

Hybrid polymer networks of carbene and thiol ene

Djordjevic, Ivan; Wicaksono, Gautama; Singh, Juhi; Singh, Manisha; Ellis, Elizabeth G. ; Alraddadi, Maher; Dove, Andrew; Steele, Terry W. J.

DOI:

[10.1016/j.eurpolymj.2022.111502](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpolymj.2022.111502)

License:

Creative Commons: Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)

Document Version

Peer reviewed version

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Djordjevic, I, Wicaksono, G, Singh, J, Singh, M, Ellis, EG, Alraddadi, M, Dove, A & Steele, TWJ 2022, 'Hybrid polymer networks of carbene and thiol ene', *European Polymer Journal*, vol. 178, 111502. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpolymj.2022.111502>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

1 **Hybrid polymer networks of carbene and thiol ene**

2 Ivan Djordjevic¹, Gautama Wicaksono¹, Juhi Singh^{2,3}, Manisha Singh¹, Elizabeth G. Ellis¹,
3 Maher A. Alraddadi⁴, Andrew P. Dove⁴ and Terry W.J. Steele¹

4

5 ¹School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE), Nanyang Technological University,
6 Singapore 639798.

7 ²School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, Nanyang Technological University,
8 Singapore 637457.

9 ³NTU Institute for Health Technologies, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program, Nanyang
10 Technological University (NTU), Singapore 637335.

11 ⁴School of Chemistry, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, United
12 Kingdom

13 *Corresponding author: Terry W. J. Steele (e-mail: wjsteele@ntu.edu.sg)

14

15 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

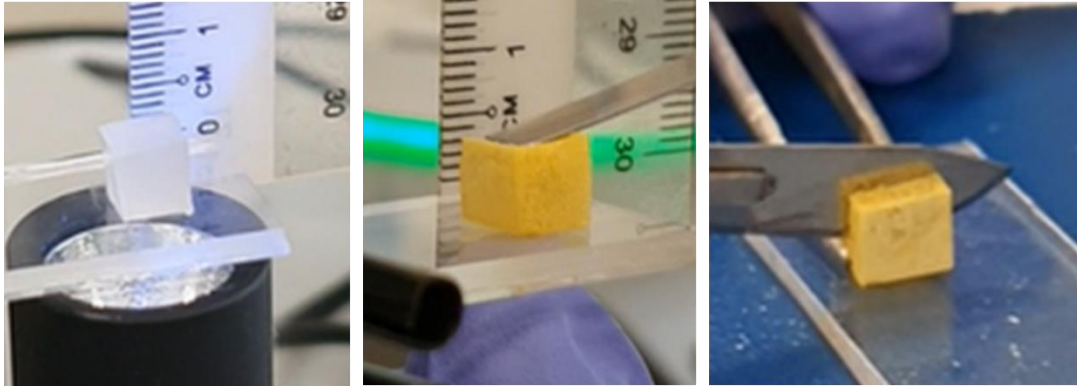
16

17

18

19

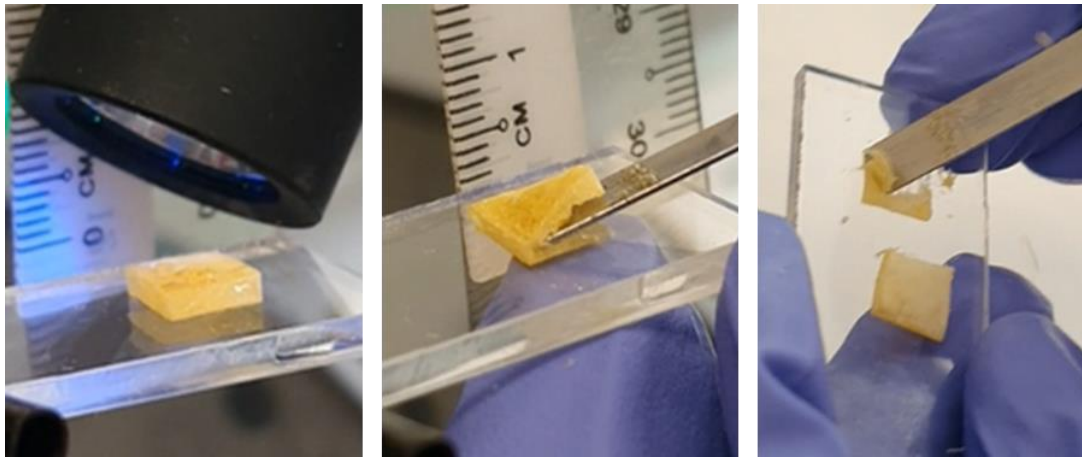
20



21

22 [Supplementary video 1](#). UVA activation of thiol/alkene/CaproGlu hybrid network.

23



24

25 [Supplementary video 2](#). Sample cut for lap shear adhesion test and scratch test demonstration
26 after UVA activation of thiol/alkene/CaproGlu hybrid network.

