

Supporting Information

Dialumenes – Aryl vs. Silyl Stabilization for Small Molecule Activation and Catalysis.

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1. Experimental

1.1 General Experimental procedures

All experiments and manipulations were carried out under argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk or glovebox techniques. Glassware was heat dried under vacuum prior to use. Ground glass joints were coated with the polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)-based grease Merckl Triboflon III.

Unless otherwise stated, all chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or ABCR and used as received. n-Hexane, THF and toluene were refluxed over sodium/benzophenone, distilled and deoxygenated prior to use. Deuterated benzene (C₆D₆) and THF-d₈ were obtained from Deutero Deutschland GmbH and were dried over 4 Å molecular sieves. Carbon dioxide (5.0), Hydrogen (5.0) nitrogen monoxide (5.0) and oxygen gas (5.0) were purchased from Westfalen AG and used as received.

The following compounds were prepared according to literature procedures; *i*Pr₂Me₂ (1,3-di-*iso*-propyl-4,5dimethylimidazolin-2-ylidene),^{S1} Me₃N·AlH₃,^{S2} *i*Pr₂Me₂AlH₃,^{S3} and TipPLi·OEt₂.^{S4}

NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV400US, DRX400, AVHD300 or AV500cr at ambient temperature (300 K). ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were calibrated against the residual proton and natural abundance carbon resonances of the respective deuterated solvent as internal standard.

Elemental analyses (EA) were conducted with a EURO EA (HEKA tech) instrument equipped with a CHNS combustion analyser.

Melting Points (M.P.) were determined in sealed glass capillaries under inert gas with a Büchi M-565 melting point apparatus.

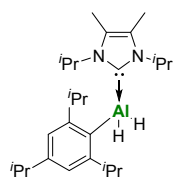
ATR-FTIR spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer FTIR spectrometer (diamond ATR, Spectrum Two; located inside an argon-filled glovebox) in a range of 400 – 4000 cm⁻¹.

LIFDI-ESI Mass spectrometry data were acquired using an Exactive Plus Orbitrap system (ionization method: LIFDI) by Thermo Fisher Scientific.

UV/vis spectra were recorded on a Agilent, Cary 60, UV-Vis Spectrophotometer in the range 200-1100 nm.

1.2 Synthesis & Characterisation Data of Novel Compounds

Compound 1 – $i\text{-Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{H}_2$



$\text{TippLi}\cdot\text{OEt}_2$ (2.70 g, 9.51 mmol) in 50 mL of Et_2O was added via a dropping funnel over a period of 1 hour to a Et_2O stirring solution of $i\text{-Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{AlH}_3$ (2.00g, 9.51 mmol) at -78°C . After complete addition the reaction mixture was kept at -78°C for an additional hour and then slowly allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. After stirring for an additional 24 hours at room temperature, the solvent was removed and the crude product was then extracted with hexanes several times.

Colourless crystalline material of **1** was obtained from the concentrated hexane solution at -30°C . Yield = 2.57 g, 66%.

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, C_6D_6 , δ ppm): 7.23 (2H, s, *m*-H Tipp), 5.59 (2H, sept, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$ Hz $\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 5.11 (2H, br. s. AlH_2), 4.02 (2H, sept, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8$ Hz, *o*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.96 (1H, sept, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, *p*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.48 (6H, s, CCH_3), 1.42 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8$ Hz, *o*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.38 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, *p*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.03 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ Hz, $\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6 , δ ppm): 175.44 (NCN – assigned HMBC), 158.02 (*o*-C Tipp), 147.88 (*p*-C Tipp), 145.6 (*ipso*-C Tipp – assigned HMBC), 125.73 (CCH_3), 119.77 (*m*-C Tipp), 52.45 ($\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 36.70 (*o*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 35.08 (*p*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.53 (*o*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 24.67 (*p*-*i*Pr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.27 ($\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 9.83 (CCH_3). $^{27}\text{Al NMR}$ (78.2 MHz, C_6D_6 , δ ppm): 112.9 (br. s.). IR: 1712 cm^{-1} (Al-H). LIFDI-ESI: $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{45}\text{N}_2\text{Al}$ calculated (found): 412.34 (411.3839 m/z)

