## Gold nanoparticles sensitize the photocatalytic activity of stable and recyclable Bi<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> photocatalysts for effective wastewater treatment

## Njemuwa Nwaji<sup>a</sup>, Eser Metin Akinoglu<sup>a, b</sup>, Michael Giersig<sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>International Academy of Optoelectronics at Zhaoqing, South China Normal University, Liyuan Street, 526238 Guangdong, China

<sup>b</sup>ARC Centre of Excellence in Exciton Science, School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC, 3010, Australia

<sup>c</sup>Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, 02-106 Warsaw, Poland



## **Supplementary Information**

Figure S1: TEM and size distribution for the AuNPs



**Figure S2:** Absorption spectra of AuNPs before (blue) and the supernatant (super.) solution after forming heterostructured BNF-Au (red) and BNR-Au (black)



**Figure S3:** SEM images of aliquot of the reaction mixture after 10 min @ 150 °C (upper left), 15 min (upper right), TEM (bottom left) and high magnification TEM image of formed nanoflowers at 250 °C



**Figure S4:** The Kubelka–Munk transformations plot of  $(\alpha hv)^2$  versus hv for BNF





Figure S5: Representative EDX spectra of BNF and BNF-Au



Figure S6: Absorbance changes of RhB without light after 12 h. adsorption of the photocatalyst



Figure S7: Photoluminescence spectra of nanostructures recorded at excitation wavelength of 350 nm



Figure S8: SEM images of BNF and BNF-Au before and after degradation experiment.