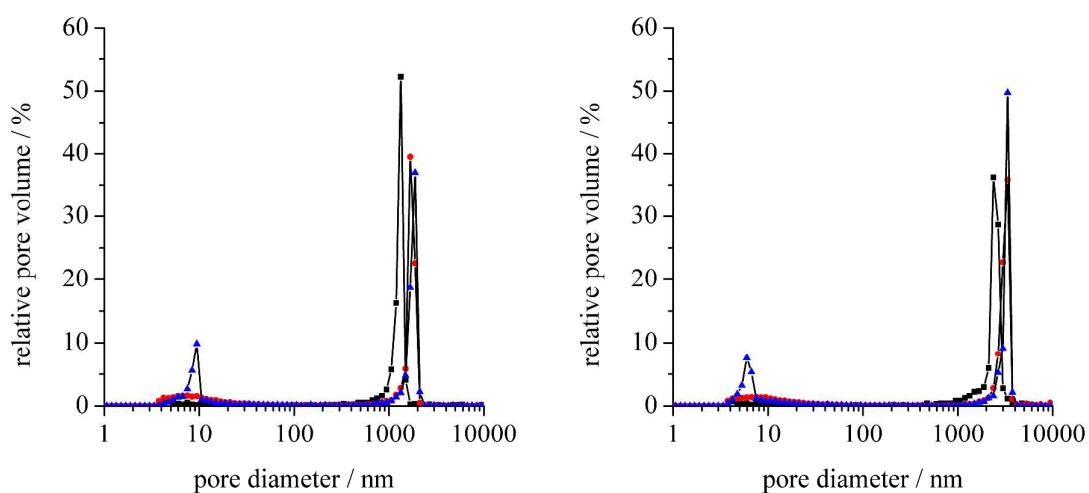
**Figure S7.** Left: TGA and DTA (dashed line) of monolithic hybrid (HTT 368/27) containing 5% BTMB; Right: according TG-MS traces with detected  $m/z = 44$  (CO<sub>2</sub>) and  $m/z = 64$  (SO<sub>2</sub>) as annealing products from the decomposition of the sulfonated aromatic moiety.



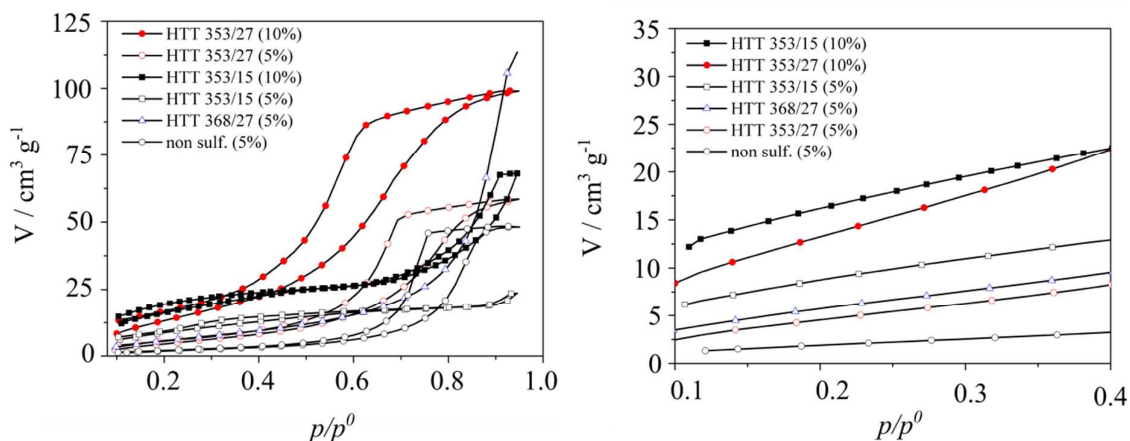
**Figure S8.** Low pressure N<sub>2</sub> physisorption isotherms from micropore analysis for hybrid monolith samples HTT 353/15 containing 5% BTMB (black symbols) and 10% BTMB (red symbols) after solvothermal treatment and sulfonation.



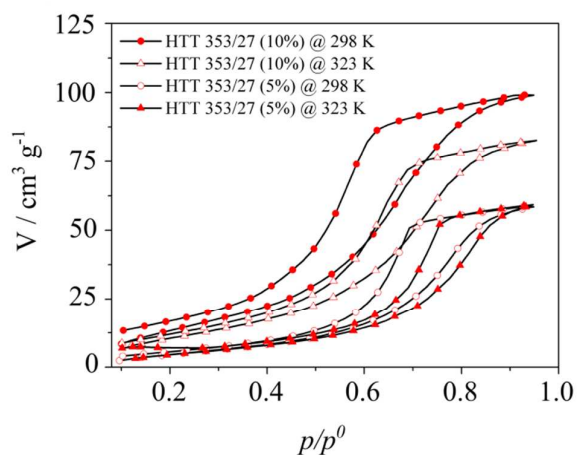
**Figure S9.** Pore size distribution from low pressure micropore analyses via NLDFT adsorption branch model for hybrid monolith samples HTT 353/15 containing 5% BTMB (left) and 10% BTMB (right) after solvothermal treatment and sulfonation.