27

28

29

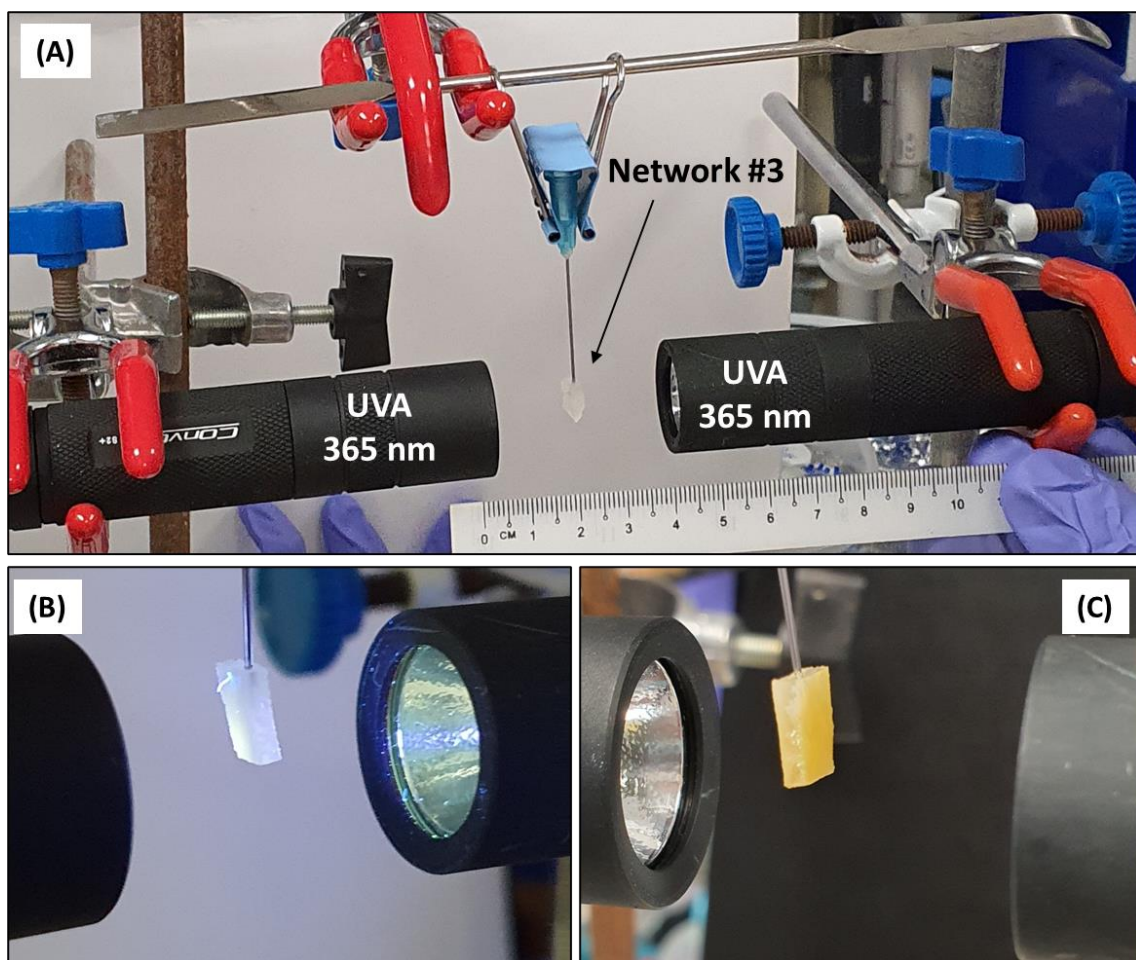
30

31

32

33

34



35

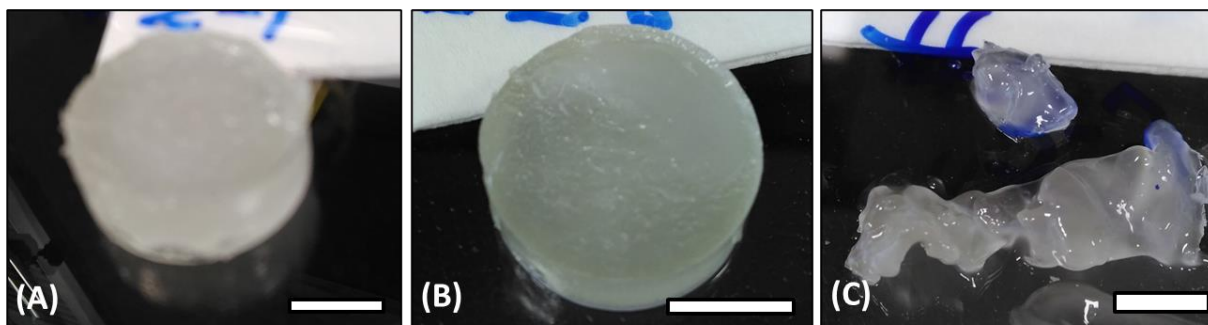
36 **Figure S1.** 3-component thiol/alkene/CaproGlu hybrid polymer network (SH1/Ene2/Dz;
37 **Table 1)** sample preparation for FTIR and SEM analysis: (A) sample fixed with needle
38 between 2 UVA diodes ($100 \text{ mW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$); (B) diodes turned ON simultaneously for 100 sec to
39 deliver $10 \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ to each side of the sample; (C) sample after UVA curing.

40

41

42

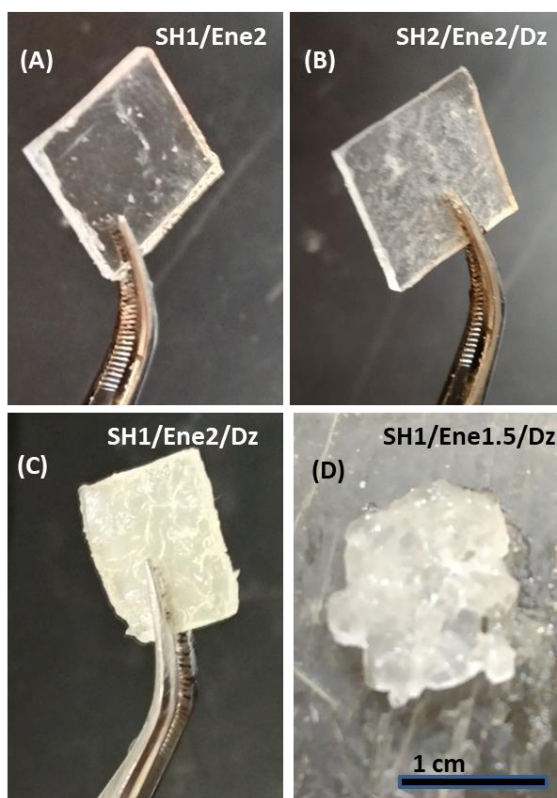
43



44

45 **Figure S2.** Digital photographs of crosslinked 3-component thiol/alkene/CaproGlu hybrid
 46 polymer network samples in ambient conditions 24 h after mixing (no UVA activation; bar =
 47 1 cm): (A-C) SH2/Ene2/Dz, SH1/Ene2/Dz and SH1/Ene1.5/Dz (nomenclature and
 48 composition: **Table 1**) respectively.

