

Synthesis and Characterization of Tetraphenylethene AIEgen-Based Push-Pull Chromophores for Photothermal Applications: Could the Cycloaddition – Retroelectrocyclization Click Reaction Make any Molecule Photothermally Active?

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I. IR, NMR and MS spectroscopies

1. Bz-alkyne

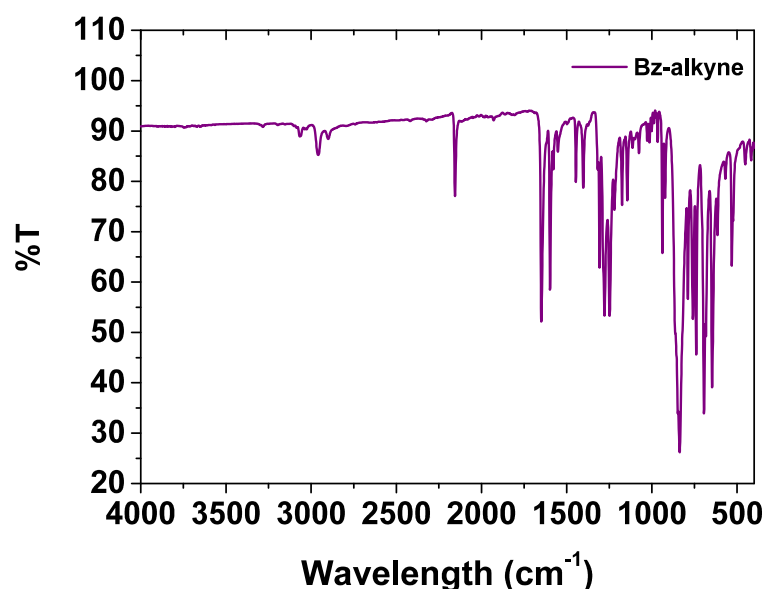


Figure S1. FTIR-ATR spectrum of Bz-alkyne.

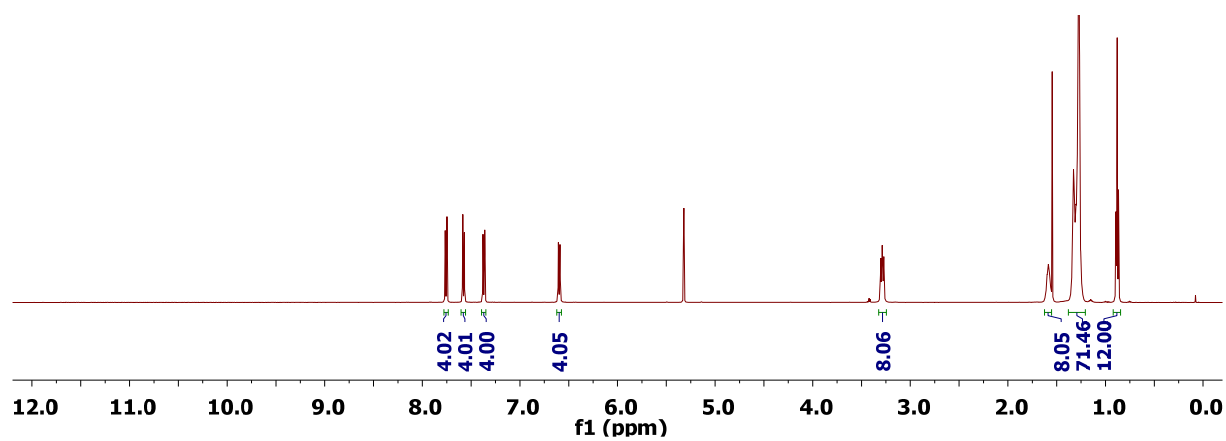


Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298K) of Bz-alkyne.

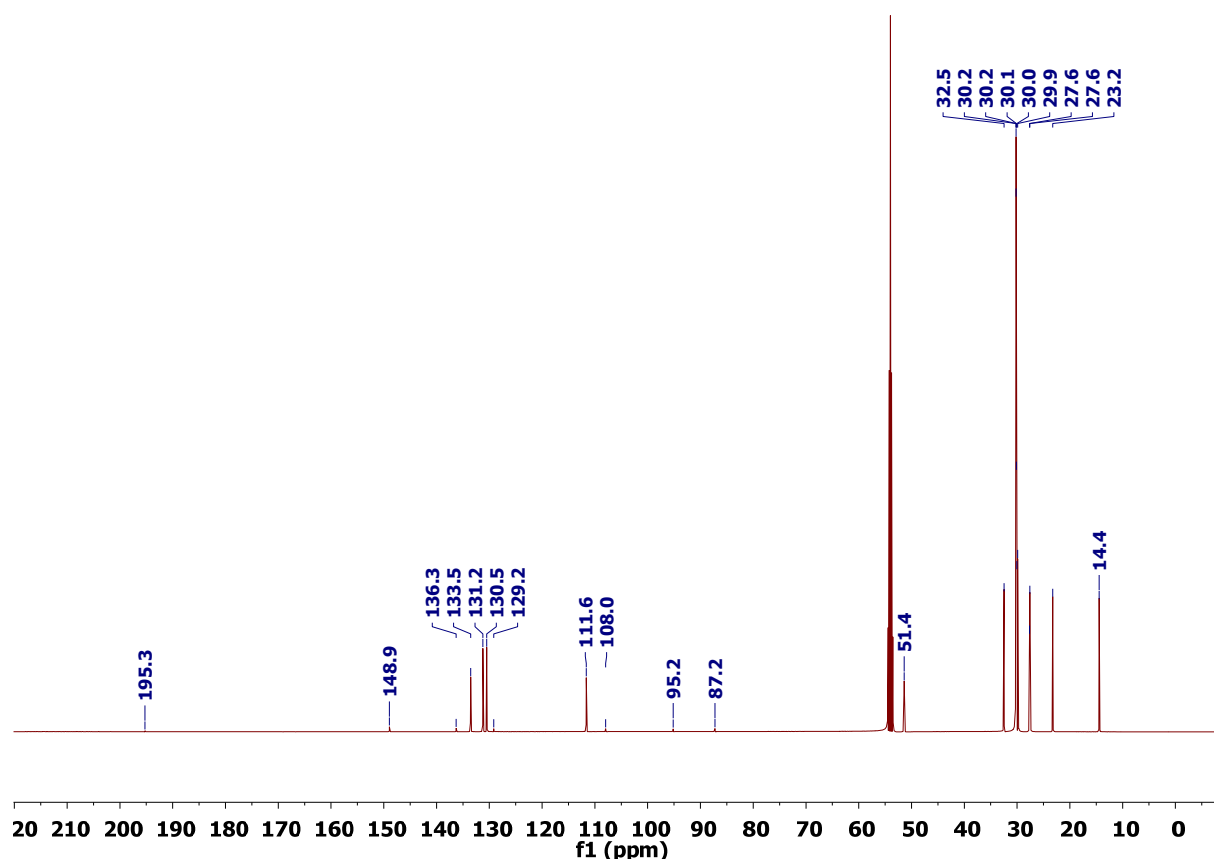


Figure S3. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298K) of Bz-alkyne.

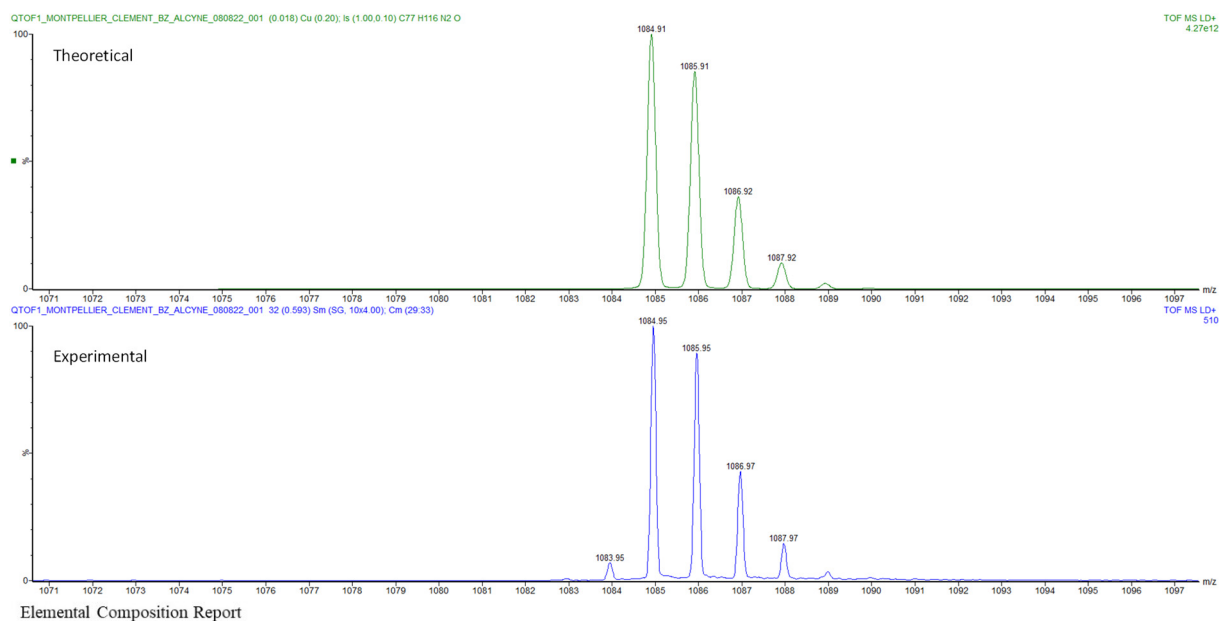


Figure S4. High resolution MALDI-TOF spectrum of **Bz-alkyne** (matrix: DCTB/NaI).

2. TPE-alkyne

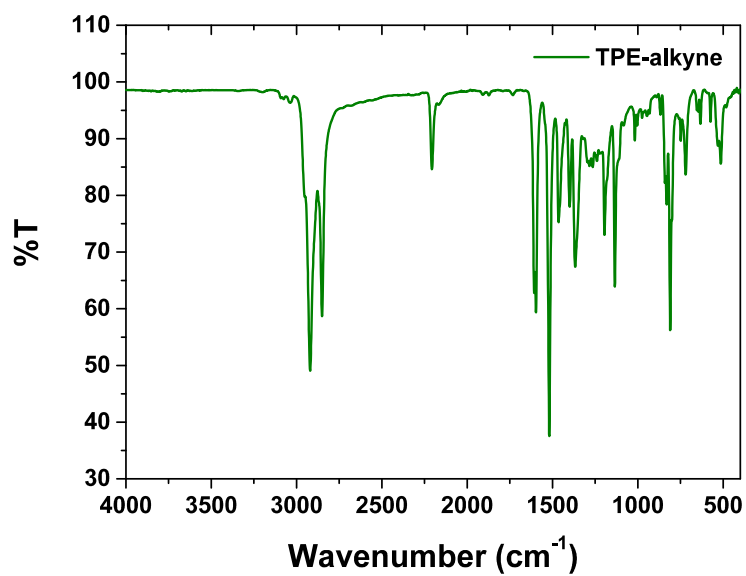


Figure S5. FTIR-ATR spectrum of TPE-alkyne.

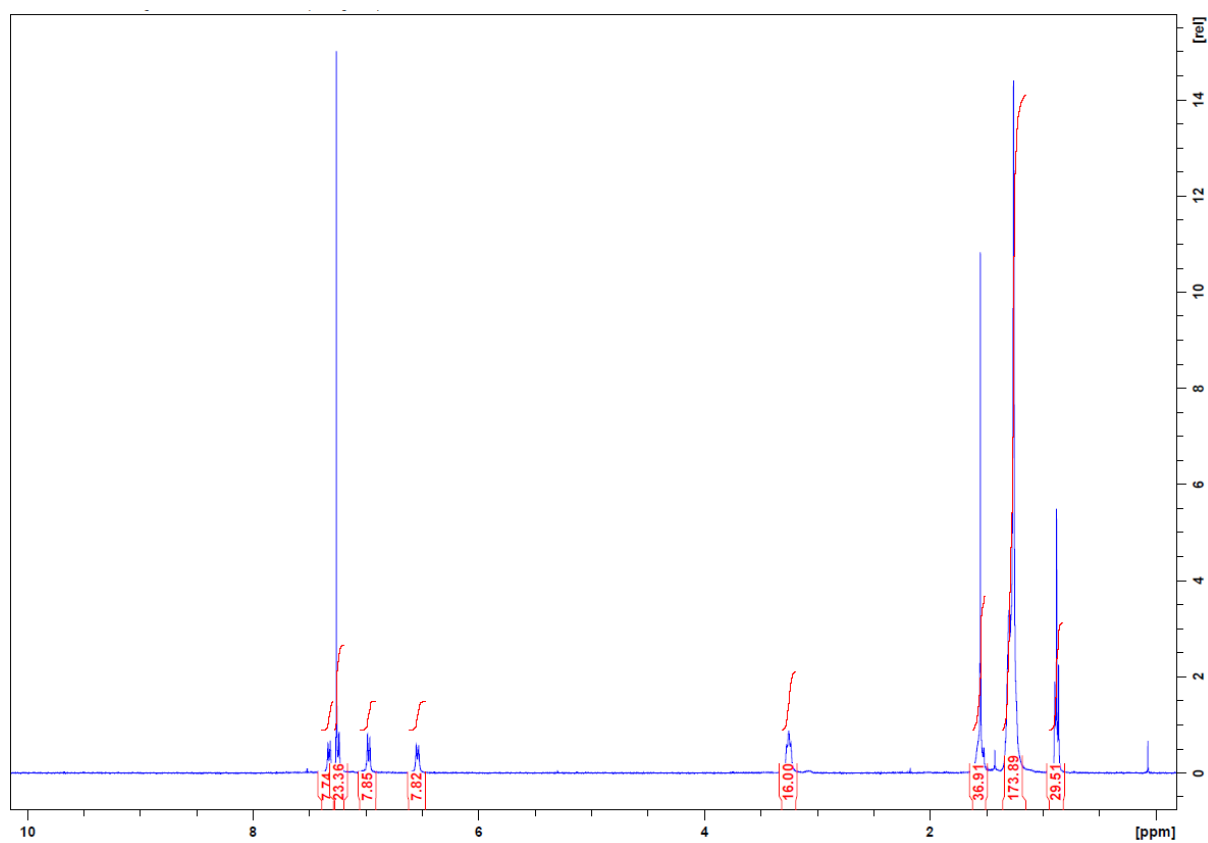


Figure S6. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) of TPE-alkyne.

