CLAIMS

1. A method for making a glass material which is superhydrophilic at least in air and superoleophobic when submerged in water, comprising:

providing a dispersion comprising silica particles in a powder form dispersed in an organic solvent or aqueous solvent;

coating the dispersion on a substrate;

drying the coated substrate; and

subjecting the dried substrate to a hydrothermal treatment for less than 24 hours in the presence of an aqueous medium.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises subjecting a glass precursor material to ball milling to obtain the silica particles in the powder form.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the ball milling is carried out at low-speed milling of 150 rpm to 250 rpm for 30 minutes followed by high-speed milling of 550 rpm to 650 rpm for 30 minutes.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the silica particles in the powder form comprise Na^{+}, K^{+}, Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+} and/or Al^{3+}.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the organic solvent comprises acetone, ethanol or methanol.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the aqueous solvent comprises water.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the coating step is repeated for more than once.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the drying step occurs between 80°C to 200°C.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the hydrothermal treatment is carried out between 150°C to 200°C.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the aqueous medium comprises liquid deionized water.