49



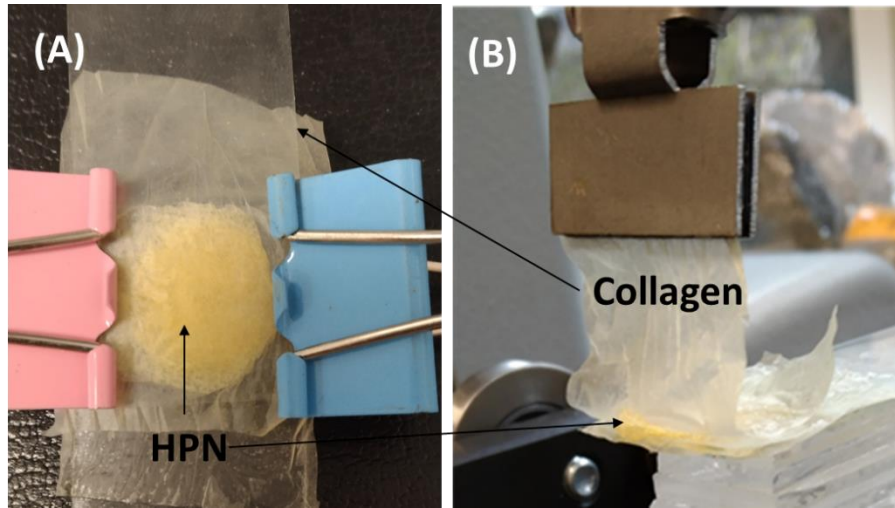
50

51 **Figure S3.** Photographs of samples prepared for peel test: (A) SH1/Ene2 (no CaproGlu)
 52 control; (B-D) HPN samples with compositions outlined in **Table 1**.

53

54

55



56

57 **Figure S4.** Peel test experimental design for samples placed between 2 collagen sheets: (A)
58 Glass slide/cyanoacrylate/Collagen/HPN/Collagen structure fixed with paper clips after UVA
59 activation (20 J.cm^{-2} : 10 J.cm^{-2} from either side of the sample); (B) Collagen/HPN/Collagen
60 structure mounted on the sample holder for peel strength test.