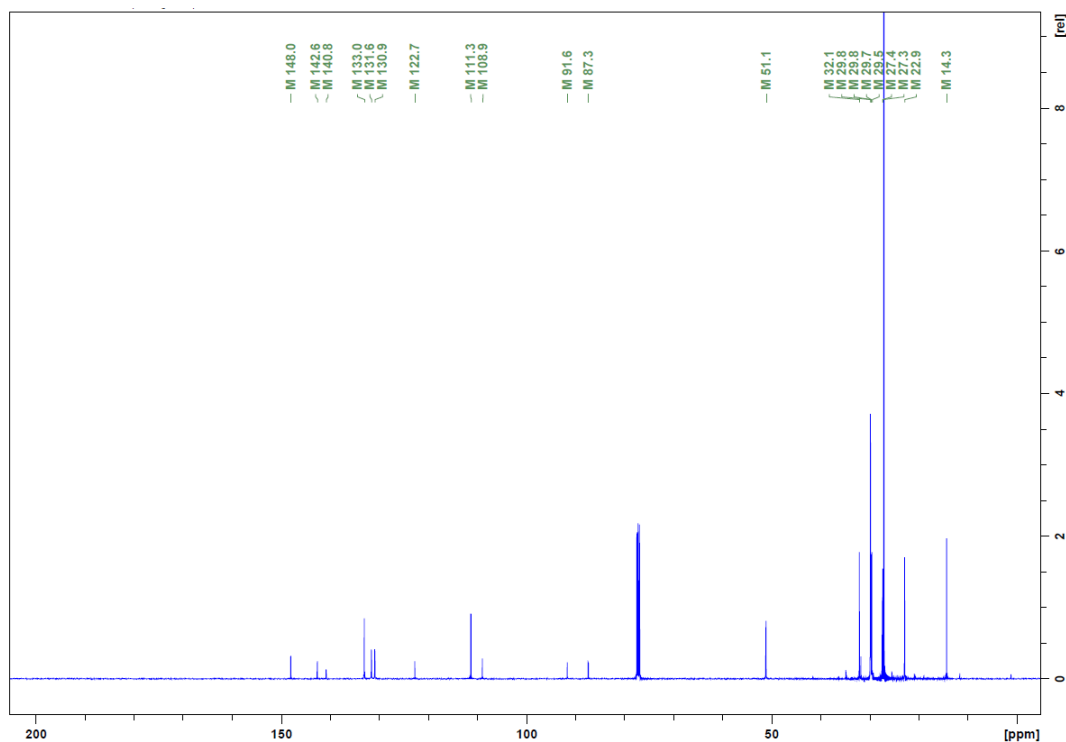
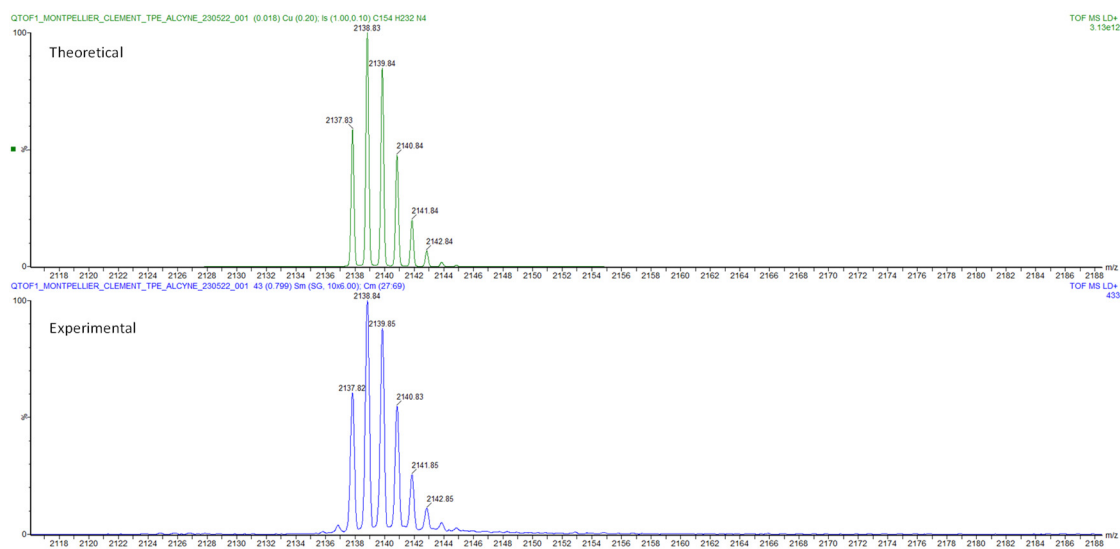


Figure S7. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298K) of TPE-alkyne.



Elemental Composition Report

Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 25.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 150.0

Element prediction: Off

Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions

21 formula(e) evaluated with 2 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass)

Elements Used:

C: 20-250 H: 0-250 N: 4-4

Minimum:

Maximum:

Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Norm	Conf(%)	Formula
2137.8262	2137.8277	-1.5	-0.7	41.0	27.8	0.026	97.39	C154 H232 N4
	2137.8026	23.6	11.0	117.5	31.4	3.647	2.61	C165 H101 N4

Figure S8. High Resolution MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of TPE-alkyne (matrix: DCTB/NaI).

3. TPE-TCNE

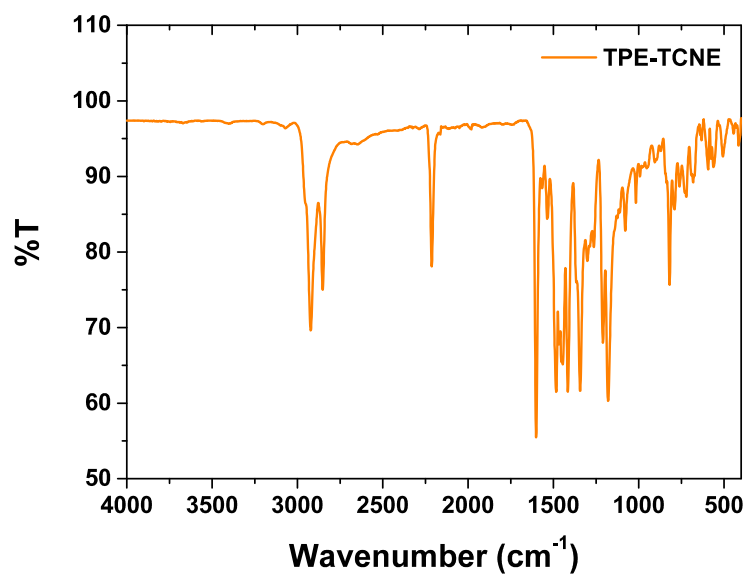


Figure S9. FTIR-ATR spectrum of TPE-TCNE.

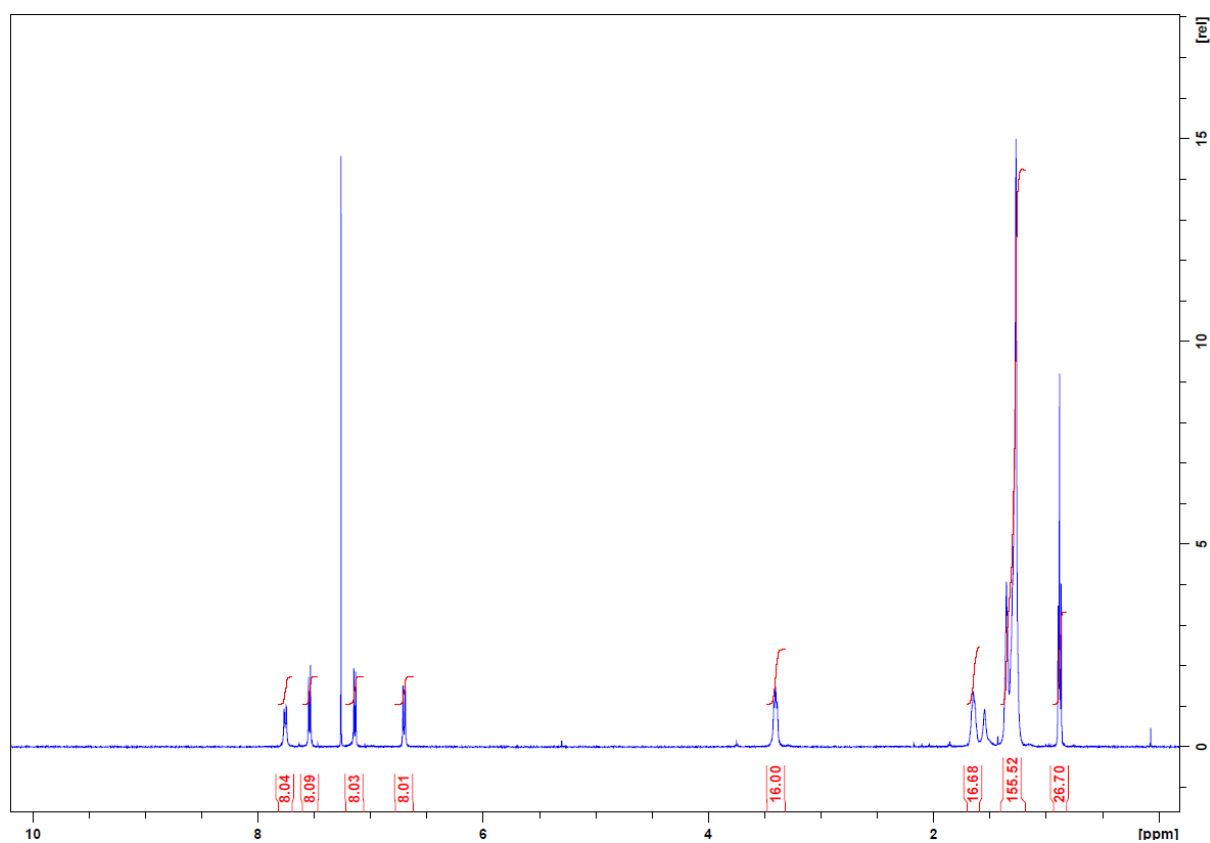


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) of TPE-TCNE.

