

Non-Conjugated Unit Incorporated Polymer Donors Enable Superior Blend Miscibility for High-Performance and Mechanically-Robust Polymer Solar Cells

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Here, we develop a series of novel polymer donors (P_D s), with which highly efficient PSCs having remarkable mechanical reliability are demonstrated. By interposing a controlled amount of 1,10-di(thiophen-2-yl)decane flexible spacer (FS) into a PM6 backbone, we are able to significantly enhance the intermixing of the new P_D s with a small molecule acceptor (Y7), affording sufficient pathways for efficient charge percolation and mechanical stress dissipation. As a result, PSCs based on the P_D containing 5 mol% FS units and Y7 exhibit a high power conversion efficiency (PCE) of 17% with a crack onset strain (COS) of 12% and a cohesive fracture energy (G_c) of 2.1 J m^{-2} , significantly outperforming reference PM6-based devices (PCE = 15%, COS = 2% and $G_c = 1.0 \text{ J m}^{-2}$). Both the photovoltaic performance and mechanical robustness of these PSCs are among the best values reported to date. The rational design of the P_D s demonstrated here presents a highly promising strategy to address the mechanical properties of SMA-based solar cells and their viable application in flexible/stretchable electronics.