## **Supporting Information for**

## **Functional Model of Compound II of Cytochrome P450: Spectroscopic Characterization and Reactivity Studies of a Fe<sup>IV</sup>–OH Complex**

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**Determination of solution magnetic moment of the Fe complexes**. The solution magnetic moment of the Fe<sup>IV</sup>(OH) complex (3) was determined using Evans' method.<sup>1-2</sup> A 8.48 mM of a 640  $\mu$ L solution of **3** in CD<sub>3</sub>CN containing HMDS (internal standard) was prepared at –20 °C inside a Wilmad screw-cap NMR tube. A CD3CN solution of HMDS in a Wilmad coaxial insert stem was then slowly inserted inside the screw-cap NMR tube. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of **3** was then recorded in a Bruker 500 MHz NMR instrument at  $-10$  °C. Paramagnetic susceptibility of 3 was measured using the following equation<sup>1</sup>:

 $\chi_P = \chi_0 + 3000\Delta\sqrt{4\pi v_0 cM}$ 

Here,  $\gamma_0$  = diamagnetic susceptibility,  $\Delta v$  = shift of frequency of the methyl protons of HMDS in Hz,  $v_0$  = frequency of the NMR instrument used during the measurement,  $c$  = concentration of the Fe complex, and  $M =$  molecular weight.

Effective magnetic moment ( $\mu_{eff}$ ) of the Fe complexes were determined using the following equation<sup>2</sup>:

 $\mu_{\rm eff} = (3k_{\rm B}\chi_{\rm P}T/N_{\rm A}\beta^2)^{1/2} = (8\times\chi_{\rm P}\times T)^{1/2}$ 

Where,  $k_B$  = Boltzmann's constant, T = Temperature,  $N_A$  = Avogadro's number,  $\beta$  = Bohr magneton. The ratio of  $3k_B/N_A\beta^2 \approx 8$ .

Diamagnetic corrections of **3** were done according to the literature procedure to estimate the paramagnetic susceptibility value. Molar paramagnetic susceptibility  $(\chi_m)$  was estimated from the  $\chi_{\rm P}$  value and molecular weight of **3**.

 $\Delta v$  of 180 Hz was observed experimentally. The molecular weight of **3** = 839.6 g/mol, the concentration of  $3 = 8.48$  mM, and  $v_0 = 500.6$  MHz were used for the calculation of  $\gamma_{P}$ .

**Kinetic Studies**. Kinetic studies reported in this study were performed in an Agilent Cary 8454 spectrophotometer connected to a liquid nitrogen-controlled UNISOKU cryostat. In a typical experiment, 2.5–3 mL of a 0.15-0.32 mM solution of 1 was taken in a long neck cuvette and placed inside the cryostat at a desired temperature  $(-10 \text{ to } -45 \text{ °C})$  and allowed to keep for five minutes. A 50 µL suspension of PhINTs (approx. 3 equiv. with respect to 1) in acetonitrile was introduced in the cuvette using a Hamilton syringe connected to a long neck needle. After the complete formation of the intermediate species **3** (monitored at 465 nm in the UV-vis spectrum), substrate solution in acetonitrile  $(1-100 \text{ equiv}, 50-100 \text{ µL} \text{ solution})$  was introduced into the reaction solution, and the decay of the intermediate was monitored by UV-vis spectroscopy at 465 nm. Pseudo-first-order rate constants ( $k_{obs}$ ) were estimated from the slope of a plot of  $ln(A-A_{\infty})$  vs. time(s). The second-order rate constants  $(k_2)$  were determined from the slope of a plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [substrate]. For the reactions studied in the presence of one equiv. of the substrate,  $k_2$  values were estimated from the slope of a plot of 1/[complex] vs. time (s). Likewise, the kinetic studies using the complex **5** were done.

**X-ray Structure Determination.** Single crystals of Fe<sup>III</sup>(OMe) Complex (4), suitable for X-ray diffraction, were obtained by diffusing diethyl ether into the acetonitrile solution of the complex at room temperature. Crystal data was measured on a Bruker D8 VENTURE Microfocus diffractometer system equipped with a PHOTON II Detector, with Mo K<sub>a</sub> radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ ) Å) and controlled by the APEX4 (v2022.1−1) software package. The raw data were integrated and corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects with the aid of the Bruker APEX4 program suite. Absorption corrections were performed by using SADABS. Structures were solved by the intrinsic phasing method and refined against all data in the reported 2θ ranges by the full-matrix least squares method based on  $F^2$  using the SHELXL program suite<sup>3</sup> with all observed reflections. Hydrogen atoms at idealized positions were included in the final refinements. The non-hydrogen atoms were treated anisotropically. Diagrams for the complexes were prepared using Mercury software.<sup>4</sup> Crystallographic data of Fe complex is given in Table S1, and bond parameters are mentioned in Table S2.