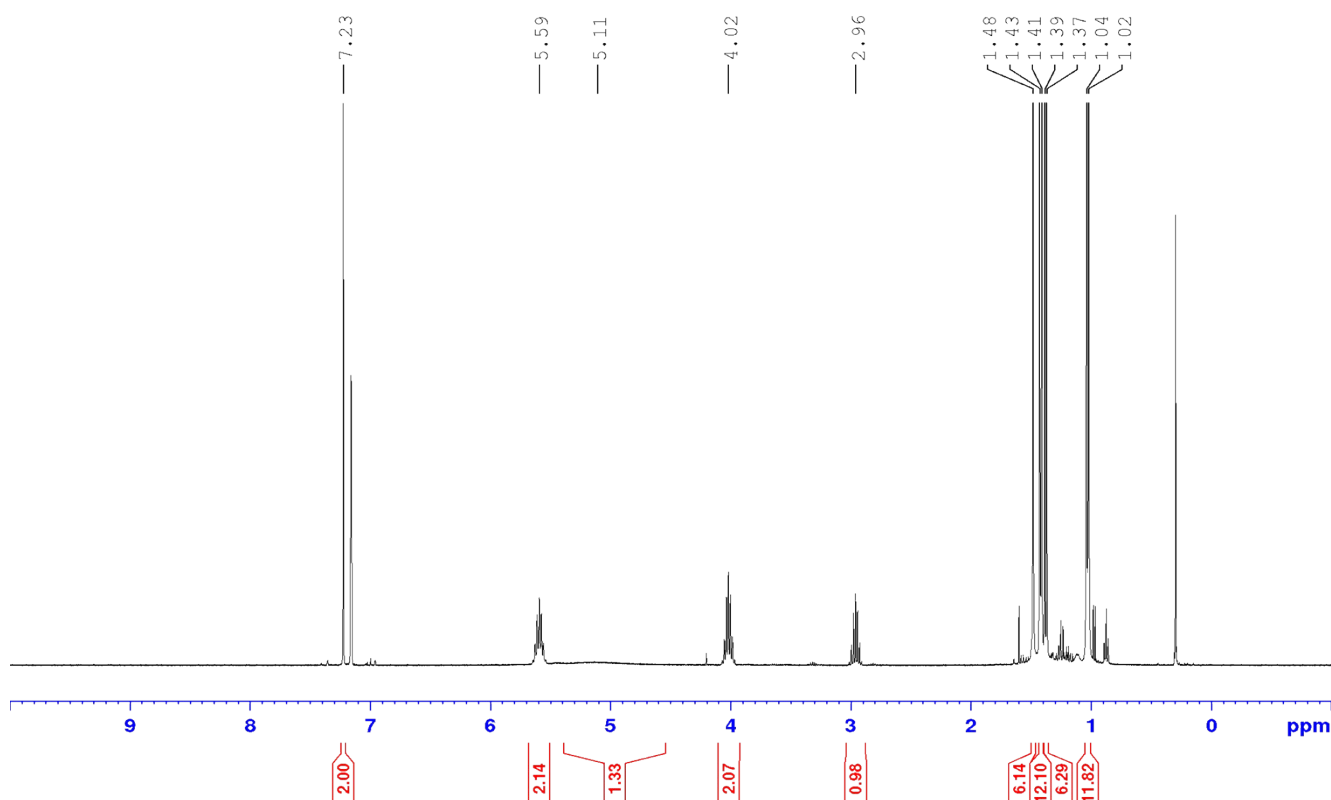


Figure S 1. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum of Compound **1** - $i\text{-Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{H}_2$, in C_6D_6 .