61

62

63

64

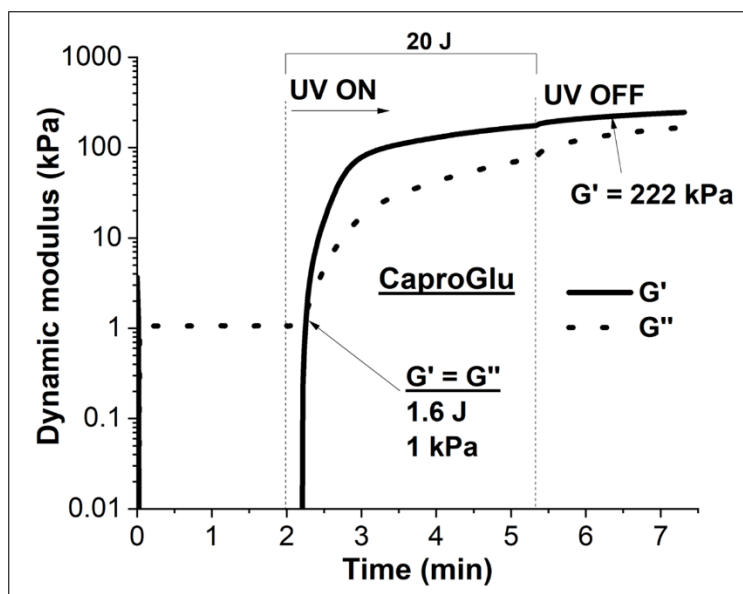
65

66

67

68

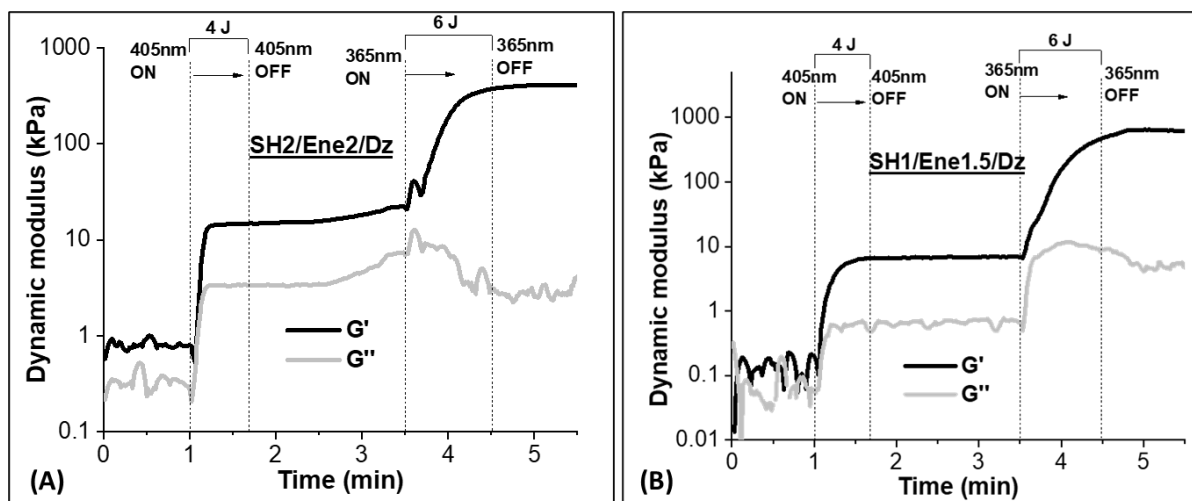
69



70

71 **Figure S5.** 1-step light-activated crosslinking of pure CaproGlu analyzed with photorheometry
 72 – dynamic change of storage (G') and loss (G'') moduli over time (bottom) and absorbed
 73 energy dose (top' $J.cm^{-2}$) with indicated gelation point ($G' = G''$) upon light activation (diode
 74 wavelength range = 320-500 nm; diode power = $100 mW.cm^{-2}$).

75



76

77 **Figure S6.** Photoreological profiles of 3-component thiol/alkene/CaproGlu hybrid polymer
 78 networks (Table 1) SH2/Ene2/Dz and SH1/Ene1.5/Dz (A and B respectively) with dynamic
 79 change of storage (G') and loss (G'') moduli upon 2-step light activation at 405 nm and 365
 80 nm (light diode power: $100 mW.cm^{-2}$) over time (bottom) and absorbed energy dose (top; $J.cm^{-2}$).
 81 2).

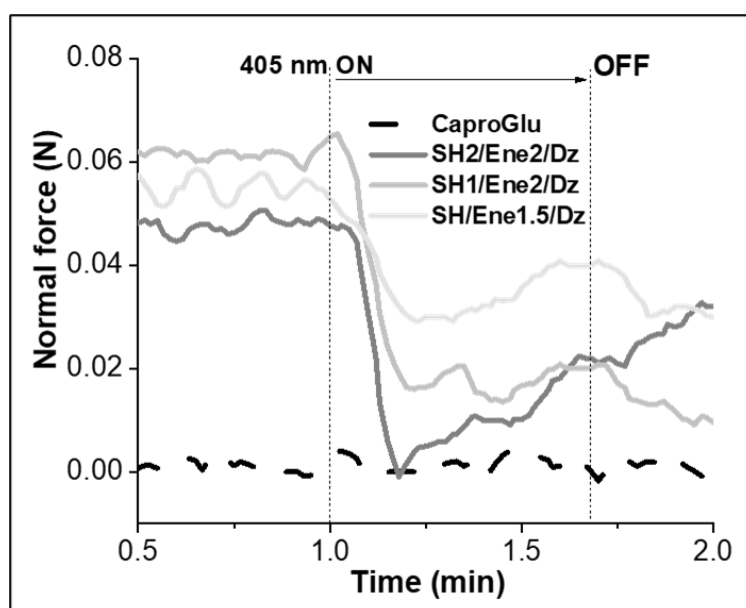
82

83 **Table S1.** Dynamic (storage) modulus (G') of hybrid networks and controls recorded 1 min
 84 after the light diodes are turned off (see **Fig. 3; Fig. S3**) and gelation points expressed as light
 85 energy (J) dose required to reach $G' = G''$ value.

Hybrid network composition	G' (405 nm; kPa)	G' (365 nm; kPa)	Gel. Point ($J.cm^{-2}$)
CaproGlu (Control-1)	-	170	2
SH/Yne (Control-2)*	-	5750*	6
SH2/Yne2/Dz*	-	500*	4
SH/Ene (Control-3)	1520	1530	-
SH2/Ene2/Dz	16	410	-
SH1/Ene2/Dz	28	920	-
SH1/Ene1.5/Dz	7	630	-

86 *Measured upon 1-step activation at polychromatic light: 320-500 nm; 30 J.

87

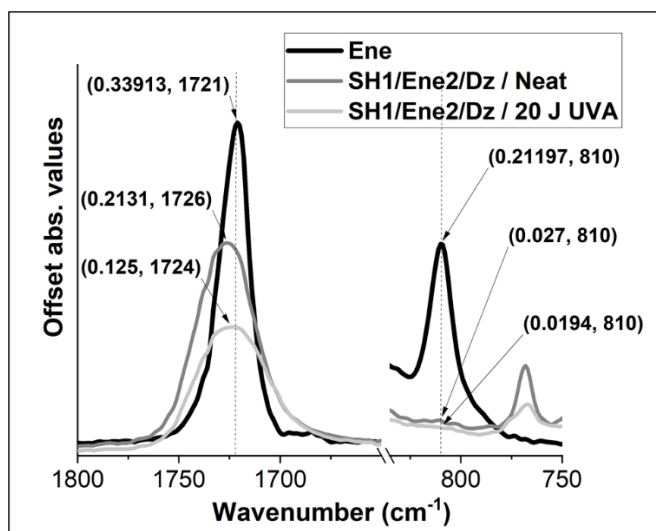


88

89 **Figure S7.** Magnified region of normal force vs light activation time (405 nm; the full range is
 90 displayed in **Figure 3D** in main text); the thiol-acrylate (SH-Ene) crosslinking causes polymer
 91 volume shrinking as evident from drop in normal force, in comparison to pure CaproGlu
 92 (control-1).