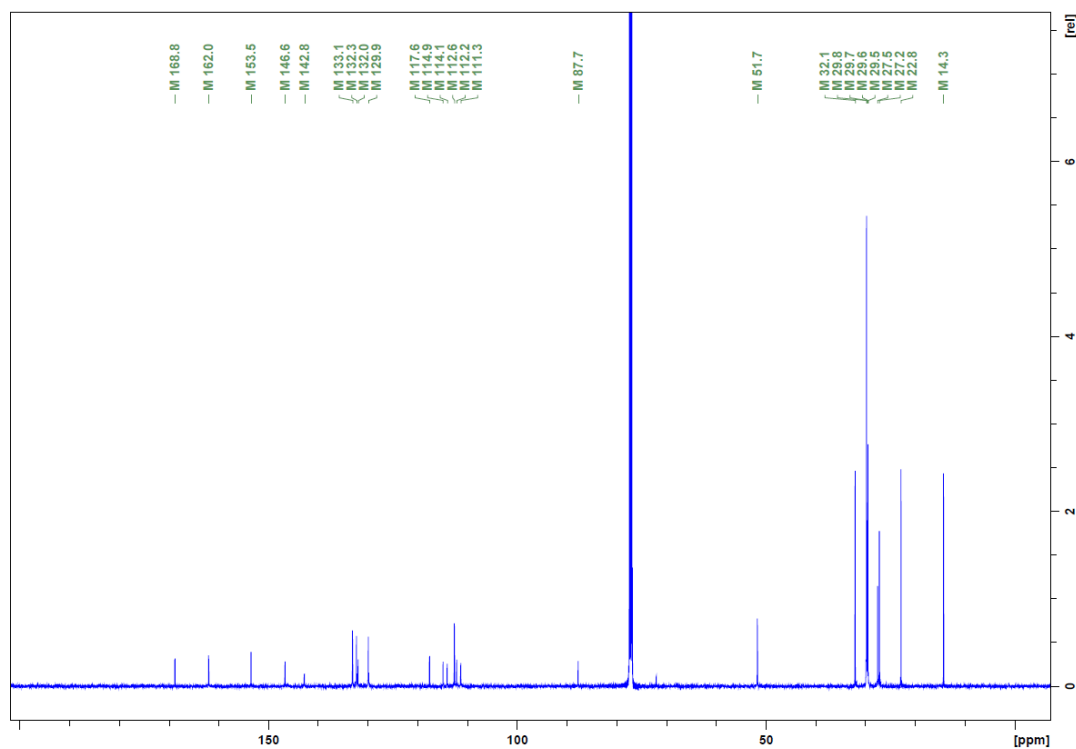
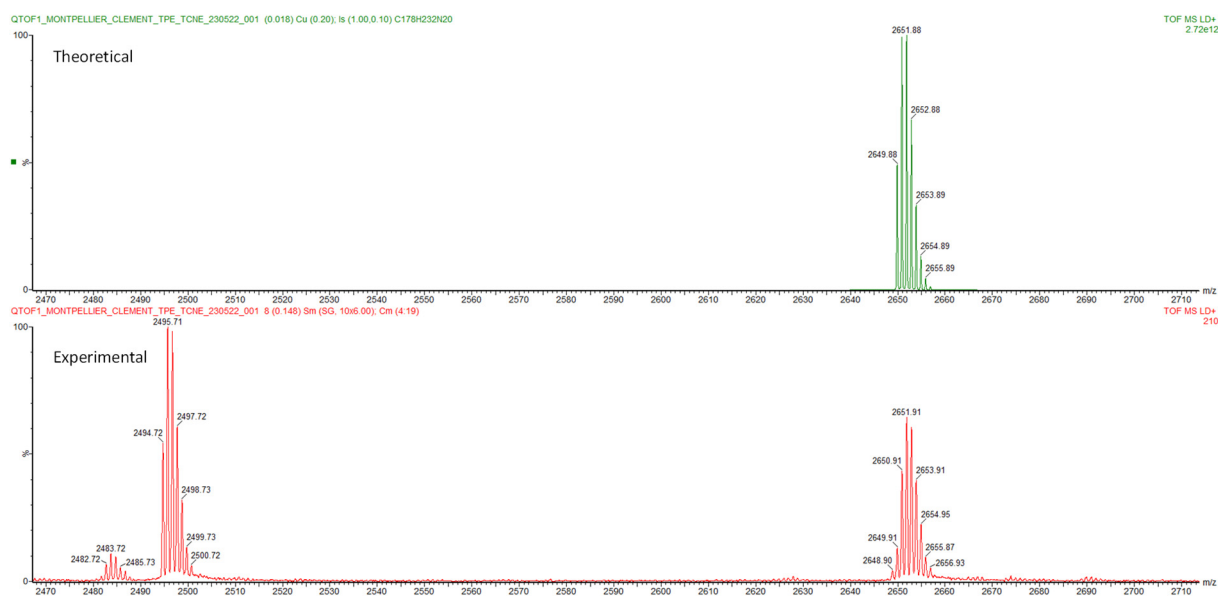


Figure S11. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298K) of TPE-TCNE.



Elemental Composition Report

Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 25.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 200.0

Element prediction: Off

Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions

21 formula(e) evaluated with 2 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass)

Elements Used:

C: 20-250 H: 0-250 N: 20-20

Minimum:

Maximum:

Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Norm	Conf(%)	Formula
2649.8757	2649.8769	-1.2	-0.5	73.0	20.8	0.586	55.63	C178 H232 N20
2649.8518		23.9	9.0	149.5	21.0	0.813	44.37	C189 H101 N20

Figure S12. High resolution MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of TPE-TCNE (matrix: DCTB/NaI).

4. TPE-TCNQ

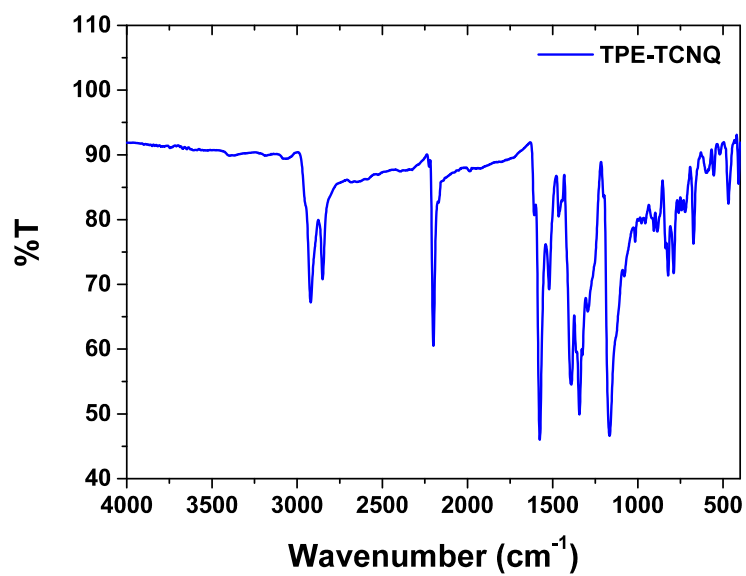


Figure S13. FTIR-ATR spectrum of TPE-TCNQ.

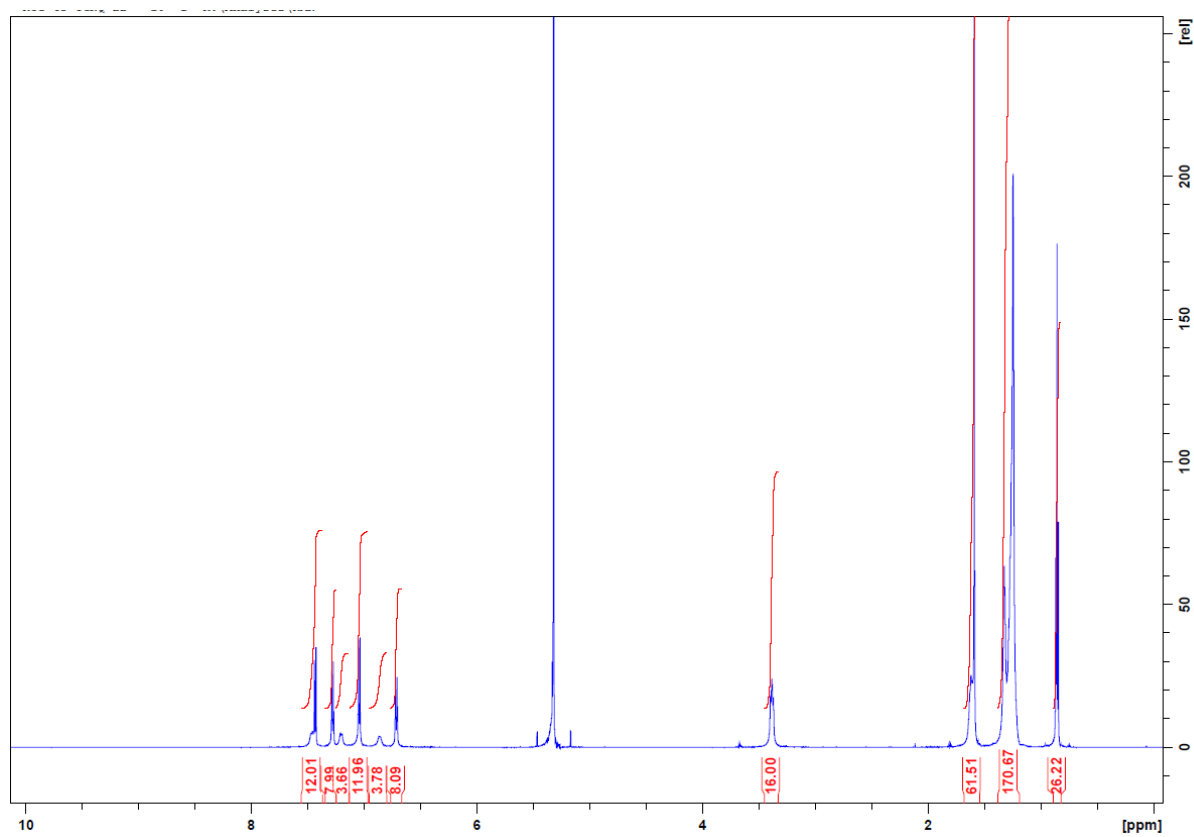


Figure S14. ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 273K) of TPE-TCNQ.

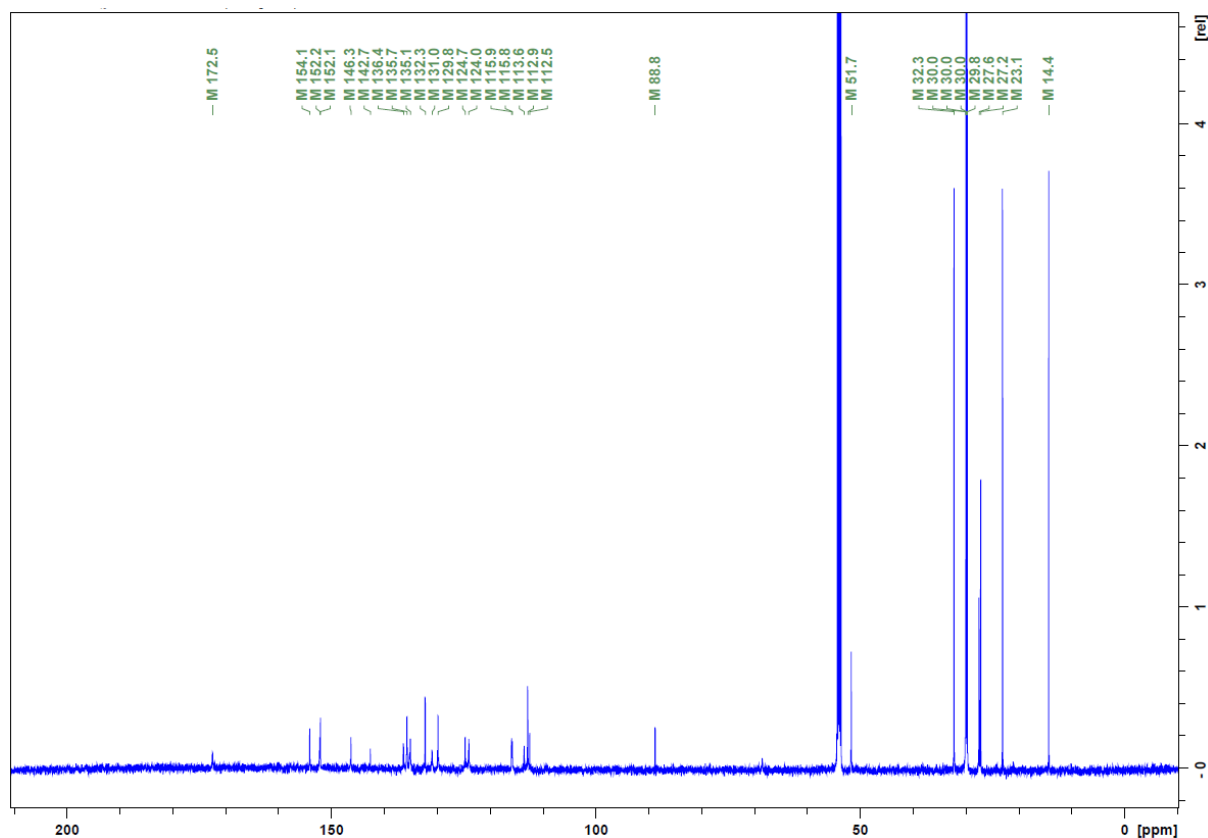


Figure S15. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (151 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 273K) of TPE-TCNQ.

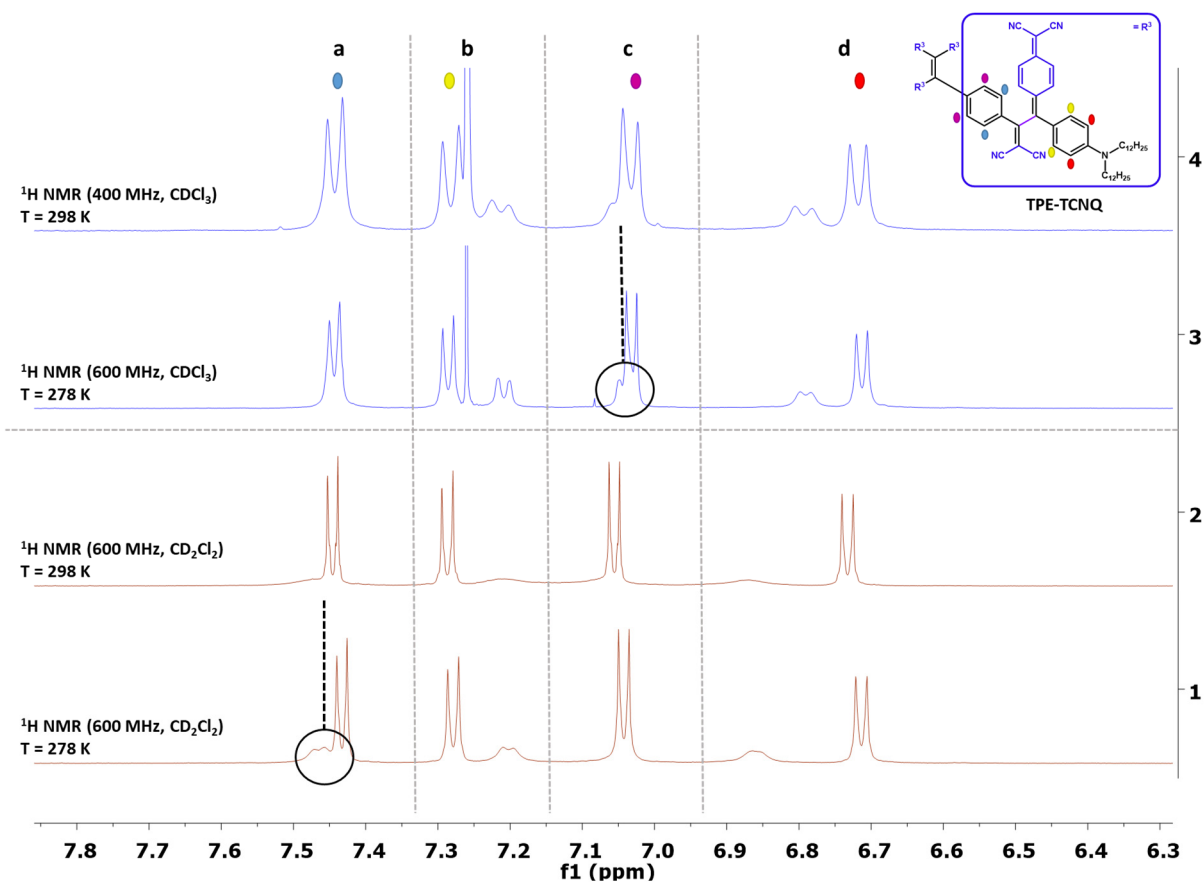


Figure S16. ^1H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , blue, 4 and 3) and ^1H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl_3 , red, 2 and 1) of TPE-TCNQ at 298 K and 278 K.