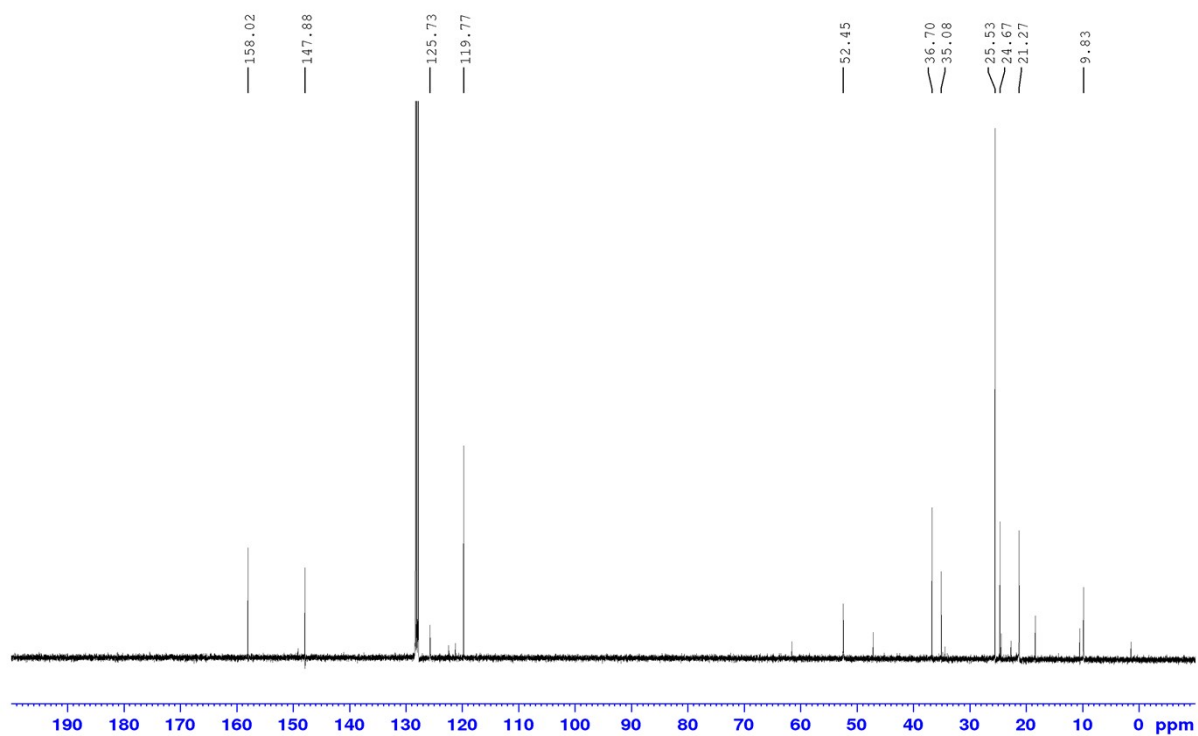


Figure S 2. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of Compound **1** - $\text{iPr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{H}_2$, in C_6D_6 .

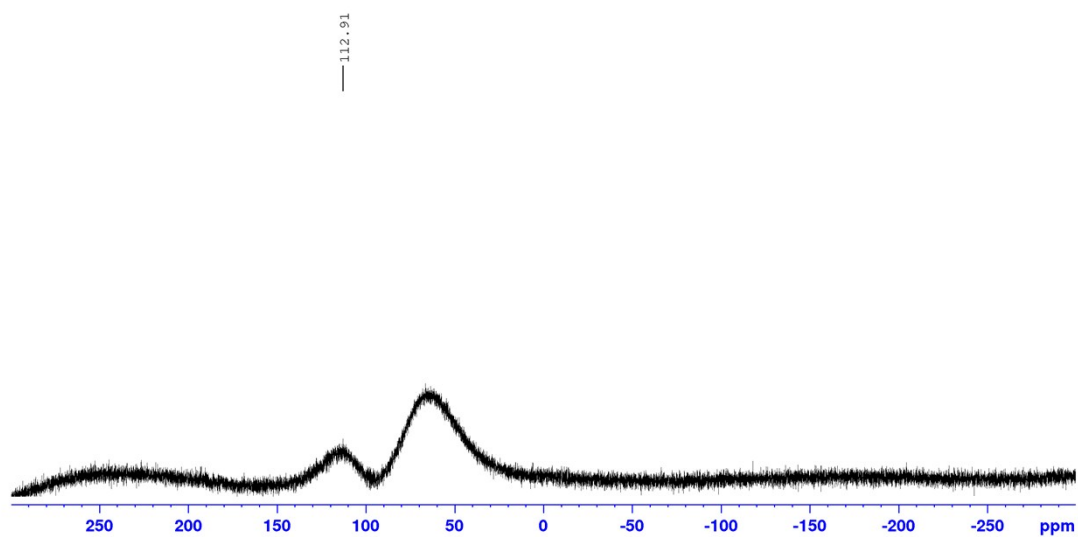


Figure S 3. ^{27}Al NMR spectrum of Compound **1** - $\text{iPr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{H}_2$, in C_6D_6