93

94



$$DC(\%) = \left(1 - \frac{A^{Neat/UVA}}{A^{Ene}}\right) \times 100$$

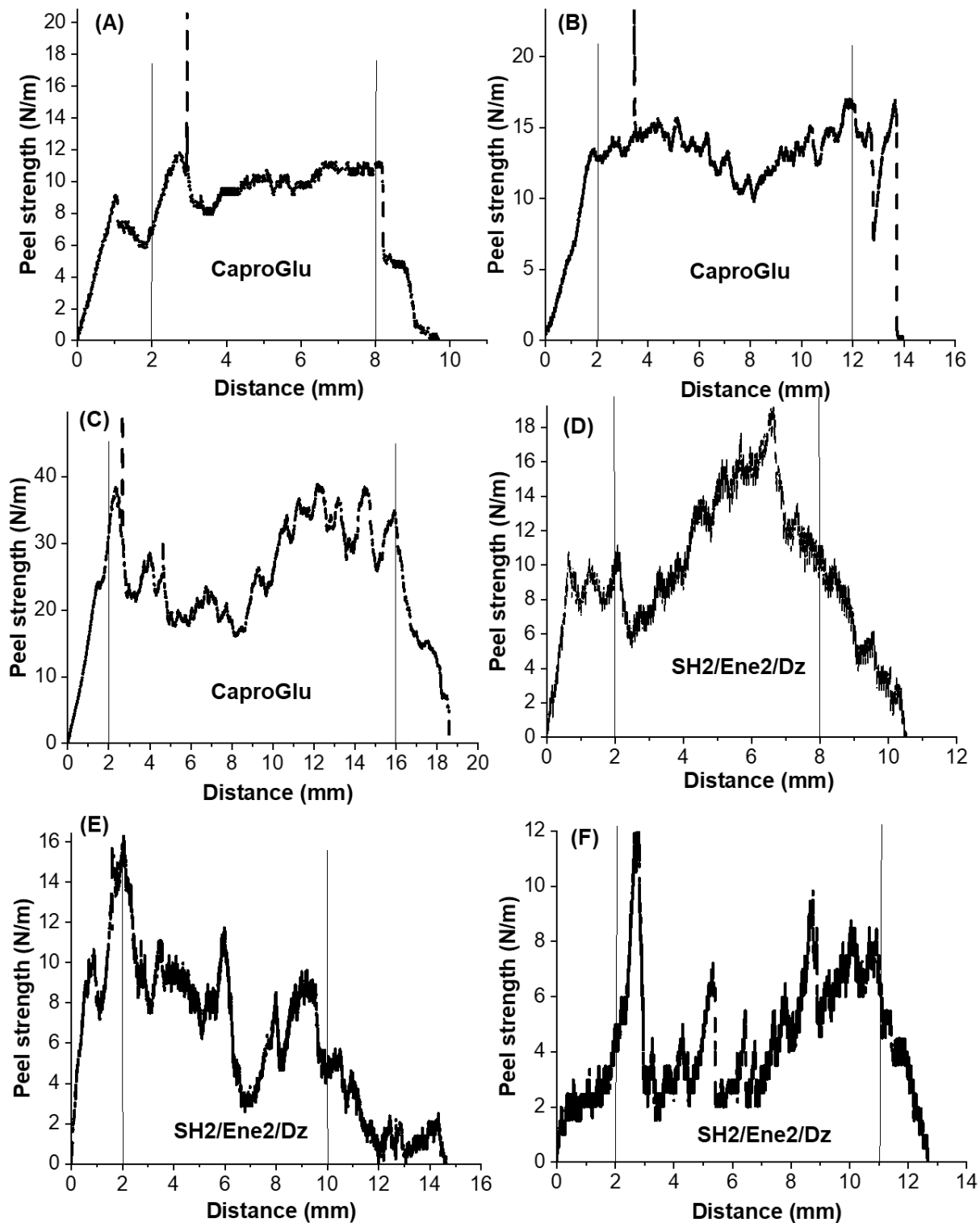
$$A^{Ene} = \frac{R^{810}}{R^{1721}} = \frac{0.21197}{0.33913} = 0.625$$