Final R indexes $[I>=2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0588$ , wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1397
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0877$ , wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1541
Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\AA$ <sup>-3</sup> $\boxed{0.63/-0.48}$	

**Table S2**. Selected Bond Length and Bond Angles for **4**.



## **X-ray Absorption Near Edge (XANES) and Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure (EXAFS) Measurements**

X-ray absorption spectra on the Fe(III) and Fe(IV) complexes were carried out at the Petra P64 beamline<sup>5</sup> (Hamburg, Germany) at electron energy 7.1 KeV and average current 100 mA. The radiation was monochromatized by a Si(111) crystal monochromator. The intensity of the X-ray was monitored by three ion chambers  $(I_0, I_1 \text{ and } I_2)$  filled with 70% nitrogen and 30% helium and placed before the sample  $(I_0)$  and after the sample  $(I_1 \text{ and } I_2)$ . A Fe metal foil was placed between the  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  and its absorption recorded with each scan for energy calibration. Plastic (PEEK) EXAFS sample holders (inner dimensions of 12 m x 3 mm x 3mm) filled with the frozen solutions were inserted into a pre-cooled (20 K) cryostat and kept in a He atmosphere at ambient pressure. The XAS data was in this case recorded as fluorescence excitation spectra using a 4-element silicon drift detector. The Fe XAS energy was calibrated by the first maximum of the second derivative of the Fe metal XANES spectrum. A total of 8-10 scans were collected for the Fe(III) and Fe(IV) based complexes In order to reduce the risk of sample damage by X-ray radiation, no more than 2 scans were taken at each sample position in any conditions. No radiation damage was observed to any of the two samples scan after scan. The XAS data were further recollected at Diamond Light Source at bending magnet beamline BM-18 at a storage-ring electron energy of 7 GeV and average current of 100 mA. The radiation was also monochromatized by a  $Si(111)$  crystal monochromator, and the XAS data were recorded in fluorescence mode in a continuous He flow cryostat. Around 15 XAS spectra were collected in this case for the Fe(III) and Fe(IV)-based complexes. Care was also taken to measure at several sample positions on each sample (beam size 1000 µm (Horizontal)

 $\times$  1000 µm(Vertical)) and no more than 5 scans were taken at each sample position. No damage was observed scan after scan to any samples.

## **EXAFS Data Analysis**

Athena software<sup>6</sup> was used for data processing. The energy scale for each scan is normalized using the iron metal standard, and scans made for the same samples were added. Data in energy space are pre-edge corrected, normalized, and background corrected. The processed data are next converted to the photoelectron wave vector  $(k)$  space and weighted by  $k^2$ . The electron wave number is defined as  $k = \frac{2m(E - E_0)}{\hbar^2}$ ,  $E_0$  is the energy origin or the threshold energy. k-space data were truncated near the zero crossings ( $k = 2$  to 14.107  $\AA^{-1}$ ) in Fe EXAFS before Fourier transformation. The k-space data were then transferred into the Artemis Software for curve fitting. In order to fit the data, the Fourier peaks are isolated separately, grouped together, or the entire (unfiltered) spectrum was used. The individual Fourier peaks were isolated by applying a Hanning window to the first and last 15% of the chosen range, leaving the middle 70% untouched. Curve fitting is performed using *ab initio*-calculated phases and amplitudes from the FEFF8<sup>7</sup> program and *ab initio*-calculated phases and amplitudes are used in the EXAFS equation<sup>8</sup>

$$
\chi(k) = S_0^2 \sum_j \frac{N_j}{k R_j^2} f_{\text{eff}_j}(\pi, k, R_j) e^{-2\sigma_j^2 k^2} e^{\frac{-2R_j}{\lambda_j(k)}} \sin(2kR_j + \phi_{ij}(k))
$$
(S1)

*where*  $N_j$  is the number of atoms in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  shell;  $R_j$  the mean distance between the absorbing atom and the atoms in the *j*<sup>th</sup> shell;  $f_{eff_i}$  ( $\pi, k, R_j$ ) is the *ab initio* amplitude function for shell *j*, and the Debye-Waller term  $e^{-2\sigma^2/k^2}$  accounts for damping due to static and thermal disorder in absorberbackscatterer distances. The mean free path term  $e^{\frac{-2R_i}{\delta_i(k)}}$  reflects losses due to inelastic scattering, where  $\lambda_i(k)$ , is the electron mean free path. The oscillations in the EXAFS spectrum are reflected in the sinusoidal term  $\sin(2kR_i + \phi_i(k))$ , where  $\phi_i(k)$  is the *ab initio* phase function for shell *j*. This sinusoidal term shows the direct relation between the frequency of the EXAFS oscillations in kspace and the absorber-back scatterer distance.  $S_0^2$  is an amplitude reduction factor.  $\frac{2R_j}{i(k)}$  $e^{\frac{-2i}{\lambda_j(k)}}$  $s(k) = S_0^2 \sum_j \frac{N_j}{kR_j^2} f_{eff_j}(\pi, k, R_j) e^{-2\sigma_j^2 k^2} e^{\lambda_j(k)} \sin(2kR_j + \phi_{ij}(k))$ <br> *i re N<sub>j</sub>* is the number of atoms in the *j*<sup>th</sup> shell; *R<sub>j</sub>* the mean<br>
the atoms in the *j*<sup>th</sup> shell;  $f_{eff_j}(\pi, k, R_j)$  is the *ab initio* a