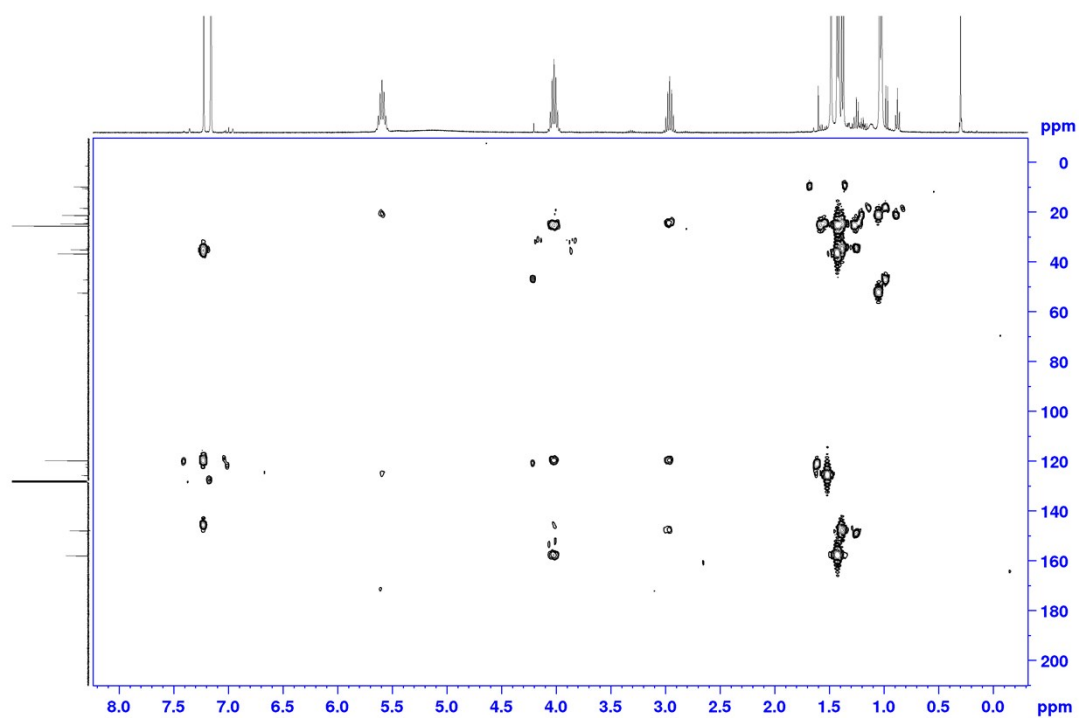


Figure S 4. ^1H - ^{13}C HMBC for compound **1** - $^i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{H}_2$, in C_6D_6