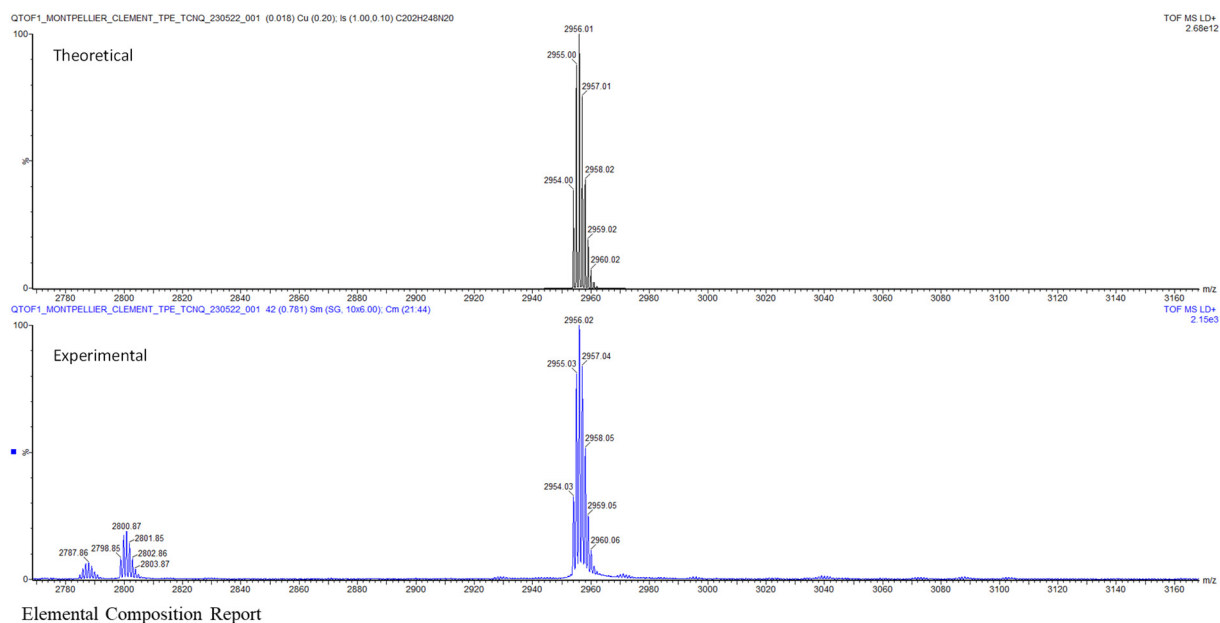


Figure S17. High resolution MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of TPE-TCNQ (matrix: DCTB/NaI).

5. TPE-F₄-TCNQ

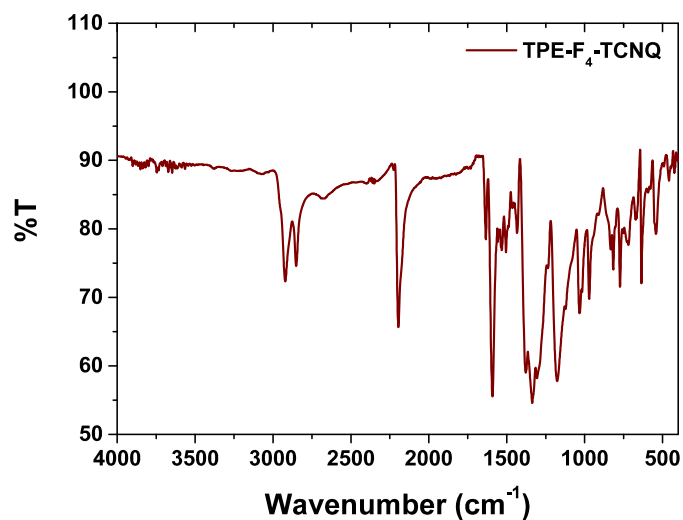


Figure S18. FTIR-ATR spectrum of TPE-F₄-TCNQ.

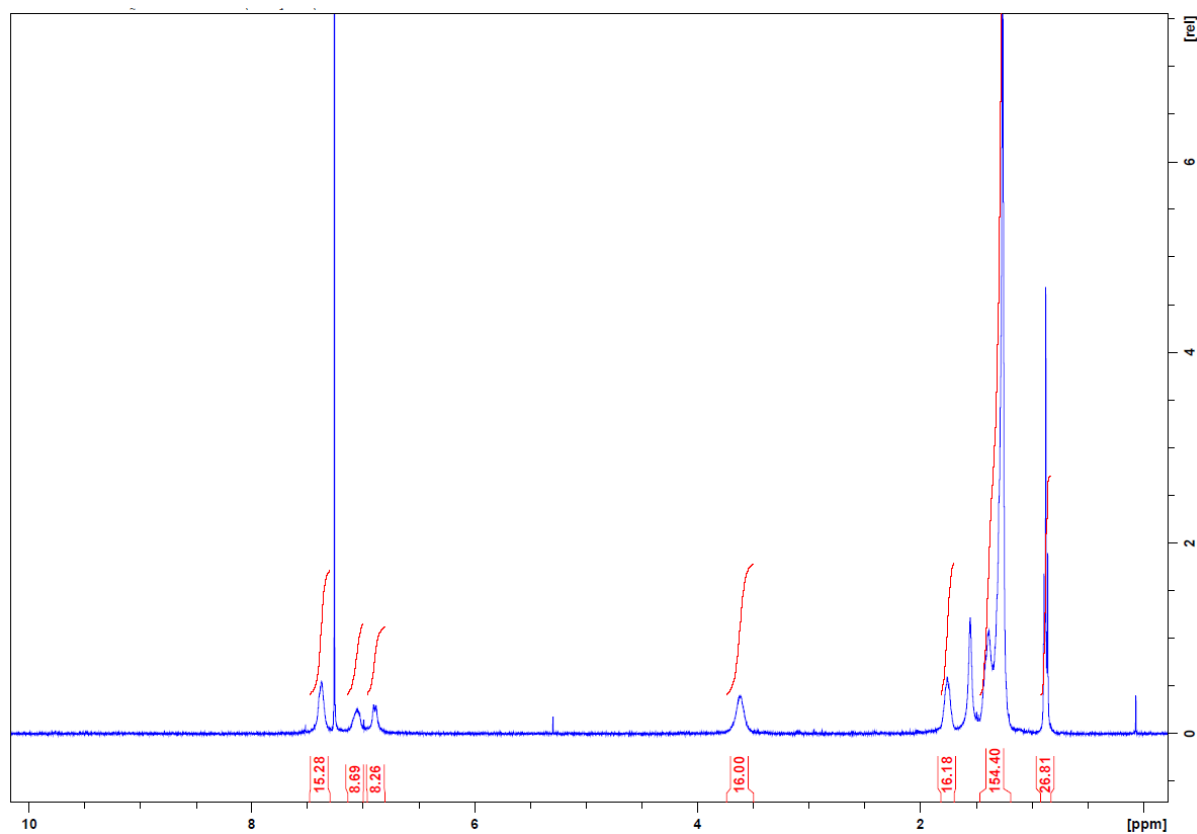


Figure S19. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) of TPE-F₄-TCNQ.

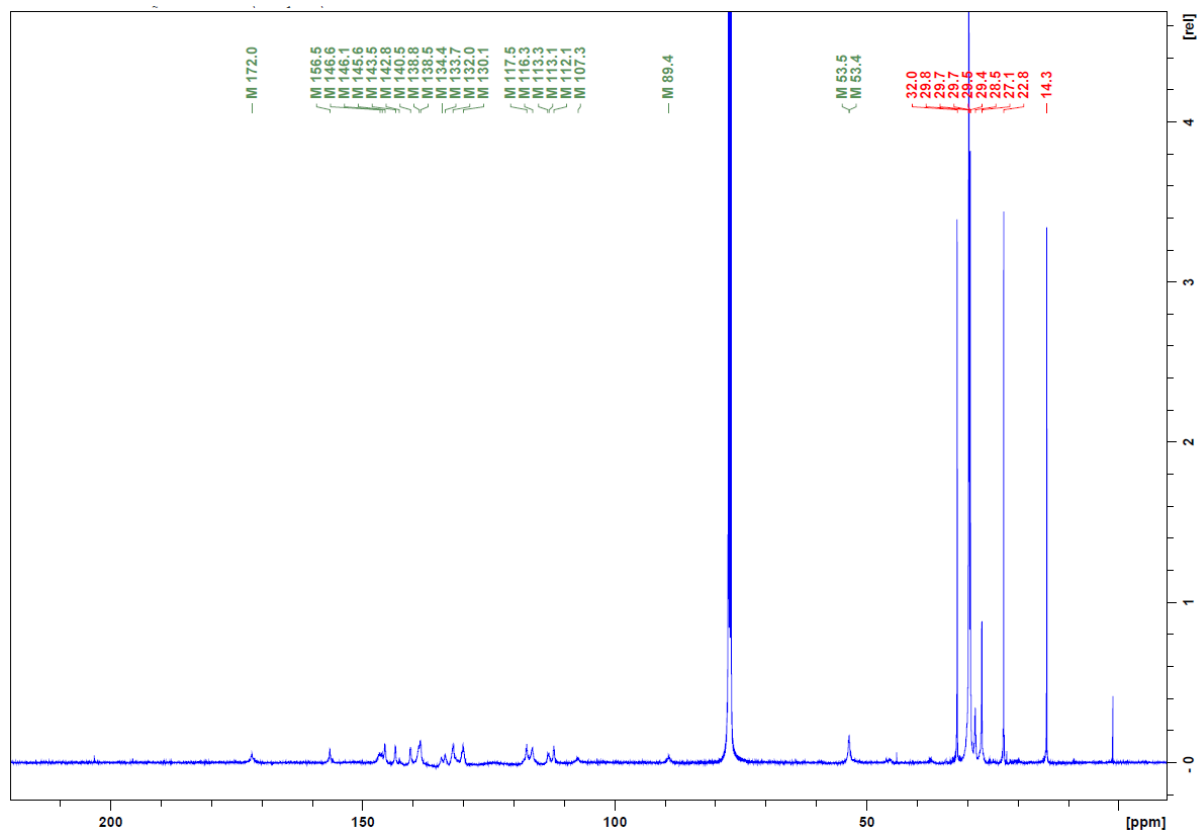


Figure S20. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum (126 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) of TPE-F₄-TCNQ.