The EXAFS equation (Eq. S1) is used to fit the experimental Fourier isolated data (in q-space) as well as unfiltered data (in k-space) and Fourier transformed data (in R-space) using  $N$ ,  $S_0^2$ ,  $E_0$ ,  $R$ , and  $\sigma^2$  as variable parameters. *N* refers to the number of coordination atoms surrounding Fe for each shell. The quality of fit is evaluated by R-factor and the reduced  $Chi<sup>2</sup>$  value. The deviation in *E<sup>0</sup>* was required to be less than or equal to 10 eV. An R-factor less than 2% denotes that the fit is good enough whereas an R-factor between 2 and 5% denotes that the fit is correct within a consistently broad model<sup>9</sup>. The reduced  $Chi^2$  value is used to compare fits as more absorberbackscatter shells are included to fit the data. A smaller reduced Chi<sup>2</sup> value indicates a better fit. Similar results were obtained from fits done in k, q, and R-spaces.

**DFT Calculations.** The DFT optimization calculations were performed using the ORCA (Version 5.0) program package developed by Neese<sup>10</sup> and co-workers. The calculations were optimized at the BP-86 level<sup>11-12</sup> with the def2-TZVP<sup>13</sup> basis set, and the atom-pairwise dispersion correction  $D3BJ^{14-15}$ . The conductor-like polarizable continuum model (CPCM)<sup>16</sup> was applied to model the acetonitrile solvent. The  $RI<sup>17</sup>$  approximation was used to accelerate Coulomb and exchange integrals. The default GRID settings were further used for the self-consistent field iterations and for the final energy evaluation. The calculated structures were confirmed to be minima based on a check of the energies and the absence of imaginary frequencies from frequency calculations carried out on the optimized geometries.

**Time-dependent (TD)-DFT XANES and Optical Calculations.** Time-dependent DFT (TD)- DFT calculations for the XANES and optical spectra of the Fe complexes were carried out using previously established protocols.<sup>18-19</sup> The TD-DFT XANES and optical simulations were in this case performed with the B3LYP as functional with the def2-TZVP triple-zeta<sup>20</sup> basis and D3BJ dispersion correction effects with dense integration grids. The def2-TZVP/J auxiliary basis set and conductor-like polarizable continuum model (CPCM)with acetonitrile solvent were further used. Up to 150 and 50 roots were calculated for the XAS and optical spectra, respectively. The XANES absorption spectra from the TD-DFT calculations were shifted in energy by  $+153$  eV relative to the experimental data as previously demonstrated<sup>21-26</sup>, and a broadening of 2.0 eV was applied to all calculated XAS spectra (FWHM) with a Gaussian line shape. The calculated XANES spectrum contains contributions from electric quadrupole, electric dipole, and magnetic dipole transitions. By contrast, a broadening of 100 nm was applied to all calculated optical spectra (FWHM) with a Lorentzian line shape.



**Table S3**: Summary of parameters employed for the pre-edge fits of Complexes **1** and **3**.



The pre-edge area peaks fitting were further re-carried out in the Fityk<sup>27</sup> software and as previously demonstrated<sup>26</sup>, and the same pre-edge peak areas of 19.3 and 23.5 units were obtained for Complexes **1** and **3** oxidized with PhINTs, respectively, thus confirming the fit procedure employed in the Athena<sup>6</sup> software.



Figure S1: Calculated pre-edge areas of complex 1 (Fe<sup>III</sup>(OH) complex) together with the oxidized  $Fe^{IV}$  (O),  $Fe^{IV}$ (OH) and  $Fe^{IV}$ (OH)(PhINTs) complex bound to an oxygen (complex 3) and nitrogen atom respectively.



**Table S4.** EXAFS Fits parameters





\* The amplitude reduction factor  $S_0^2$  was fixed to 1. Region I refers to the EXAFS spectra region between apparent distances 1/1.9-2.3 Å, whereas Regions I and II refer to that between 1.1-3 Å. Our EXAFS data resolution determined by  $\frac{\pi}{24k}$  is equal to 0.14 Å.

