

Supporting information for

# Influence of the Polymer Microstructure over the Phase Separation of Thermo-Responsive Nanoparticles

Nicolò Manfredini, Marco Tomasoni, Mattia Sponchioni\* and Davide Moscatelli

Department of Chemistry, Materials and Chemical Engineering “Giulio Natta”, Politecnico di Milano, via Mancinelli 7, 2013 Milano – Italy.

\*Correspondence to: Mattia Sponchioni; e-mail: [mattia.sponchioni@polimi.it](mailto:mattia.sponchioni@polimi.it)

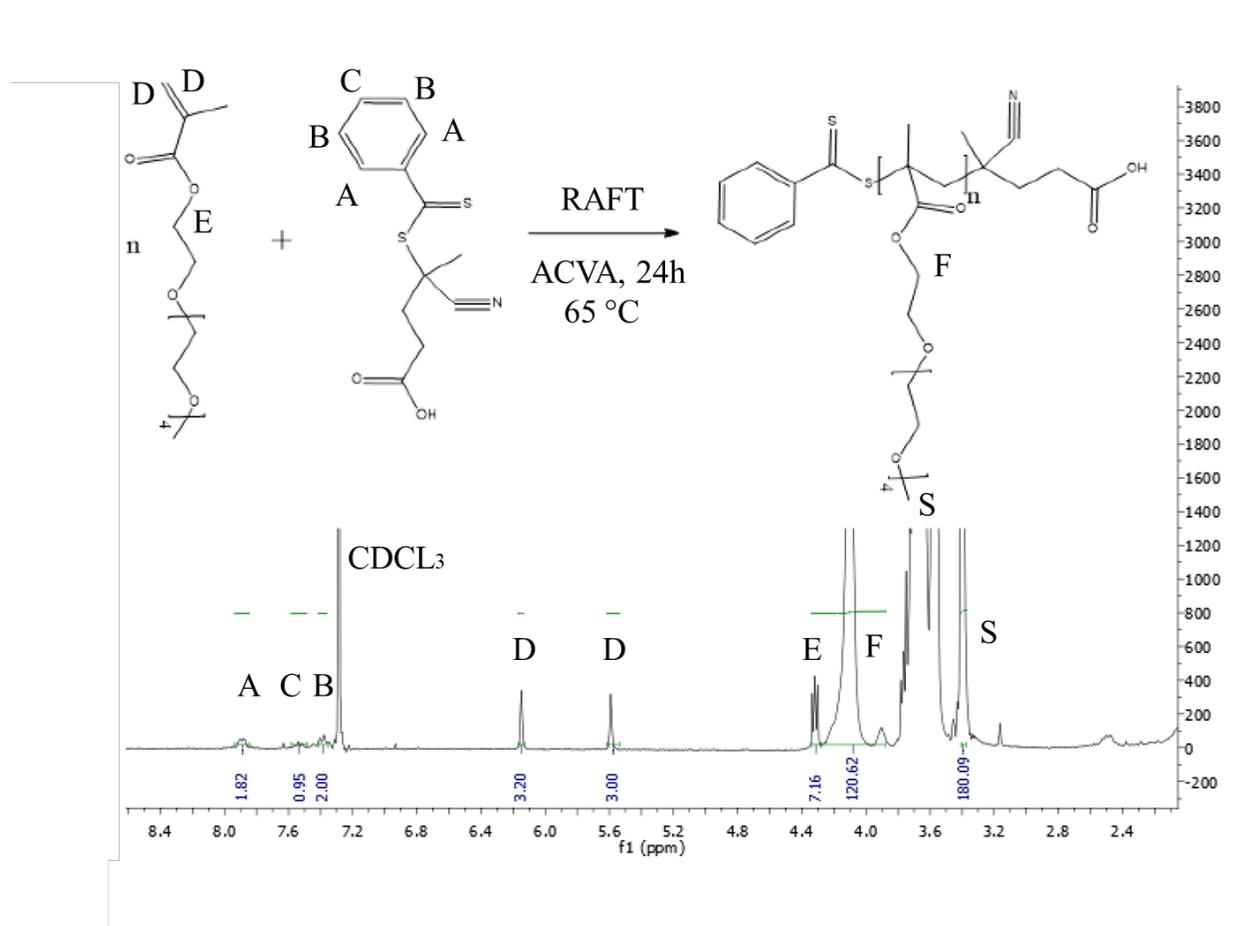


Figure S1: H-NMR spectrum of 60EG<sub>4</sub>.