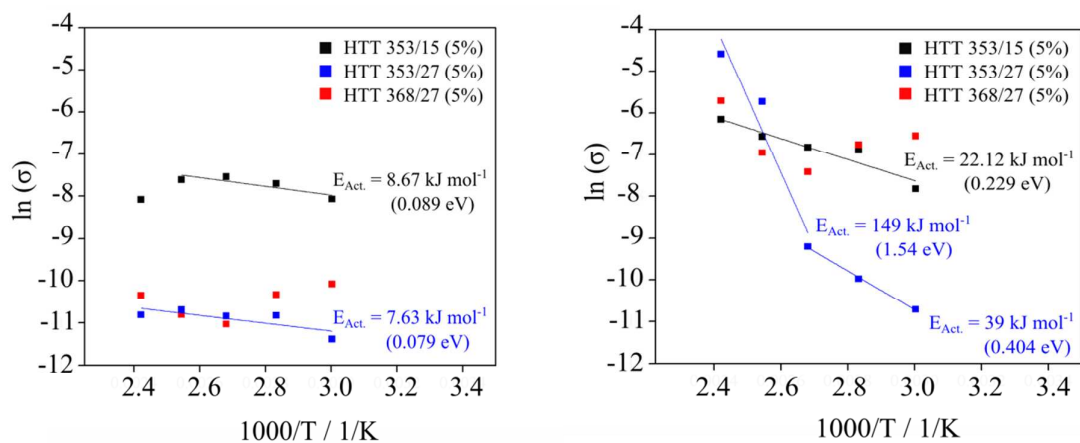
**Figure S10.** Mercury intrusion porosimetry for sulfonated meso-macroporous hybrid monoliths containing 5% BTMB (left) and 10% BTMB (right) after solvothermal treatment at (■) HTT 353/15, (●) HTT 353/27, (▲) HTT 368/27.



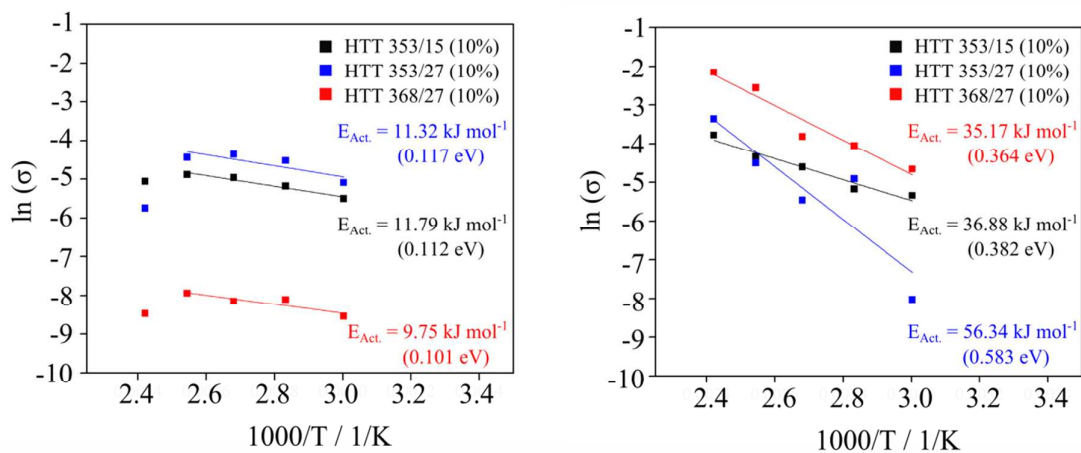
**Figure S11.** Water sorption isotherms of sulfonated and non-sulfonated monolithic hybrid materials performed at 298 K; full isotherms (left) and zoom in of adsorption branches at lower relative pressures (right).



**Figure S12.** Water sorption isotherms of sulfonated monolithic hybrid materials HTT 353/27 at different temperatures.



**Figure S13.** Arrhenius plots with activation energies of sulfonated hybrid monoliths containing 5% BTMB at 50% relative humidity (left) and 100% relative humidity (right).



**Figure S14.** Arrhenius plots with activation energies of sulfonated hybrid monoliths containing 10% BTMB at 50% relative humidity (left) and 100% relative humidity (right).

**Table S1.** Results from CHNS elemental analyses

Sample name	C (%)	H (%)	N (%)	S (%)	S (mmol g <sup>-1</sup> )
TMOS/BTMB (95/5), SO <sub>3</sub> H	2.13	1.85	0.01	0.89	0.218
HTT 353/15					
TMOS/BTMB (95/5), SO <sub>3</sub> H	2.02	1.33	0.02	0.65	0.131
HTT 353/27					
TMOS/BTMB (95/5), SO <sub>3</sub> H	2.35	0.93	0.01	0.72	0.130
HTT 368/27					
TMOS/BTMB (90/10), SO <sub>3</sub> H	3.08	2.09	0.01	2.07	0.647
HTT 353/15					
TMOS/BTMB (90/10), SO <sub>3</sub> H	3.17	1.60	0.00	1.76	0.548
HTT 353/27					
TMOS/BTMB (90/10), SO <sub>3</sub> H	3.97	1.15	0.01	1.04	0.324
HTT 368/27					