**Table S5**. Summary of DFT-calculated distances for all geometry-optimized Fe-based complexes.

Complex	$Fe-N_1$	$Fe-N2$	$Fe-O1$	$Fe-O2$	$Fe=O$	Fe-	Fe-	$Fe-O$	Fe-N
						OH/OMe	OH <sub>2</sub>	(PhINTs)	(PhINTs)
$1.Fe^{III}$	1.9216	1.9341	1.8991	1.9079		1.8985			
hydroxo,									
Spin $1/2$									
$2.Fe^{III}$	1.9244	1.9252	1.9044	1.9045		1.9826			
hydroxo,									
Spin $3/2$									
$3.Fe^{III}$	1.9283	1.9279	1.8667	1.8675		1.8178			
hydroxo									
ligand									
oxidized									







**Figure S2**. FT-IR spectrum of **4**, recorded on KBr pellet.



**Figure S3**. UV-vis spectrum of **4** (0.22 mM) in acetonitrile at 25 °C.



**Figure S4**. X-band EPR spectrum of **4** (4 mM), measured in 5:2 frozen tetrahydrofuran/methanol (v/v) at 77 K. Experimental parameters: Frequency =  $9.6291$  GHz, Power = 0.99 mW, Modulation frequency = 100 kHz, Modulation amplitude = 4.91 G.



**Figure S5.** The shift of <sup>1</sup>H NMR signal of hexamethyldisilazane in the presence of 4 a 400 MHz NMR instrument for the estimation of the solution magnetic moment of  $4$  (5.55 mM) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD at  $25^{\circ}$ C.



**Figure S6**. Cyclic voltammogram and differential pulse voltammogram of **4** (0.5 mM) in acetonitrile in the presence of  ${}^{n}Bu_4NPF_6$  (50 mM) as the supporting electrolyte. A 3 mm glassy carbon as the working electrode, a Pt wire as the counter electrode, and an Ag wire as a pseudo reference electrode were used during the CV measurement. The potential value is reported with respect to the  $Fe^{+}/Fe$  couple. CV data was recorded at a scan rate of 100 mV/s.



**Figure S7 A**. UV-vis spectra of complex **1** (0.15 mM) and intermediates formed upon the addition of PhINTs (3 equiv, **3**) and magic blue (one equiv, **2**) to the solution of **1** (0.25 mM) in acetonitrile at 25 C. **B**. Calculated TD-DFT optical data of complexes **1**, **2** and **3**. While complex **1** shows a featureless optical spectrum, **2** and **3** demonstrate 2 peaks in the visible light region in agreement with experimental data. The calculated optical spectra of **2** and **3** are further very similar.



Figure S8. (A) The UV-vis spectrum of the reaction solution obtained upon adding different equiv. of PhINTs to an acetonitrile solution of 1 at -45 °C. (B) A plot of absorbance vs. equiv. of PhINTs added.



**Figure S9**. X-band EPR spectrum of **3** (2 mM) in frozen acetonitrile at 77 K.



**Figure S10.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of complex  $3$  in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at  $-10$  °C in a 500 MHz NMR instrument. Inset: shift of <sup>1</sup>H NMR signal of hexamethyldisilazane in a 500 MHz NMR instrument for the estimation of the magnetic moment of **3** (8.48 mM) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at  $-10$  °C.



**Figure S11**. CV and DPV data of **3** (0.5 mM) and **2** (0.5 mM) in acetonitrile containing 50 mM of tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate as supporting electrolyte at  $-15$  °C.



**Figure S12**. Fourier transforms of  $k^2$ -weighted Fe EXAFS for **A**. **1** (solid black line) and its corresponding fit (Fit 3, Table S4), for **B. 3** generated with PhINTs, and its corresponding fit (Fit 9, Table S4).



**Figure S13**. Change of UV-vis spectrum of **4** (0.22 mM) upon addition of PhINTs (3 equiv.) in acetonitrile at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S14**. X-band EPR spectrum of **5** (4 mM) measured in frozen acetonitrile at 77 K.



**Figure S15**. Cyclic voltammogram and differential pulse voltammogram of **5** (0.5 mM) measured in acetonitrile at around  $-15$  °C.



Figure S16. Zero-field <sup>57</sup>Fe Mossbauer spectrum of the reaction solution obtained upon adding PhINTs (3 equiv) to an acetonitrile solution of **4** at  $-25$  °C. The data was recorded at a liquid nitrogen temperature. The Fe<sup>IV</sup> species (S = 1, ~40 %) revealed  $\delta$  = -0.11 mm/s and  $\Delta E_q$  = 0.77 mm/s. While the Fe<sup>IV</sup> species (S=2, ~60 %) showed  $\delta$  = 0.17 mm/s and  $\Delta E_q$  = 1.43 mm/s.



**Figure S17.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25  $^{\circ}$ C) of the reaction mixture obtained after reaction of **3** with  $(p\text{-}OMe\text{-}C_6H_4)_3C^*$  ("Trimethoxy benzene as internal standard) in 1:4 acetonitrile/toluene (*v*/*v*).