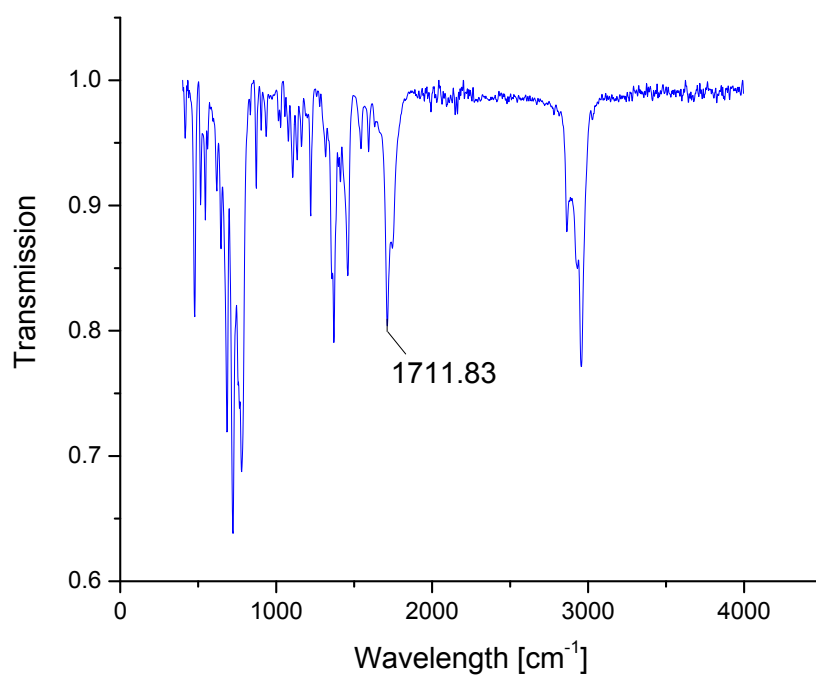
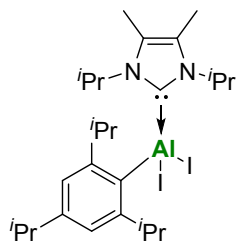


Figure S 5. IR data of compound **1** - $^i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{H}_2$

Compound 2 – $i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{I}_2$



Iodomethane (5 eq., 3.44 g, 1.51 mL, 24.2 mmol) was added dropwise via syringe to a toluene solution of $i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{H})_2\text{Tipp}$ (**1**) (2.00 g, 4.85 mmol) at 0 °C. After complete addition, an oil bubbler was fitted to the top of the Schlenk flask and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature overnight. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, the crude compound was washed with hexane and subsequently extracted with toluene. Colourless crystalline material of **2** was obtained from the concentrated toluene solution at -30 °C. Yield = 1.70 g, 52%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, C_6D_6 , δ ppm): 7.08 (2H, s, *m*-H Tipp), 5.77 (2H, sept, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ Hz $\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 4.10 (2H, sept, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, *o*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.84 (1H, sept, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, *p*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.46 (6H, s, CCH_3), 1.29 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$ Hz, *o*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.28 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, *p*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.01 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0$ Hz, $\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6 , δ p pm): 161.44 (NCN – assigned HMBC), 156.42 (*o*-C Tipp), 149.69 (*p*-C Tipp), 140.2 (*ipso*-C Tipp – assigned HMBC), 126.54 (CCH_3), 121.25 (*m*-C Tipp), 53.15 ($\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 37.02 (*o*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 34.86 (*p*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.18 (*o*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 24.41 (*p*-iPr $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 20.61 ($\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 9.82 (CCH_3). $^{27}\text{Al NMR}$ (78.2 MHz, C_6D_6 , δ ppm): no signal found. LIFDI-ESI: $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{43}\text{N}_2\text{Al}_2$ calculated (found): 664.13 (663.8990 m/z).