The monomer conversion was calculated from the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra following **eq. S1**:

$$X = \frac{F}{E + F} \quad (\text{S1})$$

Where X is the monomer conversion, E is the area of the peak attributed to the two hydrogens close to the oxygen in the unreacted monomer, F is the area of the peak associated to the hydrogens near the oxygen in the polymer (see labeling in **Figure S1**).

The degree of polymerization ( $n$ ) of the EG<sub>4</sub>MA was calculated according to **eq. S2**:

$$n = \frac{F}{B} \quad (\text{S2})$$

With B being the two hydrogens associated to the aromatic ring in the RAFT agent.

**Table S1:** conversion ( $X$ ), degree of polymerization ( $n$ ), number-average molecular weight ( $M_n$ ) and dispersity ( $\mathcal{D}$ ) of the macro CTAs synthesized.

Sample	<b>X</b> [%]	<b>n</b> [-]	<b>M<sub>n</sub></b> [Da]	<b>Đ</b> [-]
<b>40EG<sub>4</sub></b>	98.2	41	12089	1.07
<b>60EG<sub>4</sub></b>	94.4	60	17268	1.22
<b>80EG<sub>4</sub></b>	98.7	85	28197	1.07
<b>100EG<sub>4</sub></b>	98.5	112	33467	1.08