**Figure S18**. (a) Change of UV-vis spectrum of 2 upon addition of one equiv. of  $(4\text{-}OMe\text{-}C_6H_4)_{3}C^{\bullet}$ in a 1:4 acetonitrile/toluene (v/v) solution at  $-60$  °C (Inset: Time trace of 2 (0.2 mM) at 680 nm upon addition of 0.2 mM of  $(4\text{-}OMe\text{-}C_6H_4)_3C^{\bullet}$ , at  $-60\text{ °C}$ . (b) Comparison of decay of 2 and 3 (0.2 mM) at 680 nm in the presence of 0.2 mM of  $(4\text{-}OMe\text{-}C_6\text{H}_4)_3\text{C}^{\bullet}$  at  $-60$  °C. (c) Change of UV-vis spectrum of 2 (0.2 mM) upon addition of one equiv. of  $(4\text{-OMe-C}_6\text{H}_4)_{3}C^{\bullet}$  to 1:4 acetonitrile/toluene (v/v) solution of **2** at  $-10$  °C (d) Time trace of **2** (0.2 mM) at 680 nm upon addition of 0.2 mM of  $(4\text{-OMe-C}_6H_4)_3C^{\bullet}$  at  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



**Figure S19**. (a) Change of UV-vis spectrum of **3** (0.21 mM) upon addition of one equiv. of decamethylferrocene (Fc<sup>\*</sup>) to an acetonitrile solution of **3** at  $-25$  °C (Inset: Decay of **3** (0.21 mM) at 465 nm and formation of  $Fc^*$  at 780 nm upon addition of 0.21 mM of  $Fc^*$ ). (b) A plot of  $1/[3]$ vs. time (s) for the determination of *k*<sup>2</sup> value for one-electron reduction of **3**.



**Figure S20**. (a) Change of UV-vis spectrum of **2** (0.12 mM) upon addition of one equiv. of decamethylferrocene (Fc<sup>\*</sup>) to an acetonitrile solution of **2** at  $-20$  °C (Inset: Decay of **2** (0.12 mM) at 465 nm and formation of  $(Fe<sup>*</sup>)$  at 780 nm upon addition of 0.12 mM of  $Fe<sup>*</sup>$ ). (b) A plot of  $1/[2]$ vs. time for the determination of  $k_2$  value for one-electron reduction of 2.



**Figure S21**. The X-band EPR spectrum of the reaction solution was obtained upon adding one equiv. of 4-OMe-DTBP to an acetonitrile solution of  $3(2 \text{ mM})$  at  $-20 \text{ °C}$ .



**Figure S22.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25 °C) of the reaction mixture obtained after reaction of **3** with 4-OMe-DTBP followed by acid workup ( #Trimethoxy benzene).



**Figure S23**. Decay of  $3$  (0.25 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of 4-OMe-DTBP at  $-45$  °C. (Inset: Second-order fitting of the time trace at 465 nm at  $-45$  °C of the reaction of 3 (0.25 mM) with 4-OMe-DTBP (0.25 mM) in acetonitrile)



**Figure S24.** Decay of  $3$  (0.25 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations  $(2.4 - 7.2)$ mM) of 4-OMe-DTBP- $d$  (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value). The reaction was studied at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S25**. A plot of *k*obs vs. [4-OMe-DTBP-*d*]. The *k*obs values were obtained by reacting **3** with different concentrations of 4-OMe-2,6-DTBP- $d$  at -45 °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S26**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.22 mM) upon addition of 2.4 mM solution of 4- Me-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S27**. Decay of **3** (0.22 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4–7.2 mM) of 4-Me-DTBP (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value). The reaction was studied at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S28**. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [4-Me-2,6-DTBP]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 4-Me-DTBP at  $-45$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S29**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.25 mM) upon addition of 2.4 mM solution of 4-Et-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S30.** Decay of **3** (0.25 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4 – 9.6 mM) of 4-Et-DTBP (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value). The reaction was studied at  $-45$  °C.



Figure S31. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [4-Et-DTBP]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 4-Et-DTBP at  $-45$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S32**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.25 mM) upon addition of 4.8 mM solution of 4-  $H$ <sup>t</sup>Bu-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S33**. Decay of **3** (0.25 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (4.8 – 14.1 mM) of 4-<sup>t</sup>Bu-DTBP (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value). The reaction was studied at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S34.** A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [4- $B$ u-DTBP]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 4- $^t$ Bu-DTBP at  $-45$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S35**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.2 mM) upon addition of 2.4 mM solution of 4-H-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S36**. Decay of **3** (0.2 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4 – 9.6 mM) of 4-H-DTBP (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value). The reaction was studied at  $-45$  °C.