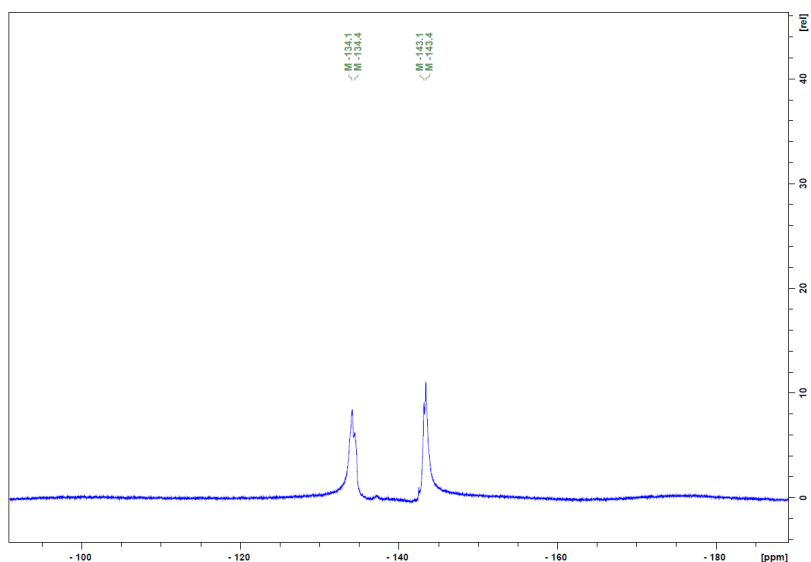
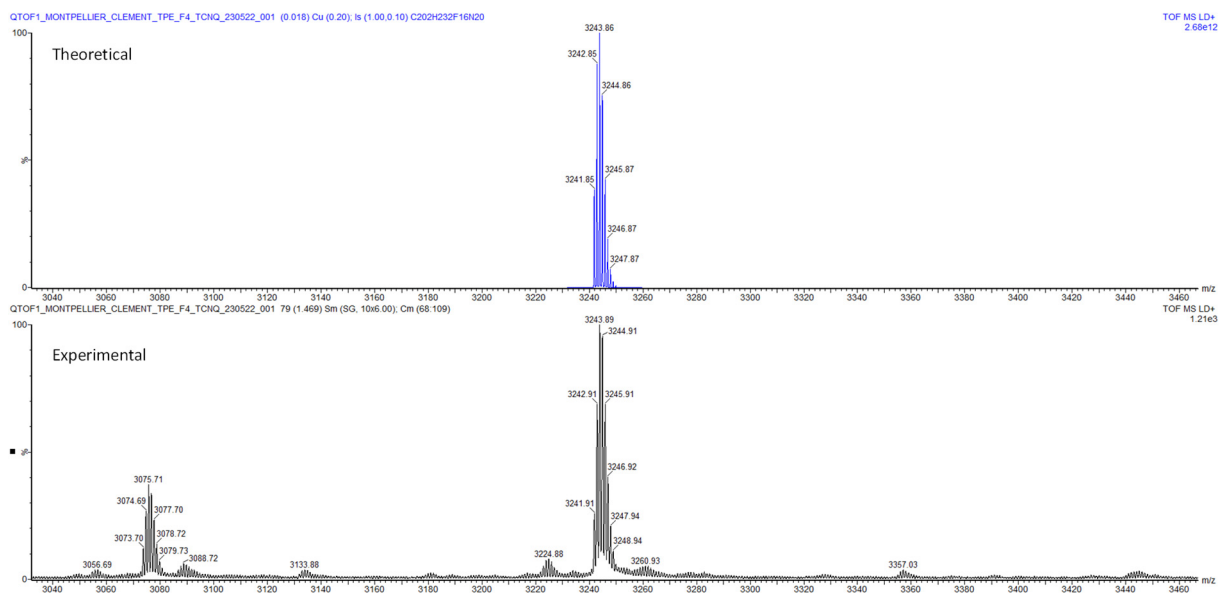


Figure S21. $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (376 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298K) of TPE- F_4 -TCNQ.



Elemental Composition Report

Single Mass Analysis

Tolerance = 25.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 200.0

Element prediction: Off

Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions

21 formula(e) evaluated with 3 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass)

Elements Used:

C: 20-250 H: 0-250 N: 20-20 F: 16-16

Minimum:

Maximum:

Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Norm	Conf(%)	Formula
3241.8586	3241.8513	7.3	2.3	89.0	21.5	1.084	33.83	C202 H232 N20 F16
	3241.8263	32.3	10.0	165.5	21.0	0.556	57.33	C213 H101 N20 F16
	3241.9202	-61.6	-19.0	158.5	22.9	2.426	8.84	C212 H113 N20 F16

Figure S22. High resolution MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of TPE- F_4 -TCNQ (matrix: DCTB/NaI).

II. Absorption and fluorescence spectroscopies

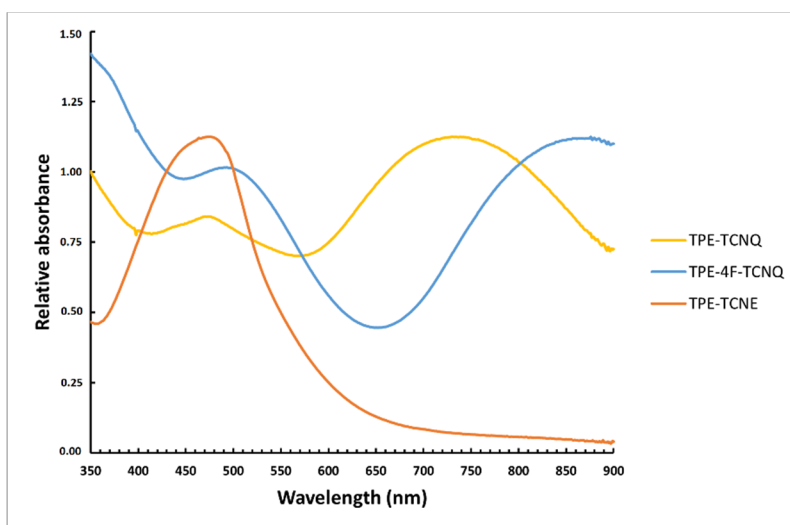


Figure S23. Absorption spectra of TPE adducts as thin films on quartz substrate.

III. Study of AIE behavior

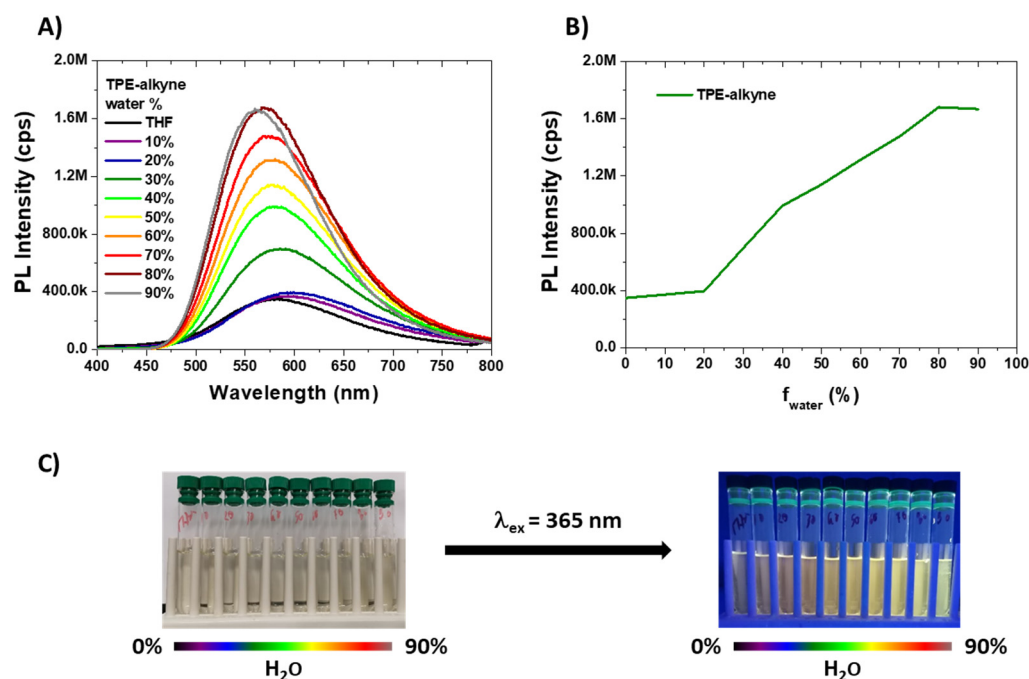


Figure S24. A) emission spectra ($\lambda_{\text{exc.}} = 360 \text{ nm}$) of TPE-Alkyne in various THF / water mixtures ($C = 6.10^{-6} \text{ mol.L}^{-1}$); B) variation of the relative emission intensity vs. water fraction (I_{THF} : Intensity of the fluorescence of TPE-Alkyne at the maximum emission in THF and I : Intensity of the fluorescence of TPE-Alkyne at the maximum emission in various THF / water mixtures) and C) photographs of the corresponding mixtures under natural (left) and UV (left, 365 nm) light illumination.

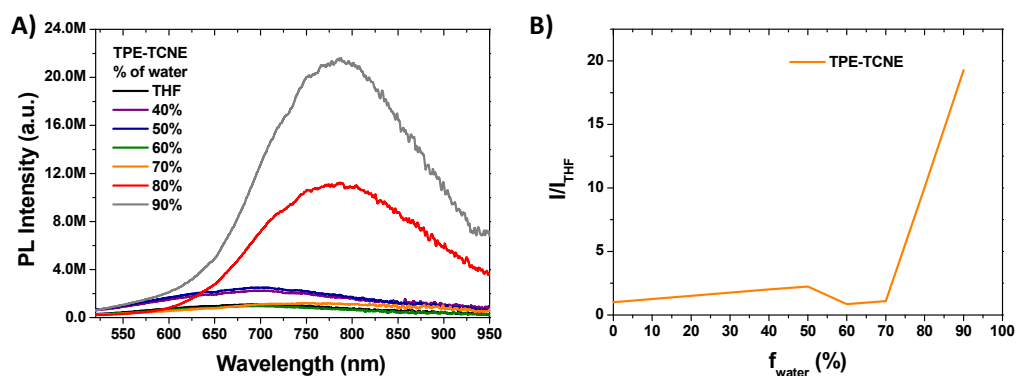


Figure S25. A) emission spectra ($\lambda_{\text{exc.}} = 480 \text{ nm}$) of TPE-TCNE in various THF / water mixtures ($C = 5.3 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol.L}^{-1}$) ; B) variation of the relative emission intensity vs. water fraction.

IV. pH-dependent emission studies

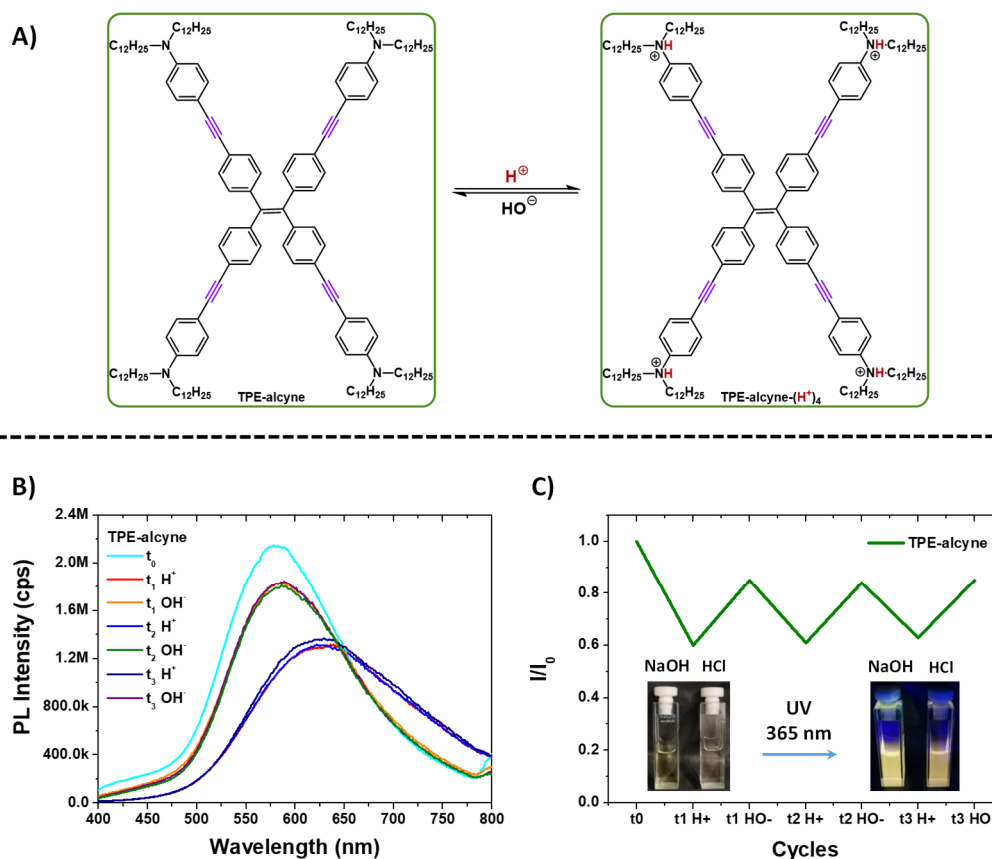


Figure S26. A) Reversible proposed acidification scheme for TPE-alkyne in THF/water solution ; B) variation of the emission spectra as a function of the pH (H^+ : addition of an aqueous HCl solution up to $\text{pH} = 1 \pm 0.1$ and OH^- : addition of an aqueous NaOH solution up to $\text{pH} = 13 \pm 0.1$) ($C = 1.10^{-5} \text{ mol.L}^{-1}$, $\lambda_{\text{exc.}} = 360 \text{ nm}$) and C) drawing of the relative emission intensity variation upon pH cycling and corresponding images under natural and UV (365 nm) light illumination.

V. Electrochemistry

1. TPE-TCNE

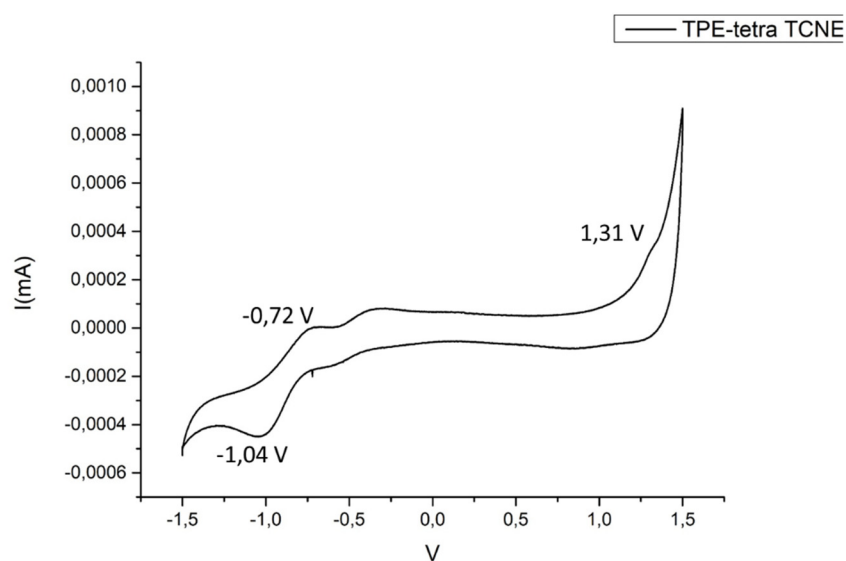


Figure S27. Cyclic voltammogram of **TPE-TCNE** in 0.2 M solution of Bu_4NPF_6 in CH_2Cl_2 (scan rate: 100 mV.s^{-1} ; electrode potential vs. SCE (saturated calomel electrode)).