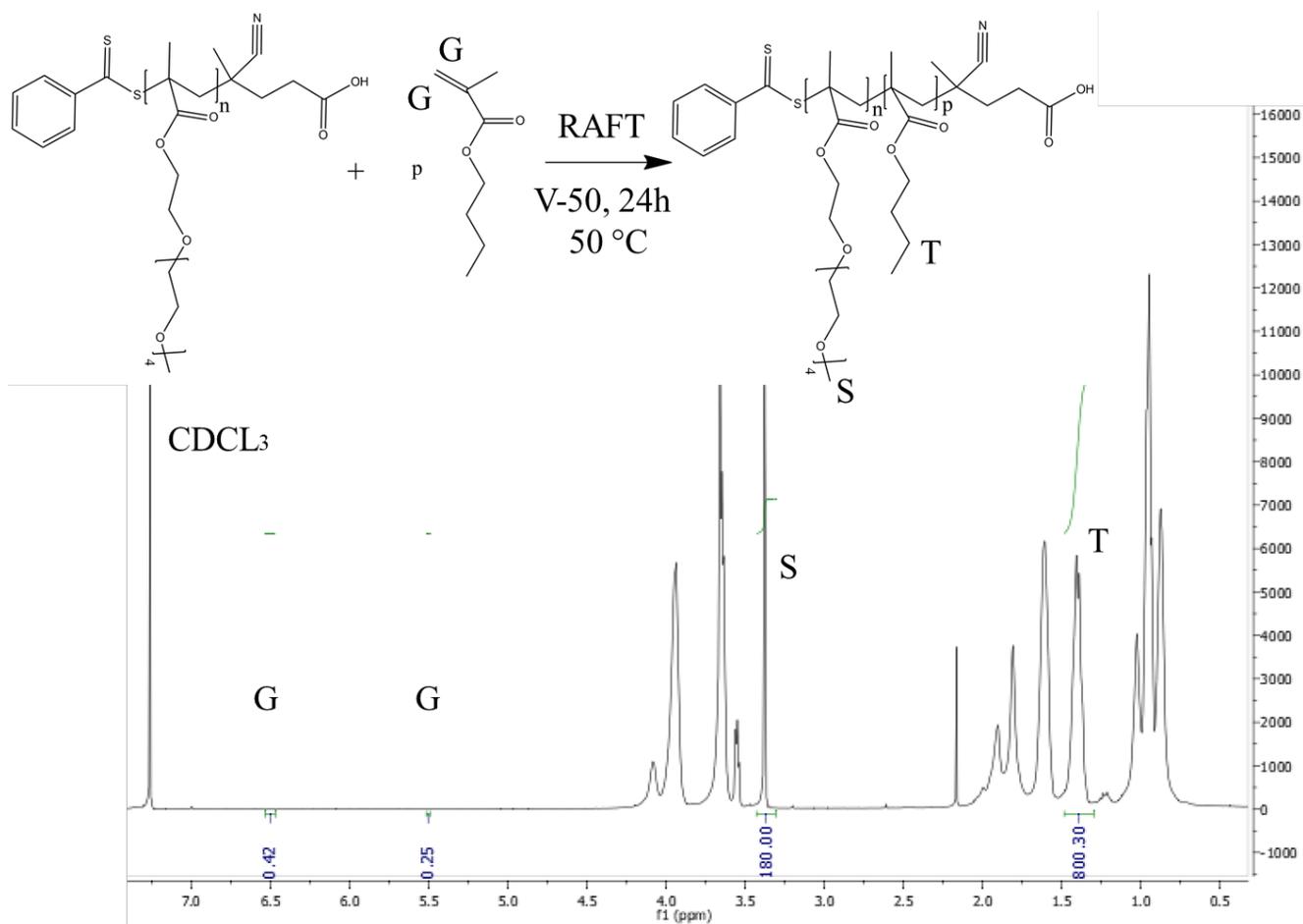


Figure S2: H-NMR spectrum of 60EG<sub>4</sub>-400BMA.

The monomer conversion was calculated according to **eq. S3**:

$$X = \left(1 - \frac{2G}{T}\right) * 100 \quad (\text{S3})$$

Where X is the monomer conversion, T is the area of the peak associated with the hydrogens near the methyl group either in the monomer or in the polymer and G is the area of the peak attributed to the two vinyl hydrogens in the unreacted monomer (see labeling in **Figure S2**).

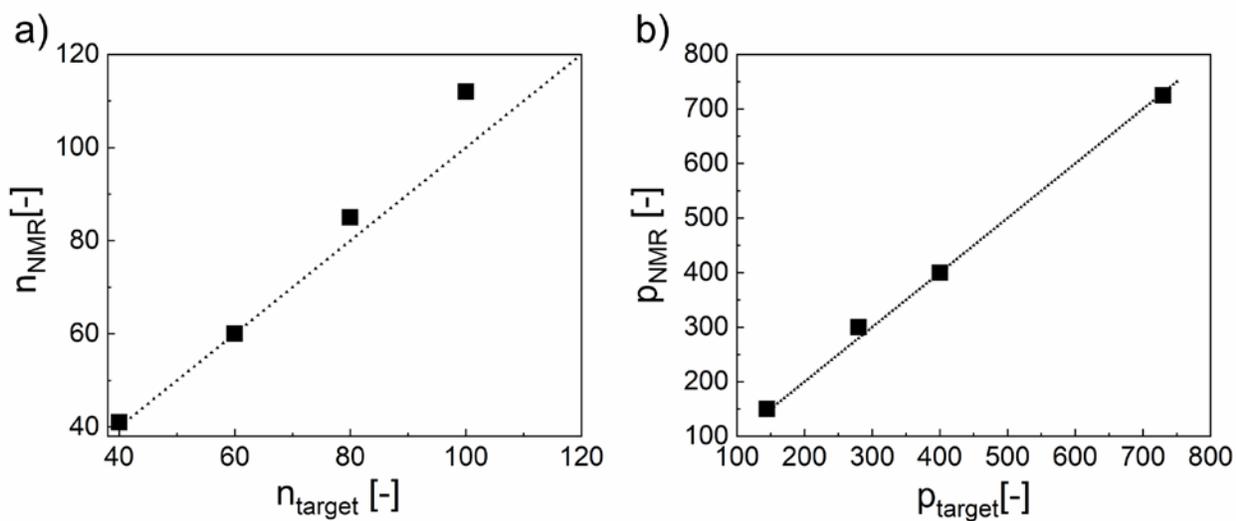
The degree of polymerization (*p*) of the BMA was calculated according to **eq. S4**:

$$p = \frac{\frac{T}{Z}}{\frac{S}{3n}} = \frac{3nT}{2S} \quad (\text{S4})$$

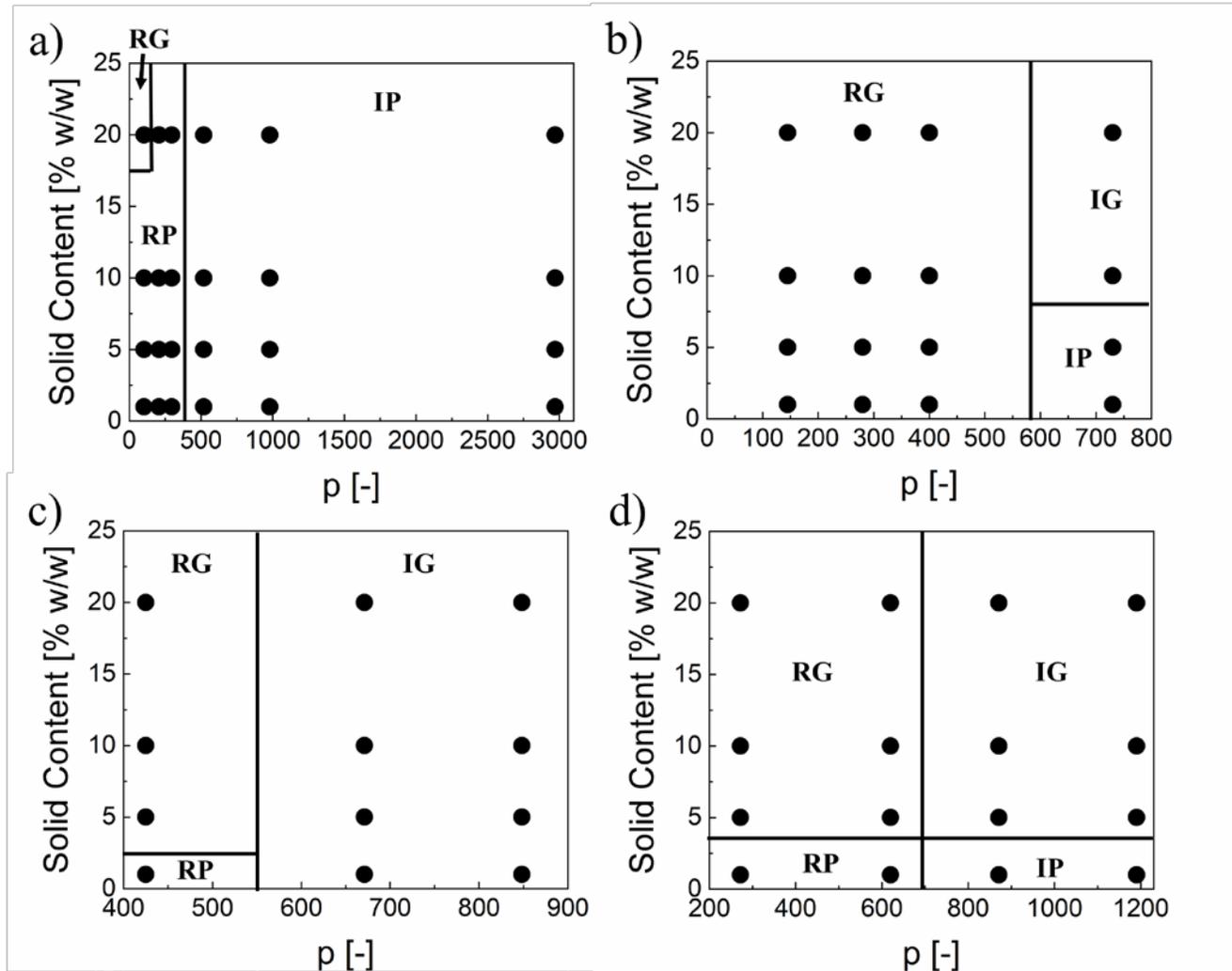
**Table S2:** conversion (*X*), degree of polymerization (*n*, *p*), number-average molecular weight (*M<sub>n</sub>*) and dispersity (*D*) of the block copolymers synthesized.

Sample	<b>X</b> [%]	<b>n</b> [-]	<b>p</b> [-]	<b>M<sub>n</sub></b> [Da]	<b>D</b> [-]
<b>40EG<sub>4</sub>-100BMA</b>	99.3	41	103	27464	1.18
<b>40EG<sub>4</sub>-200BMA</b>	98.8	41	208	47094	1.02
<b>40EG<sub>4</sub>-300BMA</b>	98.5	41	297	50569	1.38
<b>40EG<sub>4</sub>-500BMA</b>	98.7	41	520	103579	1.35
<b>40EG<sub>4</sub>-1000BMA</b>	99.1	41	980	194459	1.28
<b>40EG<sub>4</sub>-3000BMA</b>	98.0	41	2970	478350	1.19
<b>60EG<sub>4</sub>-150BMA</b>	99.9	60	145	41869	1.06
<b>60EG<sub>4</sub>-275BMA</b>	95.5	60	280	69969	1.14
<b>60EG<sub>4</sub>-400BMA</b>	97.4	60	400	82123	1.08
<b>60EG<sub>4</sub>-725BMA</b>	96.0	60	730	157002	1.10