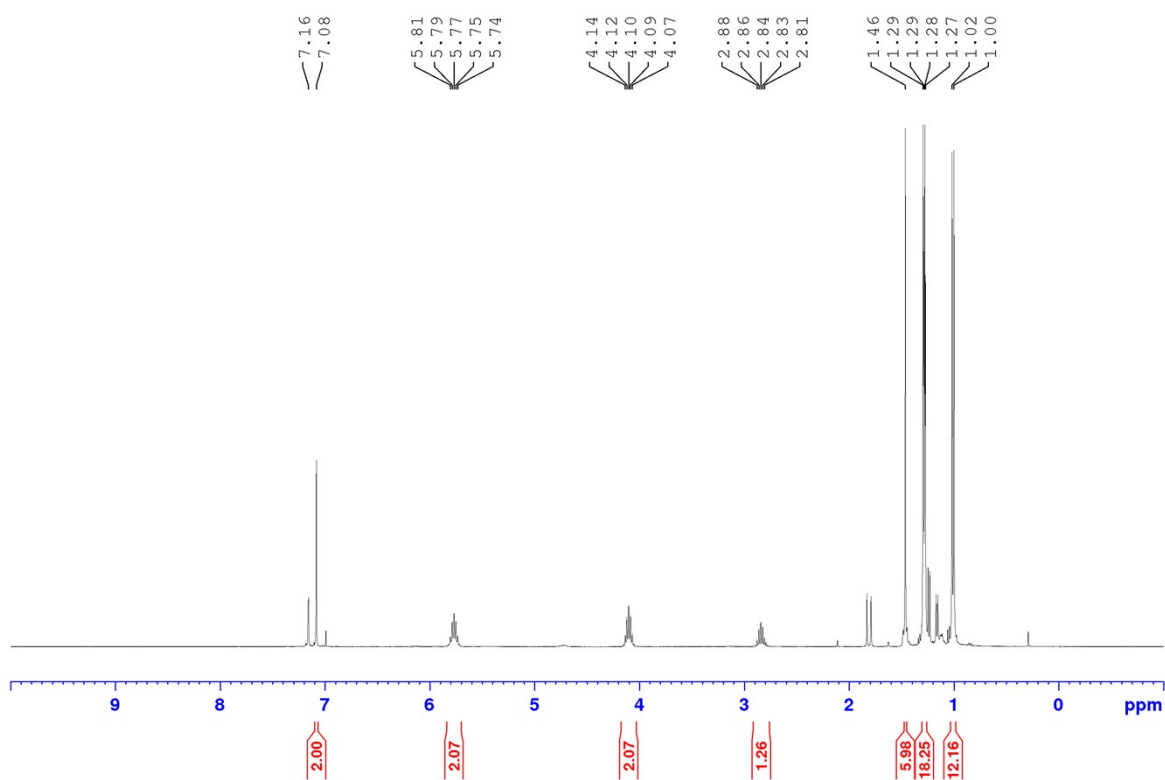


Figure S 6. $^1\text{H NMR}$ Spectrum of Compound **2** - $i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{I}_2$, in C_6D_6 .