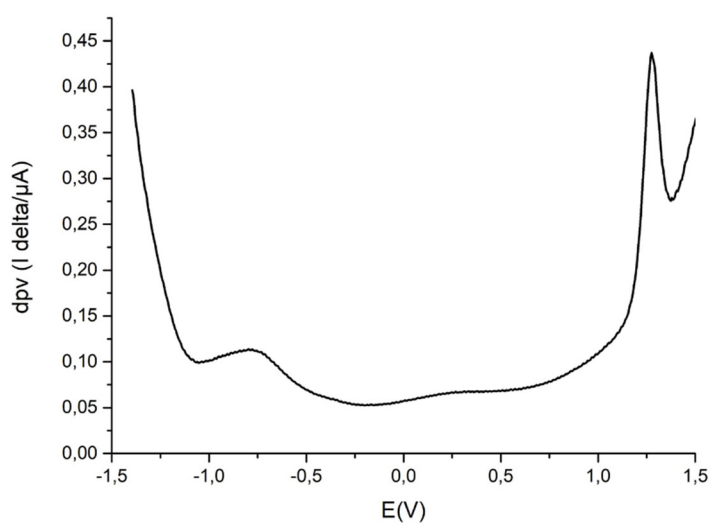


Figure S28. Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) of **TPE-TCNE** in 0.2 M solution of Bu_4NPF_6 in CH_2Cl_2 (scan rate: 100 mV.s^{-1} ; electrode potential vs. SCE).

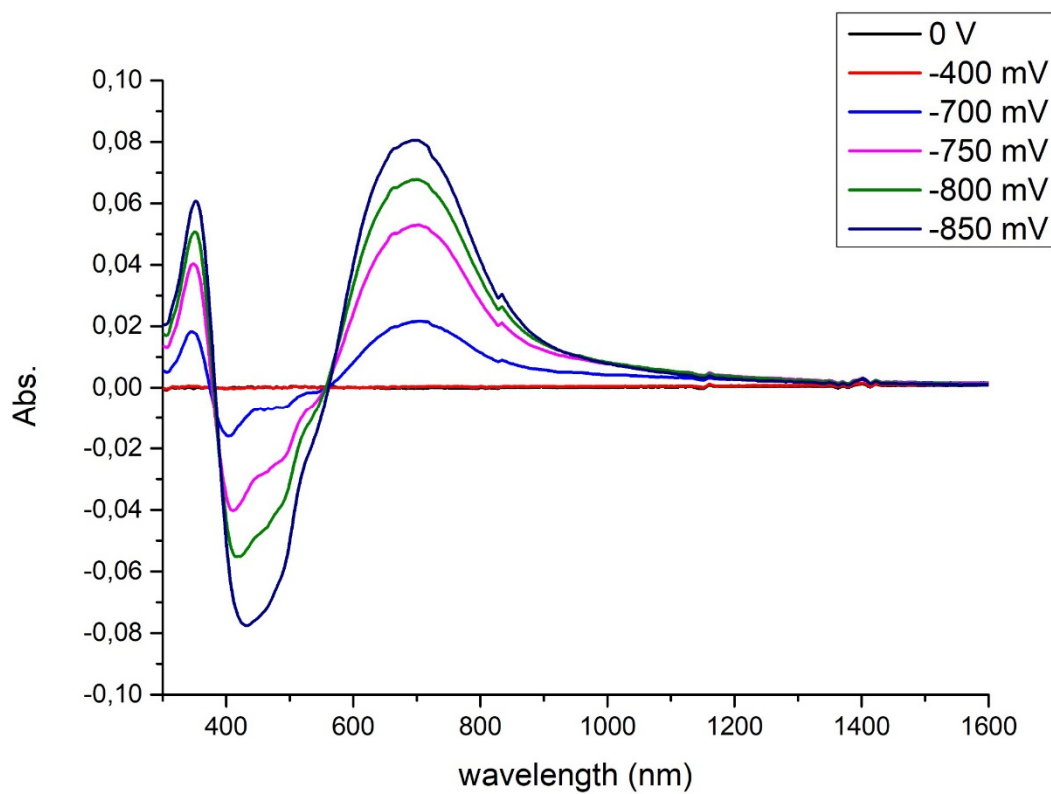


Figure S29. Differential absorption spectra obtained during the reduction of **TPE-TCNE** in 0.2 M solution of Bu_4NPF_6 in CH_2Cl_2 (scan rate: $100 \text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$; electrode potential vs. SCE).

2. TPE-TCNQ

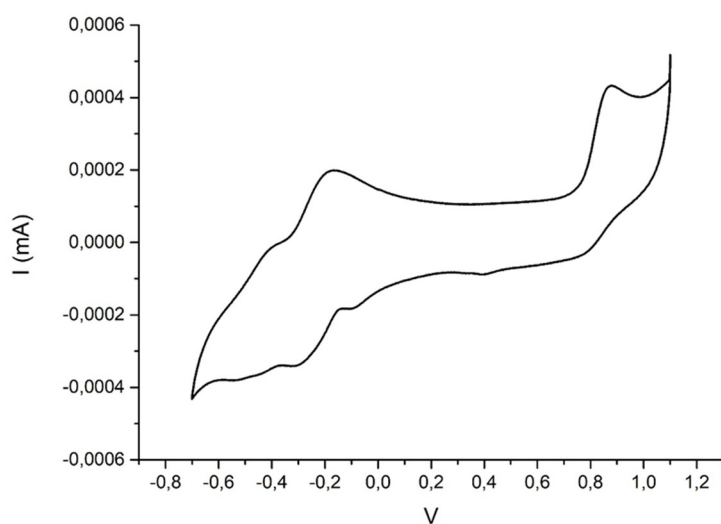


Figure S30. Cyclic voltammogram of **TPE-TCNQ** in 0.2 M solution of Bu_4NPF_6 in CH_2Cl_2 (scan rate: $100 \text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$; electrode potential vs. SCE).

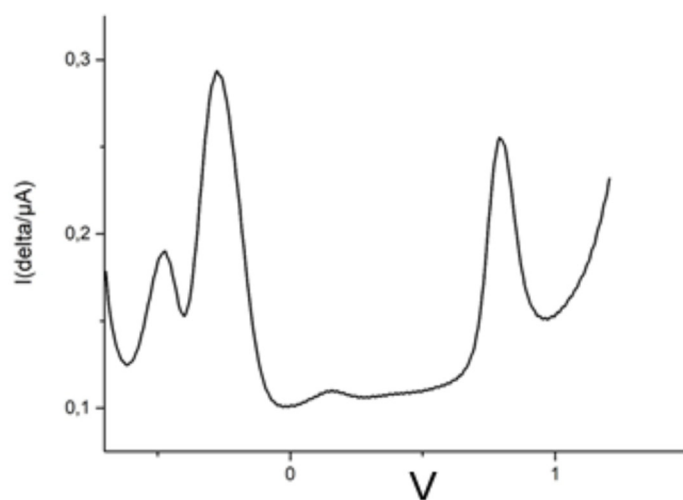


Figure S31. Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) of **TPE-TCNQ** in 0.2 M solution of Bu_4NPF_6 in CH_2Cl_2 (scan rate: $100 \text{ mV}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$; electrode potential vs. SCE).

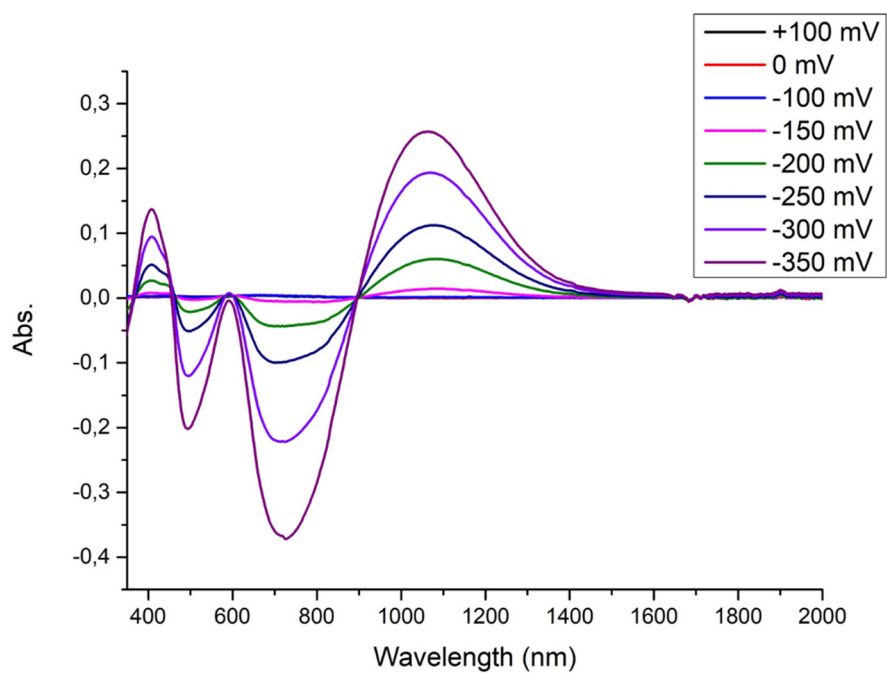


Figure S32. Differential absorption spectra obtained during the reduction of **TPE-TCNQ** in 0.2 M solution of Bu_4NPF_6 in CH_2Cl_2 .

3. TPE-F₄-TCNQ

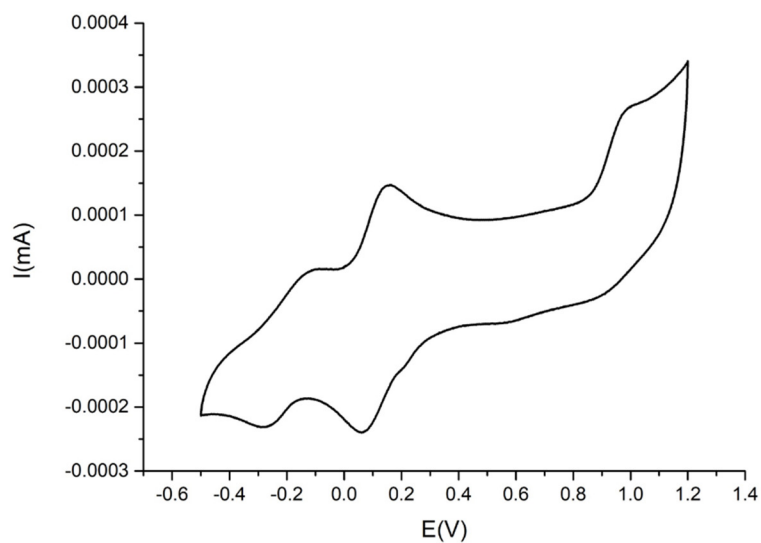


Figure S33. Cyclic voltammogram of **TPE-F₄-TCNE** in 0.2 M solution of Bu₄NPF₆ in CH₂Cl₂ (scan rate: 100 mV.s⁻¹; electrode potential vs. SCE).

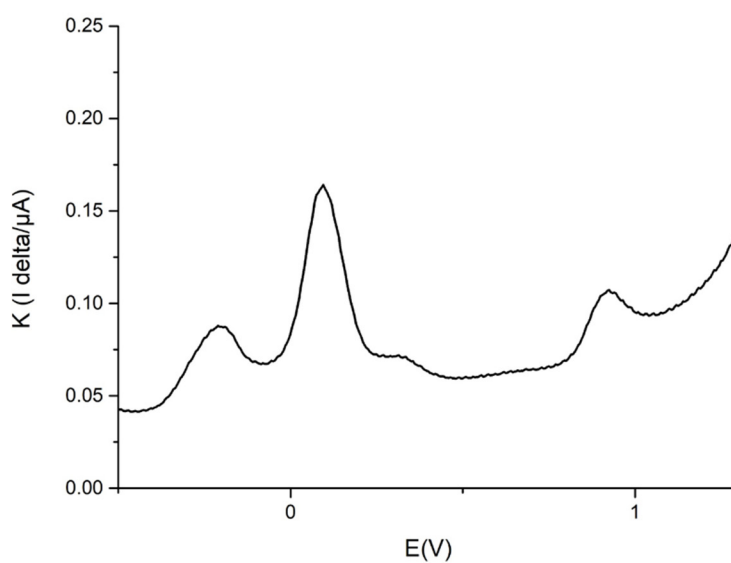


Figure S34. Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) of **TPE-F₄-TCNQ** in 0.2 M solution of Bu₄NPF₆ in CH₂Cl₂ (scan rate: 100 mV.s⁻¹; electrode potential vs. SCE).

