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Self-assembly of Open-Shell-containing Block Polymer Thin Films BRYAN BOUDOURIS, LIZBETH ROSTRO, ADITYA BARADWAJ, JEN-NIFER LASTER, Purdue University — Radical polymers, where a stable open-shell group is present on each repeat unit of a non-conjugated macromolecular backbone, are emerging as promising materials in organic electronic and magnetic applications. As such, designing molecular motifs that allow for the self-assemble of these open-shell species into nanostructured domains could be beneficial in a host of nextgeneration flexible electronic applications. In addition, the relatively flexible nature of their macromolecular backbone and ability to conduct charge in the amorphous state offer distinct advantages regarding their self-assembly relative to block polymers based on conjugated semiconducting polymers. Here, we demonstrate the controlled synthesis and self-assembly of diblock copolymers containing radical polymer moieties. In fact, we show that A-B diblock copolymers, where the A moiety contains nitroxide radical functionalities and the B moiety is a closed-shell, low glass transition temperature polymer, self-assemble into ordered structures with domain spacing values that are consistent with common coil-coil diblock copolymers (d = 30 nm). In this way, we present a means by which to readily generate electronically-active macromolecules that self-assemble into nanostructured thin films with controlled morphologies over long ranges.

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