Microbubble-Triggered Separation of Transparent Thin Films from Substrates Using Evaporable Core-Shell Nanocapsules

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We present an unprecedented spontaneous strategy for separating optical thin films on the basis of microbubble generation using nanocapsules containing an evaporable hydrocarbon. The core-shell nanocapsules are prepared from poly(methyl methacrylate)-polyethyleneimine nanoparticles via the encapsulation of methylcyclohexane (MCH). Our debonding method applied to optical thin films doped with a small amount of the nanocapsules enables thermally detachment of thin films from substrates via vaporization of MCH. In addition, the optical film exhibited a high transmittance characteristic due to a capsule of about 200 nm in size.