$$A^{Neat} = \frac{R^{810}}{R^{1721}} = \frac{0.027}{0.2131} = 0.127$$

$$DC^{Neat}(\%) = \left(1 - \frac{0.127}{0.625}\right) \times 100 = 79.7\%$$

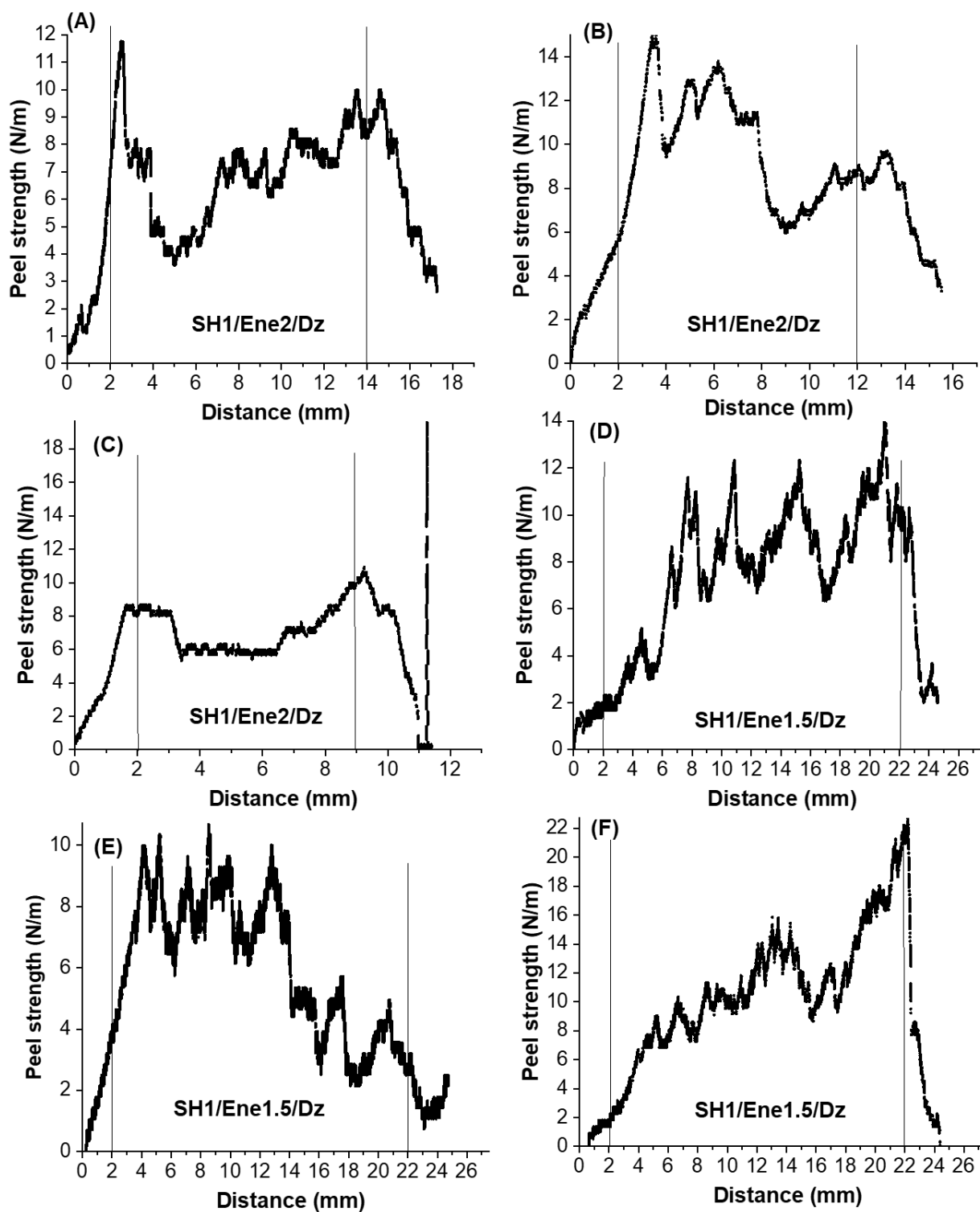
95

96 **Figure S8.** Degree of alkene conversion (DC %) calculated from absorbance value at 810 cm⁻¹
 97 ⁻¹ normalized to carbonyl peak of PEGDA (Ene; 1721 cm⁻¹): (Left) FTIR representative spectral
 98 region with data readings (R) used to calculate absorbances (A) normalized to carbonyl peaks;
 99 (Right) DC (%) calculated for SH1/Ene2/Dz after mixing and exposure to ambient light for 24
 100 h (mark as “Neat” – without UVA activation).



101

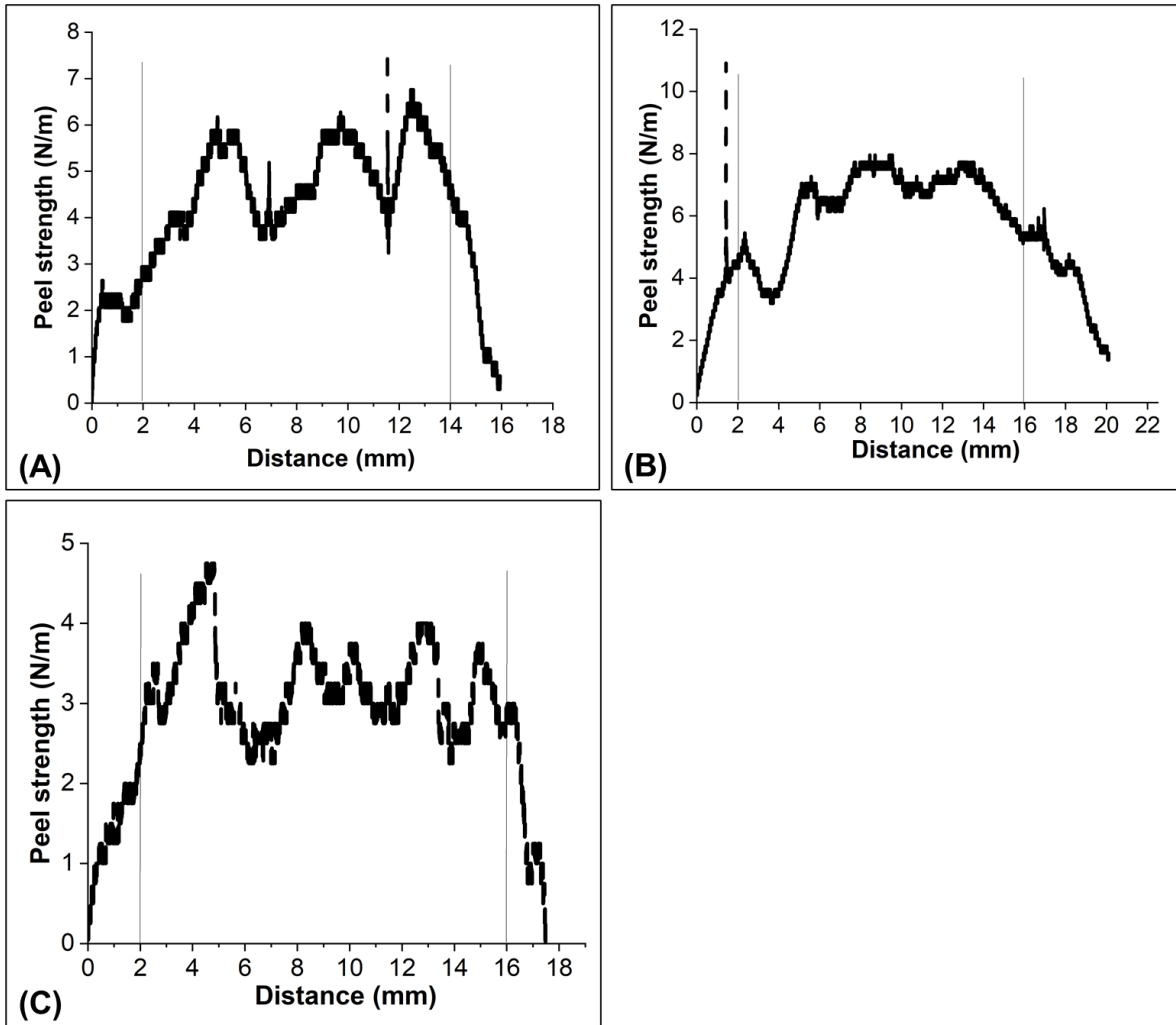
102 **Figure S9.** Peel strength vs displacement curves of CaproGlu (control; n = 3) and HPN (n = 3)
 103 samples after activation with UVA light (20 J.cm^{-2}): (A-C) CaproGlu; (D-F): SH2/Ene2/Dz.
 104 Vertical lines indicate the peel strength data range used to calculate the average values for each
 105 sample.