**Figure S37.** A plot of *k*obs vs. [4-H-DTBP]. The *k*obs values were obtained by reacting **3** with different concentrations of 4-H-DTBP at  $-45$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S38**. Decay of **3** (0.17 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (1.8–5.8 mM) of 2,6-DTBP- $d$  (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value). The reaction was studied at -45 °C.



**Figure S39.** A plot of *k*obs vs. [4-H-DTBP-*d*]. The *k*obs values were obtained by reacting **3** with different concentrations of 4-H-DTBP- $d$  at  $-45$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S40.** (a) Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.19 mM) upon addition of 0.19 mM solution of 4-Br-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-45$  °C. (b) Decay of **3** (0.19 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of 0.19 mM of 4-Br-DTBP (Inset: Second-order fitting of the time trace at 465 nm at  $-45^{\circ}$ C).



**Figure S41**. (a) Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.16 mM) upon addition of 0.16 mM solution of 4-OAc-DTBP in acetonitrile at -45 °C. (b) Decay of **3** (0.16 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of 0.16 mM of 4-OAc-DTBP (Inset: Second-order fitting of the time trace at 465 nm at  $-45^{\circ}$ C).



Figure S42. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25 °C) of the reaction mixture obtained after a reaction of **3** with 4-Me-DTBP in acetonitrile followed by an acid workup.



**Figure S43.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25  $^{\circ}$ C) of the reaction mixture obtained after reaction of **3** with 4-H-DTBP in acetonitrile followed by an acid workup ( #Trimethoxy benzene as internal standard).



**Figure S44**. The X-band EPR spectrum of the reaction solution was obtained upon adding ten equiv. of 4<sup>-t</sup>Bu-DTBP to an acetonitrile solution of  $3$  at  $-25$  °C. The EPR data was recorded at the liquid nitrogen temperature.



**Figure S45.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25  $^{\circ}$ C) of the reaction mixture obtained after a reaction of **3** with 4-Br-DTBP followed by an acid workup.



Figure S46. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25 °C) of the reaction mixture obtained after a reaction of **3** with 2,6-DTBP followed by an acid workup.



Figure S47. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25 °C) of the reaction mixture obtained after a reaction of **3** with 4-OAc-DTBP in acetonitrile followed by an acid workup.

**Table S6**. The second-order rate constant for the reaction of **3** with 4-X-2,6-di-*tert*-butylphenols  $(X=-OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>3</sub>, -C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, -H, -Br, and -OAc)$  at  $-45$  °C and O-H bond dissociation energy of different phenols.



<sup>a</sup>kcal/mol, <sup>b</sup>V vs. Fc<sup>+</sup>/Fc, <sup>c</sup>M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.

 $\sigma_{p}$ <sup>+</sup> values were taken from reference <sup>28</sup>.
**Table S7**. The yield of the products formed for the reaction of **3** with 4-X-DTBP, (4-X-C6H4)3P, and other substrates.





**Figure S48**. Decay of  $3$  (0.25 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of 0.25 mM of 4-OMe-DTBP at  $-25$ <sup>o</sup>C (Inset: Second-order fitting of the time trace at 465 nm at  $-25$  <sup>o</sup>C of the reaction of **3** (0.25 mM) with 4-OMe-DTBP (0.25 mM) in acetonitrile).



**Figure S49**. Decay of **3** (0.25 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of 0.25 mM of 4-OMe-DTBP-*d* (Inset: Second-order fitting of the time trace at 465 nm at  $-25$  °C for the reaction of **3** (0.25 mM) with 4-OMe-DTBP-*d* (0.25 mM) in acetonitrile).



**Figure S50**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.22 mM) upon addition of 3.6 mM solution of 4- Me-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-25$  °C.



**Figure S51**. Decay of 3 (0.22 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (3.6–6 mM) of 4-Me-DTBP at  $-25$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S52.** A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [4-Me-DTBP]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 4-Me-DTBP at  $-25$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S53**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.25 mM) upon addition of 2.4 mM solution of 4-Et-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-25$  °C.



**Figure S54**. Decay of 3 (0.25 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4–6 mM) of 4-Et-DTBP  $-25$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



Figure S55. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [4-Et-DTBP]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 4-Et-DTBP at  $-25$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S56**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.22 mM) upon addition of 2.4 mM solution of 4-  $Bu-DTBP$  in acetonitrile at  $-25$  °C.



Figure S57. Decay of 3 (0.22 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4–6 mM) of 4-<sup>t</sup>Bu-DTBP -25 °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S58**. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [4- $^t$ Bu-DTBP]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 4- $^t$ Bu-DTBP at  $-25$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.







**Figure S59.** A plot of  $(RT/F)$ ln $k_2$  vs.  $E_{ox}$  (vs.  $Fc^+/Fc)$  for 4-X-DTBP at  $-25$  °C in acetonitrile.