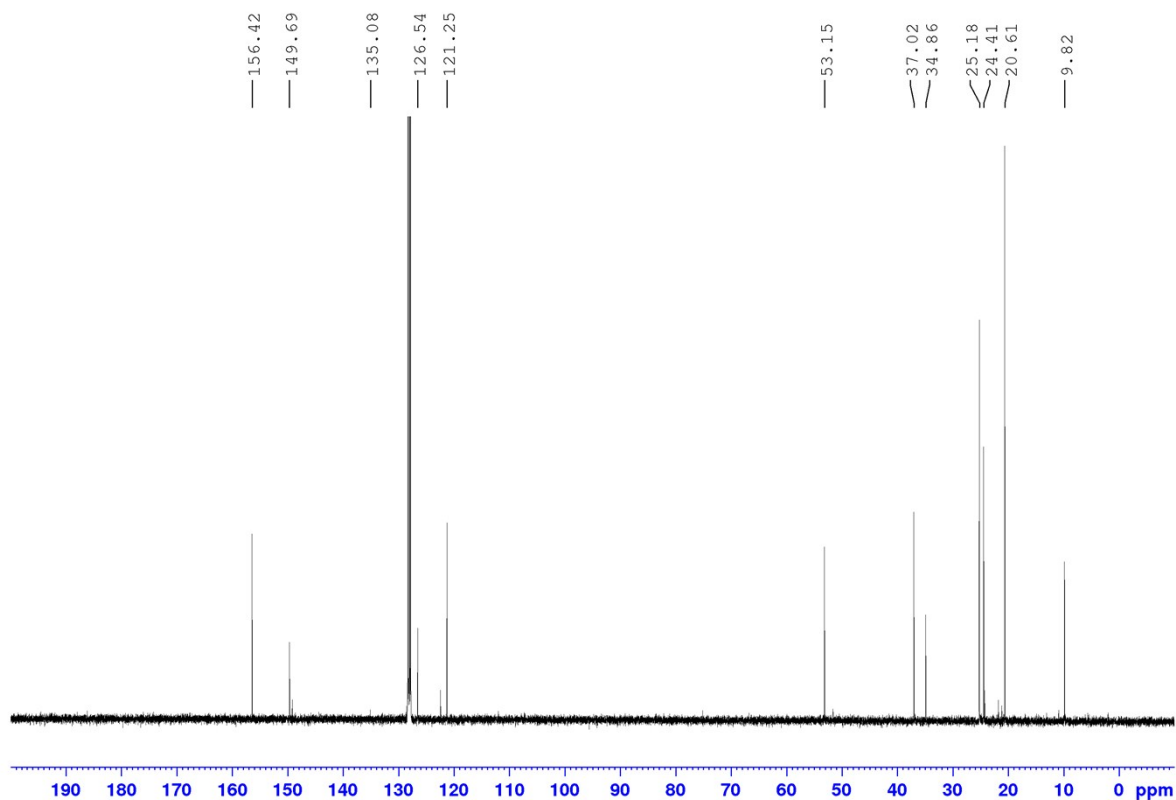


Figure S 7. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound **2** - $\text{i}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{I}_2$, in C_6D_6 .

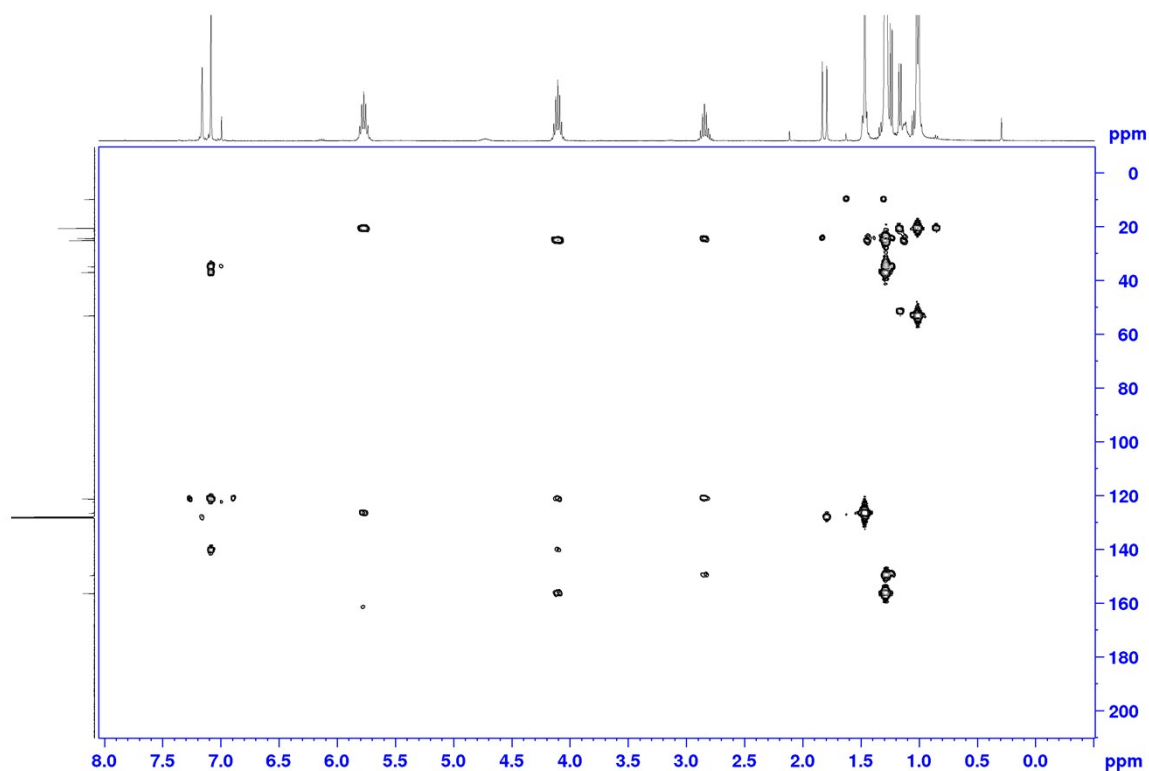


Figure S 8. ^1H - ^{13}C HMBC for compound **2** - $\text{i}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{I}_2$, in C_6D_6