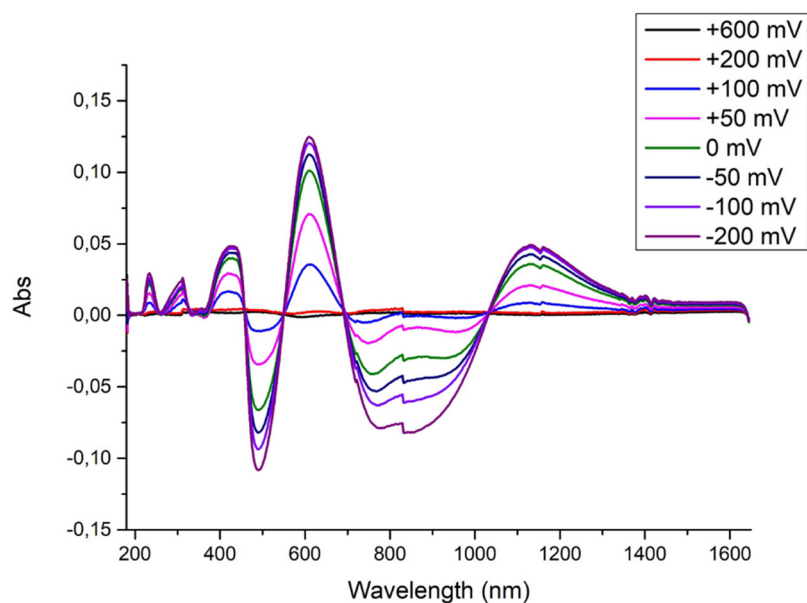


Figure S35. Differential absorption spectra obtained during the reduction of **TPE-F₄-TCNE** in 0.2 M solution of Bu₄NPF₆ in CH₂Cl₂.

VI. Thermal and photothermal studies

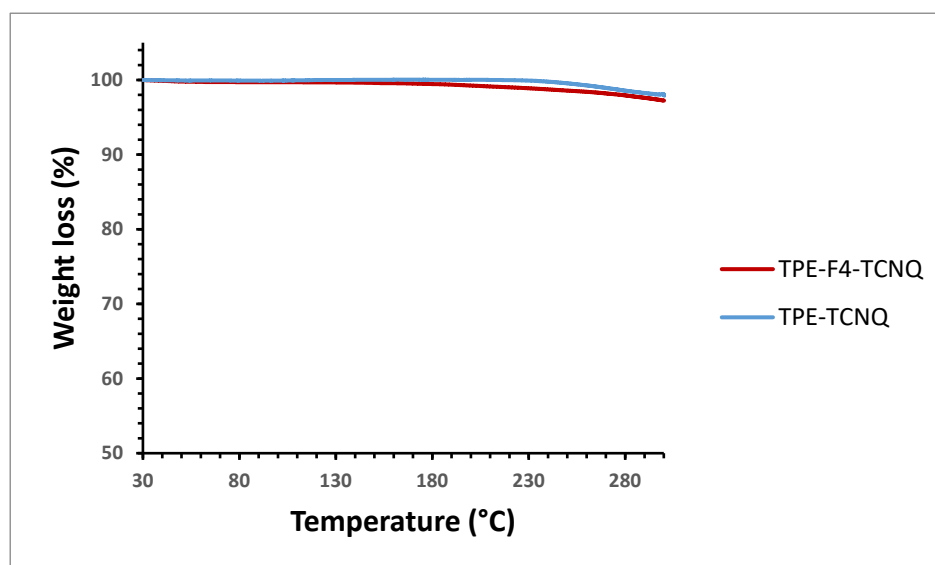


Figure S36. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of **TPE-TCNQ** (blue) and **TPE-F₄-TCNQ** (red) under N₂ flow.

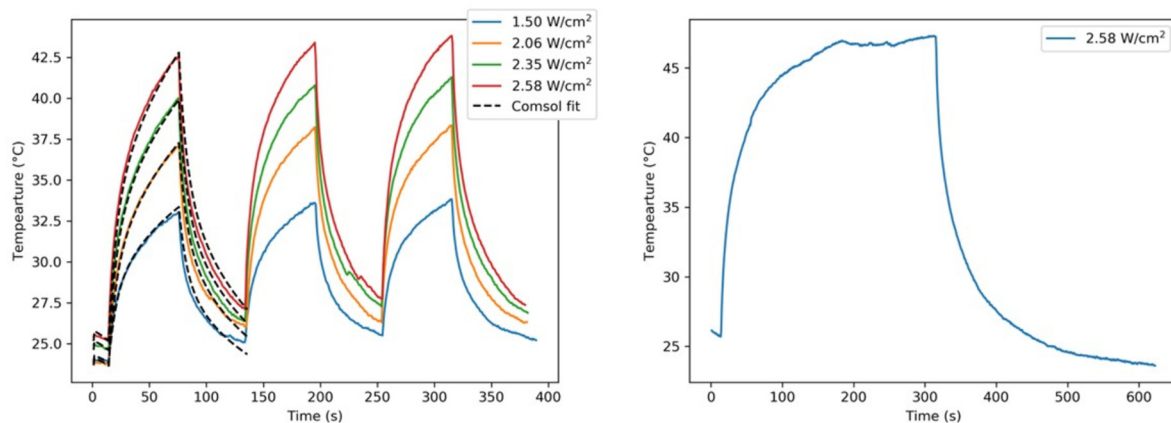


Figure S37. Photothermal conversion behavior of **TPE-TCNQ** as a thin film under 808 nm laser irradiation at different laser powers (1.50, 2.06, 2.35, and 2.58 cm^{-2}) vs. Comsol fits.

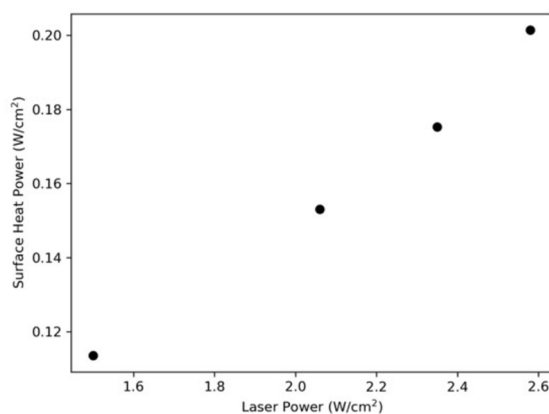


Figure S38. Surface heat power vs. laser power at 808 nm for **TPE-TCNQ** as a thin film.

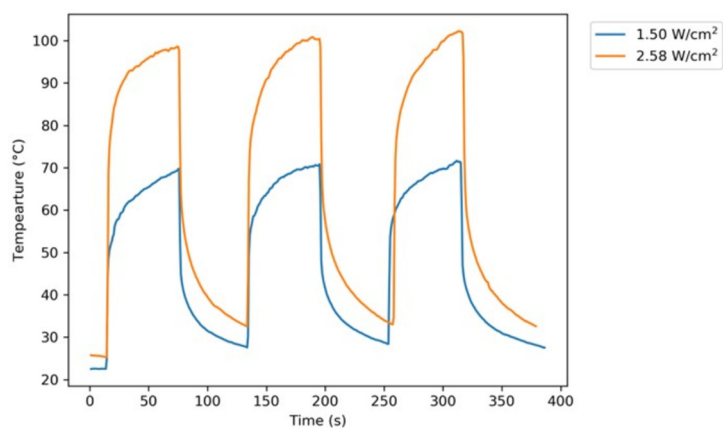


Figure S39. Photothermal conversion behavior of **TPE-TCNQ** as a powder under 808 nm laser irradiation at laser powers of 1.50 and 2.58 cm^{-2} .

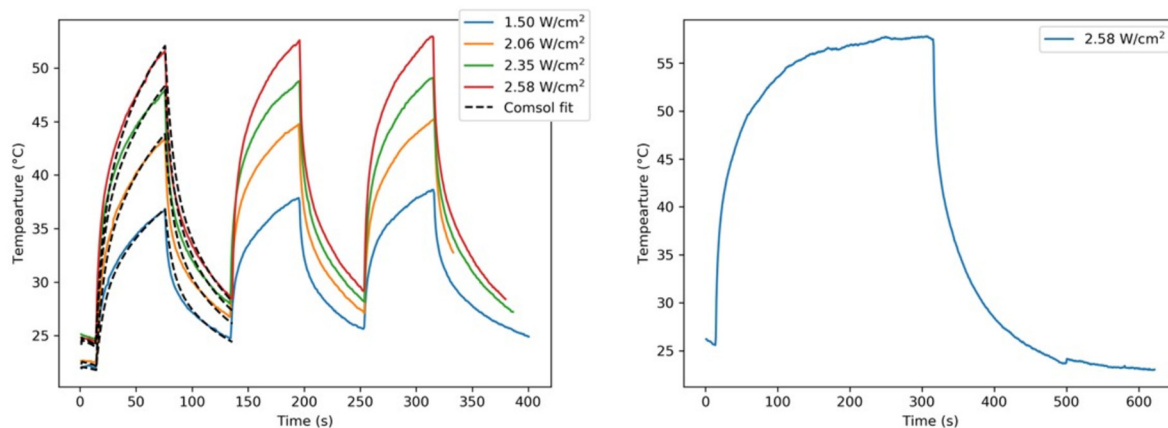


Figure S40. Photothermal conversion behavior of **TPE-F₄-TCNQ** as a thin film under 808 nm laser irradiation at different laser powers (1.50, 2.06, 2.35, and 2.58 cm⁻²) vs. Comsol fits.

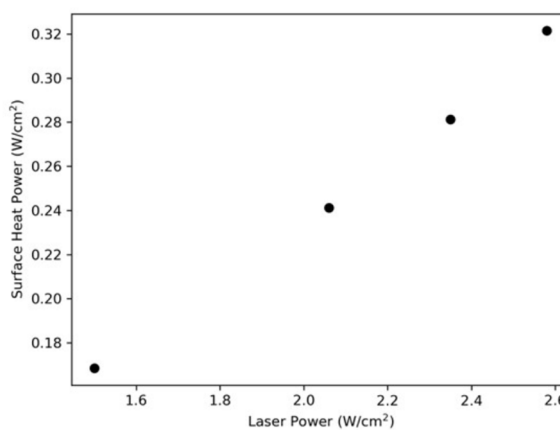


Figure S41. Surface heat power vs. laser power at 808 nm for **TPE-TCNQ** as a thin film.

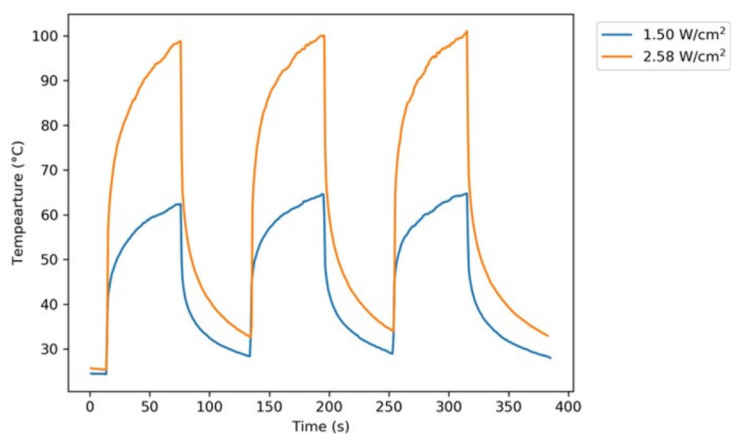


Figure S42. Photothermal conversion behavior of **TPE-F₄-TCNQ** as a powder under 808 nm laser irradiation at laser powers of 1.50 and 2.58 cm⁻².

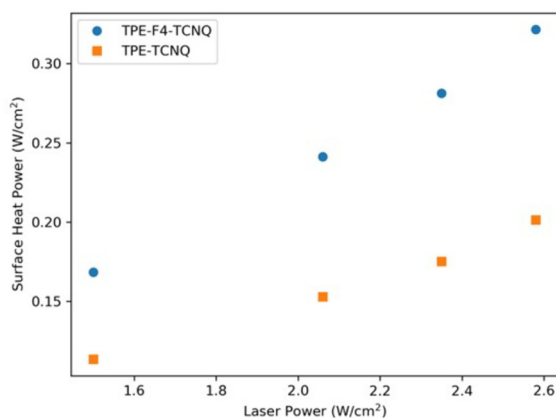


Figure S43. Comparison of the surface heat power vs. laser power at 808 nm for **TPE-TCNQ** (orange) and **TPE-F4-TCNQ** as thin films.