**Figure S60**. Change of single spectrum of **5** (0.32 mM) upon addition of 8.2 mM solution of 4- Me-DTBP in acetonitrile at  $-25$  °C.



**Figure 61**. Decay of **5** (0.32 mM) was monitored at 465 nm upon the addition of different concentrations (4.7–8.2 mM) of 4-Me-DTBP at  $-25$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S62**. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [4-Me-DTBP]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 5 with different concentrations of 4-Me-DTBP at  $-25$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure 63**. Decay of **5** (0.32 mM) was monitored at 465 nm upon the addition of different concentrations (2.4–7.0 mM) of 4-Et-DTBP  $-25$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S64**. A plot of *k*obs vs. [4-Et-DTBP]. The *k*obs values were obtained by reacting **5** with different concentrations of 4-Et-DTBP at  $-25$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant (*k*2) was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S65**. Decay of **3** (0.2 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of BNAH (0.2 mM) at different temperatures. Inset: Second-order fitting of the time trace at 465 nm at different temperatures of the reaction of **3** (0.2 mM) with BNAH (0.2 mM) acetonitrile.

**Table S9.** Second-order rate constants  $(k_2)$  for the reaction of intermediate 3 with BNAH at different temperatures.

Temperature $(K)$	$k_2$ (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
$-16$ °C	145.77
$-13$ °C	176.15
$-10$ °C	221.59
$-7 °C$	280.22



**Figure S66**. Eyring plot for the reaction of **3** with BNAH over a temperature range of  $-7$  °C to  $-16$  °C.



**Figure S67.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 500 MHz, 25  $^{\circ}$ C) of the reaction mixture obtained after reaction of 3 with BNAH in acetonitrile (#3,5-Dinitrobenzoic acid as internal standard, \* solvent residual peak).



**Figure S68**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.30 mM) upon addition of 11.9 mM solution of 9,10-DHA in acetonitrile at  $-10$  °C.



**Figure S69**. Decay of **3** (0.30 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (11.9–18.6 mM) of 9,10-DHA at  $-10$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S70**. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [9,10-DHA]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 9,10-DHA at  $-10$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S71.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 25 °C) of the reaction mixture obtained after a reaction of **3** with 9,10-DHA in acetonitrile followed by an acid workup.



**Figure S72**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.3 mM) upon addition of 11.9 mM solution of 1,4 cyclohexadiene in acetonitrile at  $-10$  °C.



**Figure S73**. Decay of **3** (0.3 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (11.9–20.8 mM) of 1,4-cyclohexadiene at  $-10$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



Figure S74. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [1,4-CHD]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of 1,4-CHD in acetonitrile at  $-10$  °C. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.







**Figure S75**. A plot of  $1/[2]$  versus time (s) for the reaction of 2 with BNAH or BNAD at –10 °C. The  $k_2$ <sup>H</sup> and  $k_2$ <sup>D</sup> values were determined from the slope of this plot.



**Figure S76.** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 202 MHz, 25  $^{\circ}$ C) of the reaction mixture obtained after reaction of 3 with PPh<sub>3</sub> in acetonitrile.



**Figure S77.** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 202 MHz, 25 °C) of the reaction mixture obtained after a reaction of **3** with (4*-*OMe-C6H4)3P in acetonitrile.



**Figure S78**. The ESI-mass spectrum of the reaction solution obtained upon reacting intermediate [(HMPAB)Fe<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>18</sup>H]<sup>-</sup> with (4-OMe-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P in acetonitrile.



**Figure S79**. Decay of 3 (0.28 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (11.9–15.5) mM) of PPh<sub>3</sub> at  $-10$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



Figure S80. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [PPh<sub>3</sub>]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting 3 with different concentrations of PPh<sub>3</sub> at  $-10$  °C in acetonitrile. The second-order rate constant value was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S81**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.22 mM) upon addition of a 2.4 mM solution of (4*-* Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P in acetonitrile at –10 °C.



**Figure S82**. Decay of **3** (0.22 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4 -7.2 mM) of  $(4$ -Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P at  $-10$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S83**. A plot of  $k_{obs}$  vs. [(4-Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P]. The  $k_{obs}$  values were obtained by reacting **3** with different concentrations of  $(4-Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P$  in acetonitrile at  $-10$  °C. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S84**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.30 mM) upon addition of 2.4 mM solution of (4- Cl-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P in acetonitrile at –10 °C.



**Figure S85**. Decay of 3 (0.3 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4–11.9) mM) of  $(4\text{-}Cl\text{-}C_6H_4)$ <sub>3</sub>P at  $-10$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S86**. A plot of *k*obs vs. [(4-Cl-C6H4)3P]. The *k*obs values were obtained by reacting **3** with different concentrations of  $(4$ -Cl-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P in acetonitrile at -10 °C. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.