106

107 **Figure S10.** Peel strength vs displacement curves of HPN ($n = 3$) samples after activation with
 108 UVA light ($20 \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$): (A-C) SH1/Ene2/Dz; (D-F): SH1/Ene1.5/Dz. Vertical lines indicate the
 109 peel strength data range used to calculate the average values for each sample.

110



111

112 **Figure S11.** Peel strength vs displacement curves of HPN (n = 3) samples without UVA
 113 activation: (A-C) SH1/Ene2/Dz. Vertical lines indicate the peel strength data range used to
 114 calculate the average values for each sample.

115

116

117

118

119

120

121 **Table S2.** 3-component thiol/alkene/CaproGlu hybrid network SH1/Ene2/Dz (**Table 1**)
122 composition – 7 samples measured prior to UVA activation and lap shear adhesion experiment;
123 the density is calculated from sample weight and dimensions: $\rho = (1.1 \pm 0.1) \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$.

Sample	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Thicknes (cm)	Weight (g)	Volume (cm ³)	ρ (g.cm ⁻³)
1	0.7	0.6	0.15	0.0623	0.06	0.99
2	0.7	0.6	0.15	0.0635	0.06	1.01
3	0.65	0.6	0.17	0.0745	0.07	1.12
4	0.65	0.6	0.2	0.0817	0.08	1.05
5	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.1054	0.08	1.25
6	0.65	0.5	0.2	0.0891	0.07	1.37
7	0.65	0.5	0.2	0.072	0.07	1.11