VII. Calculations

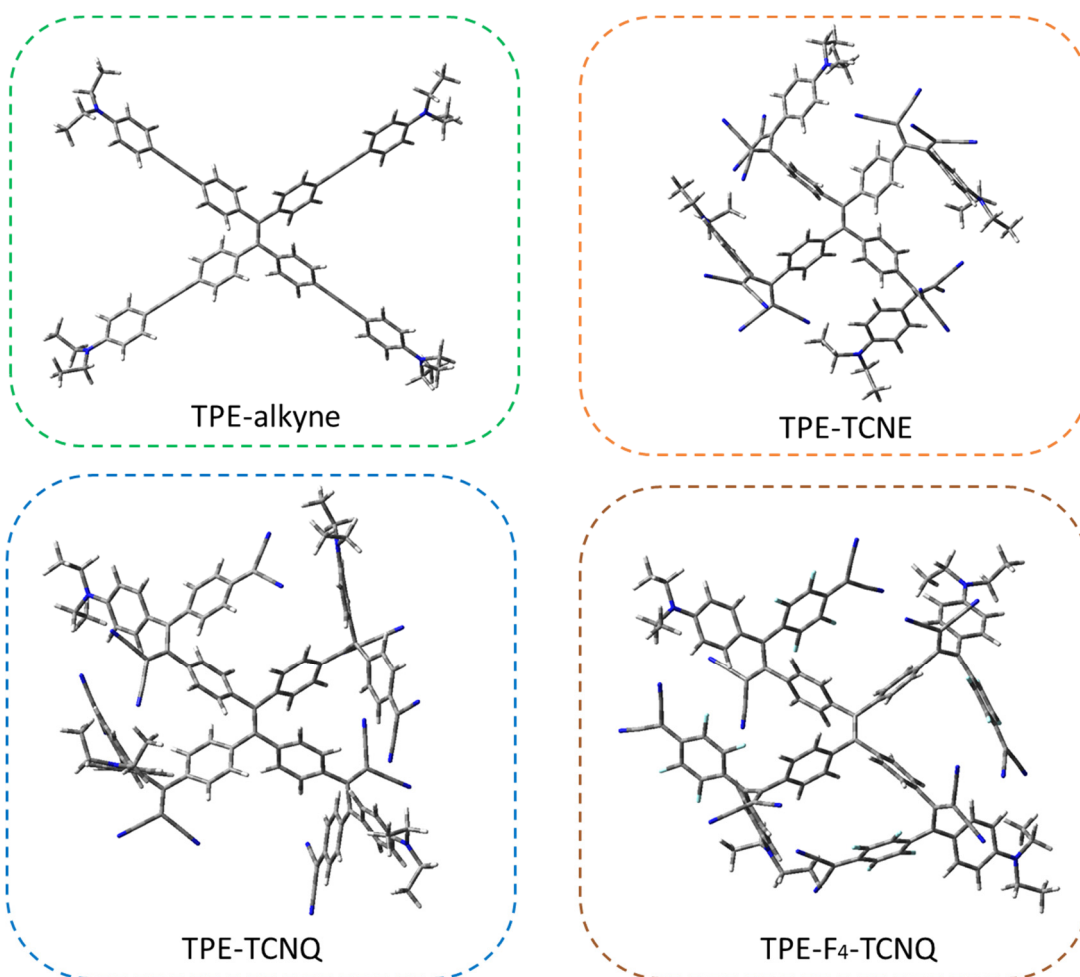


Figure S44. Optimized geometry of the investigated compounds computed at DFT-Cam-B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) theory level.

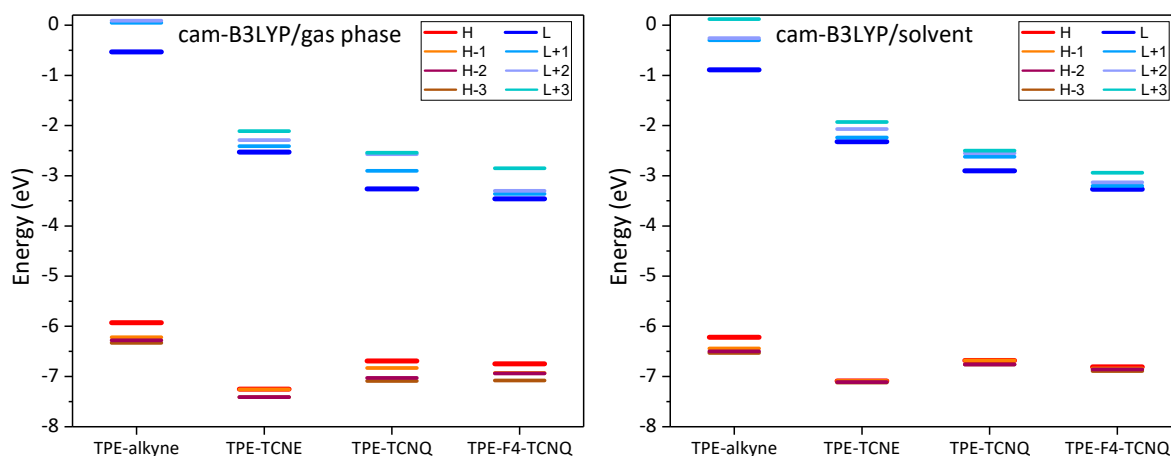


Figure S45. Energy alignment of the four frontier occupied and virtual molecular orbitals for the investigated systems in both gas phase and in THF/DCM solution, as calculated at CAM-B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level.

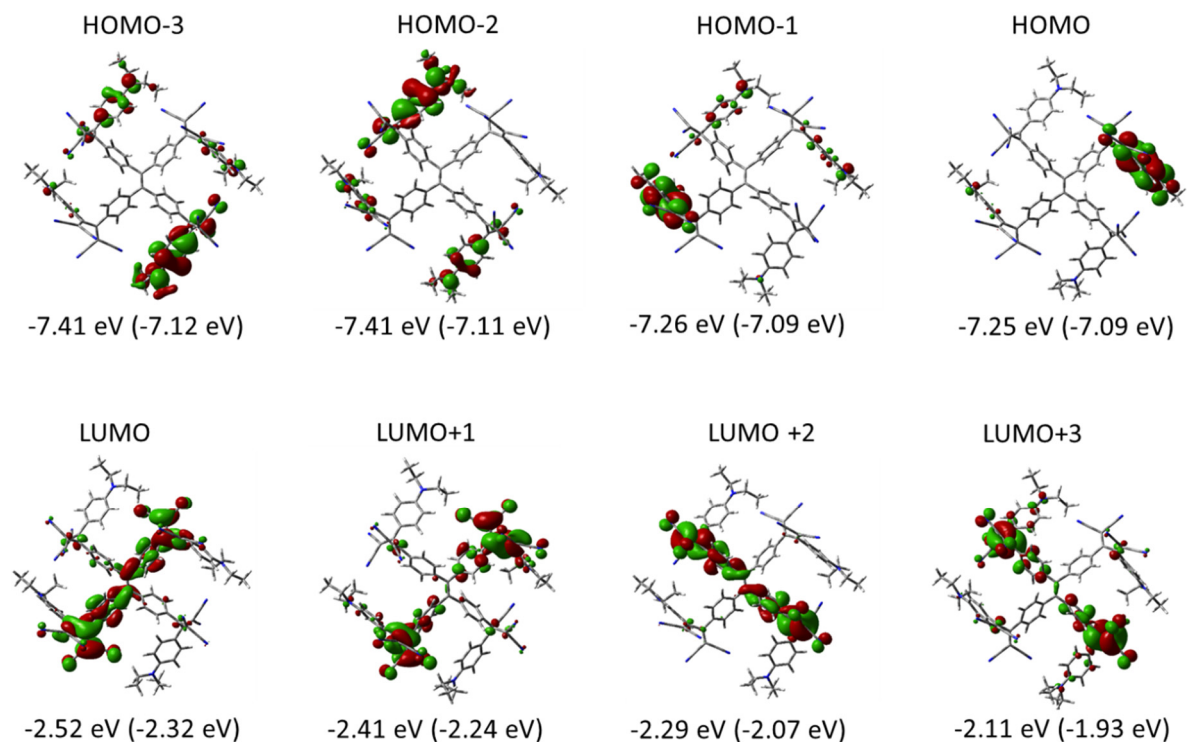


Figure S46. Shape of the four occupied and virtual molecular orbitals for **TPE-TCNE** in the gas phase. Energies are computed at the CAM-B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level of theory in gas phase and in THF solution. Isovalues are set to 0.02 e/au³.

Table S1: Assignment of electronic excitations for the investigated compounds, as obtained at the TD-DFT/Cam-B3LYP level ^a.

Transition number	Computed transition energy λ , nm (eV)	Oscillator strength	Main contributions
TPE-alkyne			
1	367 (3.38)	2.02	H->L (67%), H-4->L (12%)
3	330 (3.76)	4.82	H->L+1 (33%), H-2->L (30%), H-3->L+2
5	287 (4.32)	0.54	H-4->L (22%), H-2->L+1 (22%), H-1->L+2
TPE-TCNE			
1	443 (2.80)	0.20	H-1->L+1 (35%), H-1->L (33%), H->L (15%)
2	443 (2.80)	0.28	H->L+1 (46%), H->L (25%), H-1->L (15%)
3	401 (3.09)	0.24	H-2->L+5 (26%), H-2->L+3 (25%), H-3->L+4
4	399 (3.11)	0.95	H-3->L+4 (28%), H-3->L+3 (24%), H-2->L+4
TPE-TCNQ			
1	625 (1.98)	0.87	H->L (87%)
2	549 (2.26)	0.39	H-2->L+1 (31%), H-1->L+2 (31%), H-3->L+1
3	545 (2.27)	1.75	H-1->L+2 (50%), H-2->L+1 (18%), H-3-
4	518 (2.39)	1.29	H-3->L+3 (38%), H-2->L+3 (37%), H-1->L+2
TPE-F₄-TCNQ			
1	675 (1.84)	0.10	H->L (46%), H-1->L (20%), H-2->L+1 (12%)
2	642 (1.93)	2.16	H-2->L+1 (62%), H->L (16%)
3	606 (2.04)	1.81	H-3->L+2 (73%), H-2->L+1 (12%)
4	585 (2.12)	0.69	H-1->L+3 (50%), HOMO->L+3 (30%)
^a Only excitations with a significant oscillator strength around the main peak of the lowest absorption band are included. H stands for HOMO and L for LUMO			

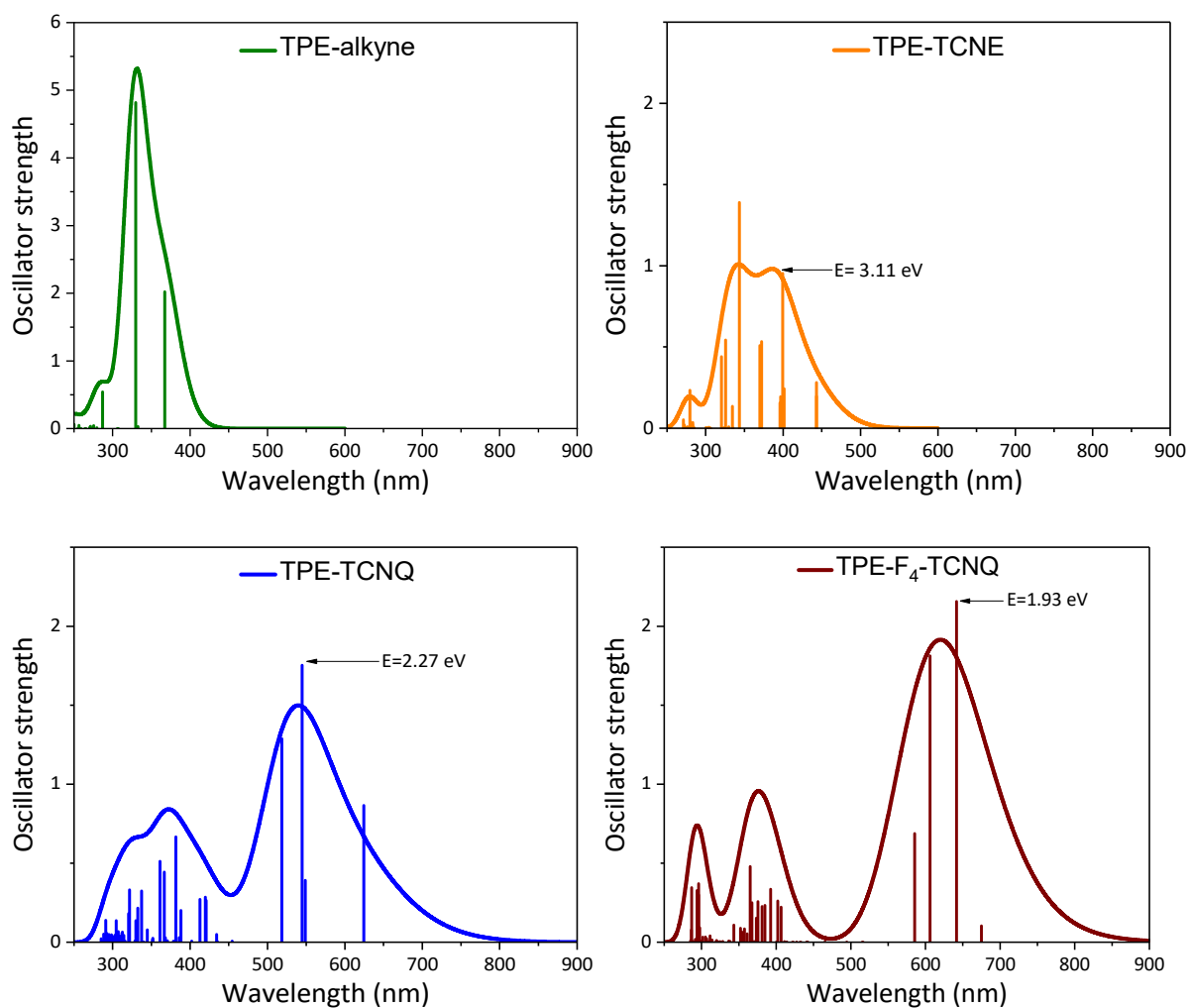


Figure S47. Simulated UV-Vis absorption spectra of the investigated compounds in THF solution at the TDDFT/Cam-B3LYP level with all transition peaks. The main transition energy of the CT absorption band for TPE adducts is also pointed with an arrow.