**Figure S87**. Change of single spectrum of **3** (0.22 mM) upon addition of 11.9 mM solution of (4- OMe-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P in acetonitrile at –10 °C.



**Figure S88**. Decay of 3 (0.22 mM) at 465 nm upon addition of different concentrations (2.4–14.1) mM) of (4-OMe-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P in acetonitrile at  $-10$  °C (Inset: determination of  $k_{obs}$  value).



**Figure S89**. A plot of *k*obs vs. (4-OMe-C6H4)3P. The *k*obs values were obtained by reacting **3** with different concentrations of  $(4\text{-}OMe\text{-}C_6H_4)_{3}P$  in acetonitrile at  $-10$  °C. The second-order rate constant was obtained from the slope of the plot.

**Table S11**. The second-order rate constant values for the reaction of intermediate **3** with (4-X- $C_6H_4$ )<sub>3</sub>P (X= -OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>3</sub>, -H, -Cl).  $\sigma_p^+$  values are also mentioned in the plot.

<b>Phosphines</b>	$\sigma_{\scriptscriptstyle{\text{p}}}$	$E_{ox}/V$ SCE <sup>a</sup>	$vs. \, k_2 \, (M^{-1} \, s^{-1})$	$\log k_2$	$\log k_{\text{rel}}$
$(p\text{-}OMe\text{-}Ph)_{3}P$	$-0.27$	0.8	0.320	$-0.5$	0.55948
$(p$ -Me-Ph $)$ <sub>3</sub> P	$-0.17$	0.97	0.123	$-0.91$	0.1512
PPh <sub>3</sub>		1.06	0.087	$-1.06$	
$(p\text{-}Cl\text{-}Ph)_{3}P$	0.227	1.28	0.034	$-1.46$	$-0.40563$

<sup>a</sup>E<sub>ox</sub> value of the Ar<sub>3</sub>P substrates were taken from the reference <sup>29</sup>. The  $\sigma_p$  values were taken from the reference  $28$ .



**Figure S90**. UV-vis spectra of the reaction solutions obtained upon reacting **3** (0.2 mM) with 4- OMe-DTBP, Fc\*, and  $(4\text{-OMe-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P$  in acetonitrile at  $-25$  °C.



**Figure S91.** Simplified orbital scheme based on DFT calculations of A. Complexes **1**, B. **2**, and C. **3**

Complexes	Isosurface of the molecular orbitals assigned	
	to the main UV-Vis transitions	
$\overline{1}$		
$\overline{2}$		
$\overline{\mathbf{3}}$		

**Table S12**. Isosurface of the molecular orbitals assigned to the main UV-Vis transitions of Complexes **1**, **2**, and **3**.



**Table S13.** LUMO, HOMO, LUMO- HUMO molecular orbitals of complexes **1**, **2** and **3** together with the LUMO-HUMO energy gaps. The LUMO-HUMO gaps were also determined for complexes **1**, **2** and **3**, Complexes **1, 2** and **3** display LUMO-HOMO energy gaps of 1.078 eV, - 0.567 eV and 0.357 eV respectively with the energy gaps of **3** < **2** < **1**. The observed energy gap trends are in agreement with the lesser stable excited state<sup>27</sup> of complex  $3 \text{ vs } 1$  and  $2$ . The LUMO-HOMO gaps of **2** and **3** are also very similar with the isosurface of the molecular orbitals distributed over the metal and ligand in comparison to **1**.





# **Appendix**

**1. FeIII(OH), Spin ½**







## **2. FeIII (OH), Spin 3/2**







## **3.**  $\mathbf{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{OH})$  ligand oxidized complex,  $\mathbf{S} = 1$







## **4. FeIV(OH)(PhINTs through O), S= 2**







## **5. FeIV(OH)(PhINTs through O), S= 1**









# **6.**  $Fe^{IV}(OH)(PhINTs)$  through N),  $S = 2$








# **7.**  $Fe^{IV}(O)$ ,  $S = 1$







# **8.** Fe<sup>IV</sup>**(OH**), **S** = 1







### **9.**  $\mathbf{F}e^{i\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{OH})(\mathbf{OH}_2), S = 1$







### **10.**  $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}(\text{OH})(\text{CH}_3\text{CN}), S = 1$







# **11.** Fe<sup>III</sup>(OMe),  $S = \frac{1}{2}$





#### **12.**  $Fe^{III}(OMe)$ ,  $S = 3/2$







# **13. FeIII(OMe), S = 5/2**





#### **14.**  $Fe^{IV}(OMe)(PhINTs, bound through O atom), S = 2$







**15.**  $\mathbf{Fe}^{\mathbf{IV}}(\mathbf{OMe})(\mathbf{PhINTs}$  bound through N atom),  $\mathbf{S} = 2$ 











**16. Fe**<sup>III</sup> (OMe) ligand oxidized complex,  $S = 2$ 



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