124

125

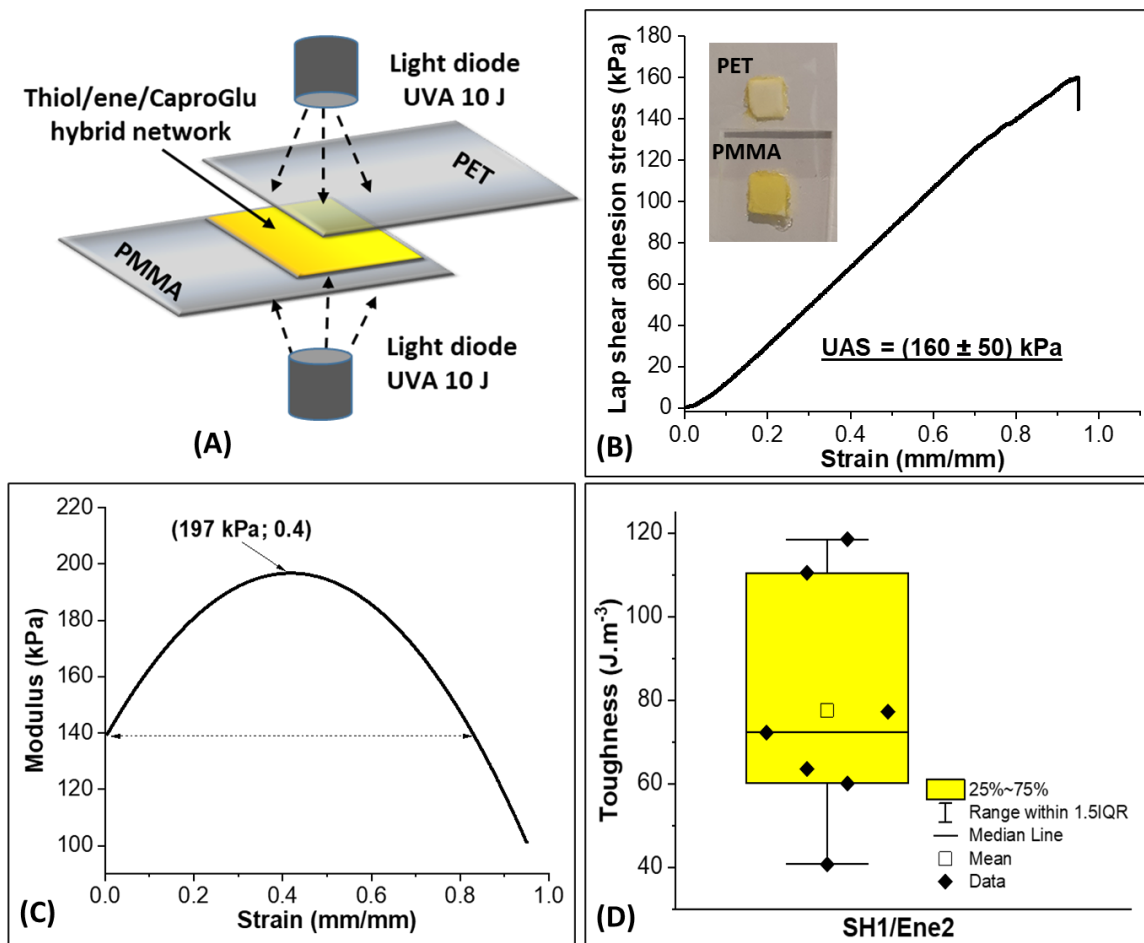
126

127

128

129

130

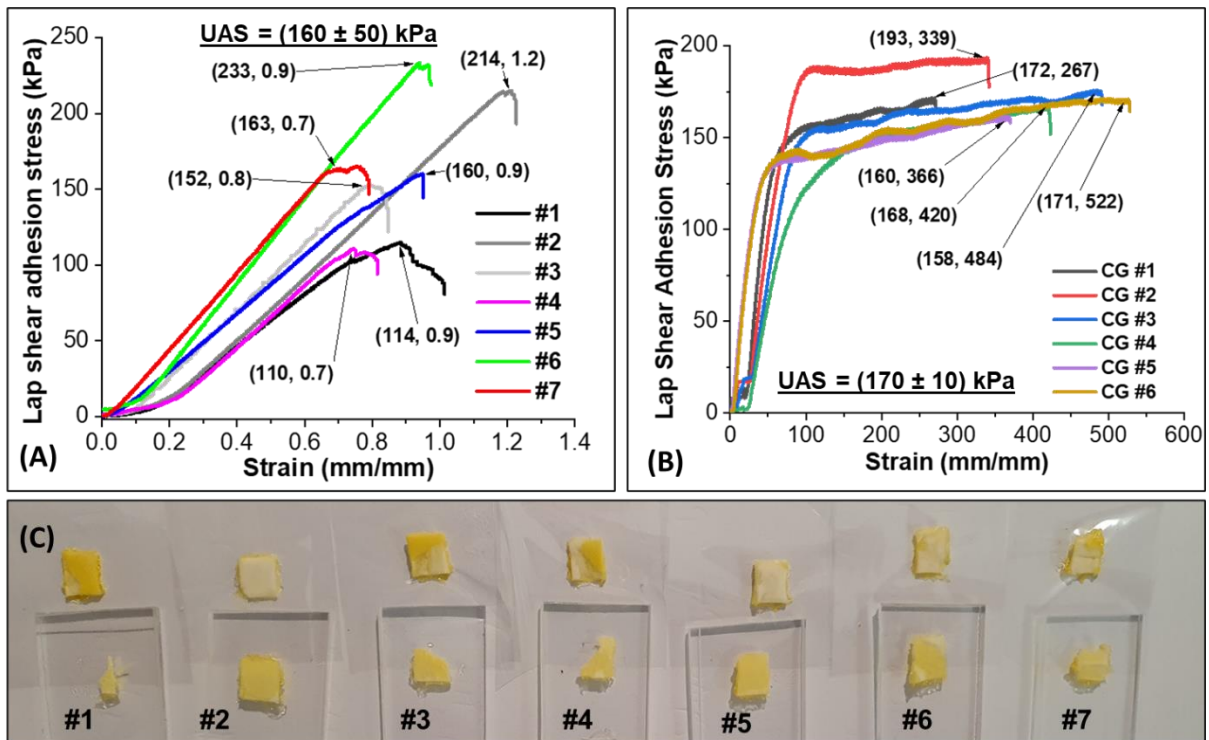


131

132 **Figure S12.** Lap shear adhesion test and representative mechanical profile of 3-component
 133 thiol/ene/CaproGlu hybrid network – SH1/Ene2/Dz (n = 7): (A) experimental design for
 134 crosslinking of SH1/Ene2/Dz sample in PMMA/hybrid network/PET sandwich structure by
 135 crosslinking the network from 2 sides through light-transparent substrates (PMMA-bottom;
 136 PET-top) by using 2 UVA diodes – each side of SH1/Ene2/Dz sample absorbed the UVE
 137 energy = $10 \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ (total absorbed dose = $20 \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$); (B) representative lap shear adhesion
 138 stress vs strain data recorded for SH1/Ene2/Dz (inset showing cohesive failure of SH1/Ene2/Dz
 139 at yield point); (C) modulus vs strain with indicated maximum value at 197 kPa (dashed arrow
 140 indicates the modulus drop to initial value at 140 kPa); (D) modulus of toughness calculated as
 141 area under stress vs strain curves (n = 7; individual curves for each measured sample are shown
 142 in Supporting Information; ANOVA; interquartile range (IQR): 25th to the 75th percentile).

143

144



145

146 **Figure S13.** Lap shear adhesion stress vs strain profile measured for PMMA-hybrid network
 147 (SH1/Ene2/Dz)-PET sandwich structure: (A) data collected for 7 samples and average value of
 148 ultimate adhesion strength for SH1/Ene2/Dz; (B) pure CaproGlu (CG; control-1) data collected
 149 from 6 samples measuring lap shear adhesion stress vs strain PMMA-CaproGlu-PET structure
 150 and average value of ultimate adhesion strength; (C) photography of measured samples after
 151 mechanical lap shear failure demonstrating cohesive adhesion.

152

153

154