<b>80EG<sub>4</sub>-450BMA</b>	95.0	85	425	108473	1.19
<b>80EG<sub>4</sub>-650BMA</b>	99.0	85	671	174748	1.19
<b>80EG<sub>4</sub>-850BMA</b>	99.0	85	848	228824	1.08
<b>100EG<sub>4</sub>-275BMA</b>	98.0	112	272	73899	1.38
<b>100EG<sub>4</sub>-600BMA</b>	93.3	112	620	168251	1.16
<b>100EG<sub>4</sub>-850BMA</b>	99.0	112	871	242335	1.14
<b>100EG<sub>4</sub>-1200BMA</b>	90.0	112	1190	312335	1.19



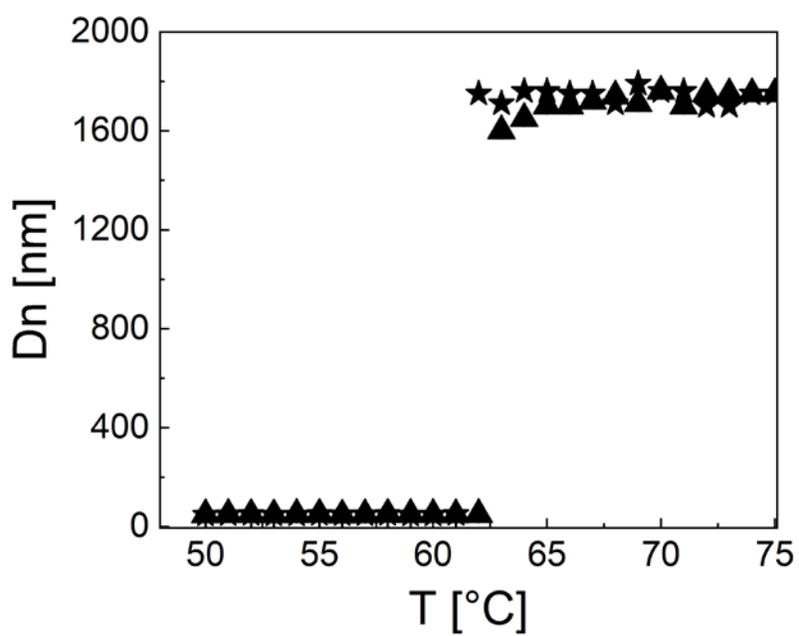
**Figure S3:** (a) thermo-responsive polymer degree of polymerization calculated via <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $n_{NMR}$ ) as a function of the EG<sub>4</sub>/CTA mole ratio ( $n_{target}$ ). (b) hydrophobic block degree of polymerization calculated via <sup>1</sup>H-NMR ( $p_{NMR}$ ) as function of the BMA/macro CTA mole ratio ( $p_{target}$ ).



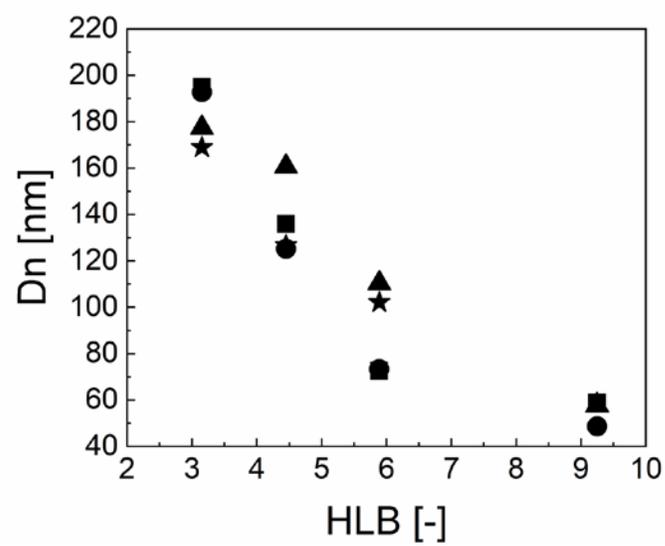
**Figure S4:** Phase diagram reporting the reversibility of the phase separation as a function of the NP concentration and  $p$  in the case of  $n$  equal to 40 (a), 60 (b), 80 (c) and 100 (d), being RP=Reversible Precipitate, IP=Irreversible Precipitate, IG= Irreversible Gel and RG=Reversible Gel, respectively.



*Figure S5: NP forming a precipitate (left) or a hydrogel (right) once the temperature is increased above the  $T_{cp}$ .*



*Figure S6: NP size as function of temperature during heating (triangle) and cooling (star) in the case of 60EG4-150BMA.*



**Figure S7:** NP size as function of block copolymers HLB in the case of  $n$  equal to 40 (square), 60 (circle), 80 (triangle) and 100 (star).