## **Supporting Information**



**Figure S1.** Top-view SEM images of CuInS<sub>2</sub> films synthesized with L-cysteine for different reaction times at 150 °C. Shown are film\_9h, film\_15h and film\_21h.



**Figure S2.** FIB SE image of an exemplary FIB cross section for the film thickness determination of film\_140 °C is shown, displaying large fluctuations in the film thickness due to the agglomerates.



**Figure S3.** XRD pattern of CuInS<sub>2</sub> films synthesized with L-cysteine for different reaction times, 6, 9, 15, 18, 21 and 48 h, at 150 °C. Signals stemming from FTO are marked with \*, the ones originating from CuInS<sub>2</sub> with #.



**Figure S4.** UV-vis spectra of CuInS<sub>2</sub> thin films on FTO substrate, synthesized solvothermally with L-cysteine grown for different reaction times at 150 °C.



**Figure S5.** (a) HR TEM image and (b) electron diffraction pattern of a CuInS<sub>2</sub> film synthesized with L-cysteine for 3 h at 150 °C (film\_3h).



**Figure S6.** (a) SEM image and (b) XRD pattern of film\_100 °C. Only pure FTO can be observed in SEM and XRD.



**Figure S7.** XRD pattern of CuInS<sub>2</sub> films synthesized with L-cysteine at different reaction temperatures, 100, 140, 150, and 180 °C, for 18 h. Signals stemming from FTO are marked with \*, the ones originating from CuInS<sub>2</sub> with #.



**Figure S8.** UV-vis spectra of CuInS<sub>2</sub> thin films on FTO substrate, synthesized solvothermally with L-cysteine grown for 18 h at different reaction temperatures.