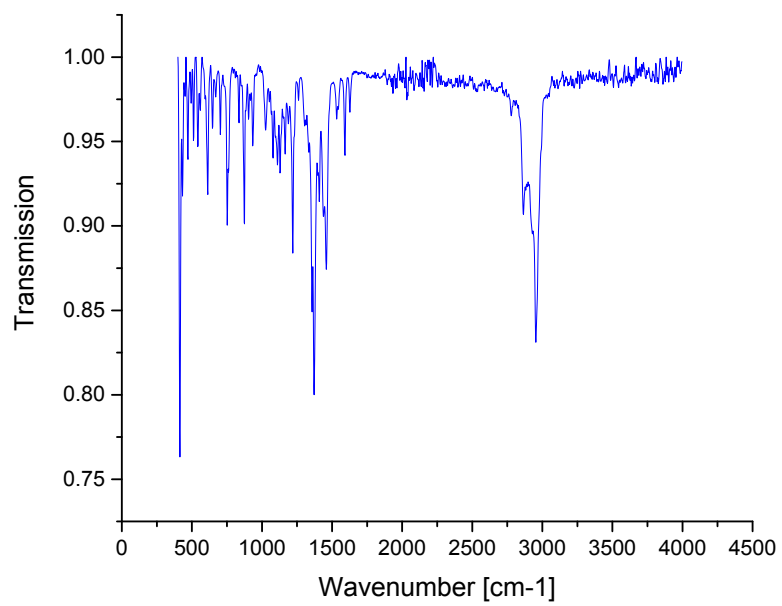
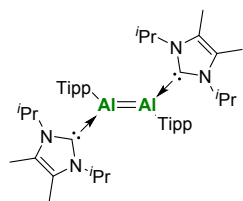


Figure S 9. IR spectrum of Compound **2** - $\text{iPr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})\text{I}_2$, loss of Al-H at 1711 cm^{-1}

Compound 3 – [*i*Pr₂Me₂Al(Tipp)]₂



1.5 mL of benzene was added to a Schlenk flask containing *i*Pr₂Me₂Al(I)₂Tipp (**2**) (0.25 g, 0.37 mmol) and KC₈ (3 eq, 152 mg, 1.13 mmol) at room temperature. The solution was stirred vigorously for 72 hours upon which the solution became dark black in colour. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then extracted with hexane until the supernatant became colourless. The hexane solution was concentrated to the point of crystallisation and placed at 5 °C to yield black crystalline material of **3**. Yield = 0.15 g, 48%. **¹H NMR** (400 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 7.21 (2H, br.s. *m*-H Tipp), 7.18 (2H, br.s. *m*-H Tipp), 6.75 (2H, br.s. NCH(CH₃)₂), 5.66 (2H, br.s. NCH(CH₃)₂), 5.31 (2H, br.s. *o*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 4.72 (2H, br.s. *o*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 2.93 (1H, br.s. *p*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 1.67 (6H, s, CCH₃), 1.59 (6H, s, CCH₃), 1.51 (12H, br. s., iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 1.37 (24H, br. s., iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 1.20 (12H, br. s., iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 0.77 (12H, br. s., iPr CH(CH₃)₂). **¹³C{¹H} NMR** (100 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 180.34 (NCN), 156.74 (*o*-C Tipp), 156.05 (*o*-C Tipp), 153.79 (*ipso*-C Tipp), 146.29 (*p*-C Tipp), 125.68 (CCH₃), 120.00 (*m*-C Tipp), 118.73 (*m*-C Tipp), 53.70 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 39.99 (*o*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 39.40 (*o*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 35.05 (*p*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 32.19 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 26.72 (*o*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 25.67 (*o*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 24.84 (*p*-iPr CH(CH₃)₂), 23.26 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 14.58 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 10.09 (CCH₃), 9.85 (CCH₃). **²⁷Al NMR** (78.2 MHz, C₆D₆, δ ppm): no signal found. **Elemental Analysis:** C₅₂H₈₆N₄Al₂ calculated (found) %: C 76.05 (73.86); H 10.56 (10.37); N 6.82 (6.38). **Melting point:** 122-126 °C, black solid to orange oil. **LIFDI-ESI:** C₅₂H₈₆N₄Al₂ calculated (found): 820.65 (821.1934 m/z). **UV/vis:** 479 nm (ε = 6045 L mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹), 833 nm (ε = 6273 L mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹).

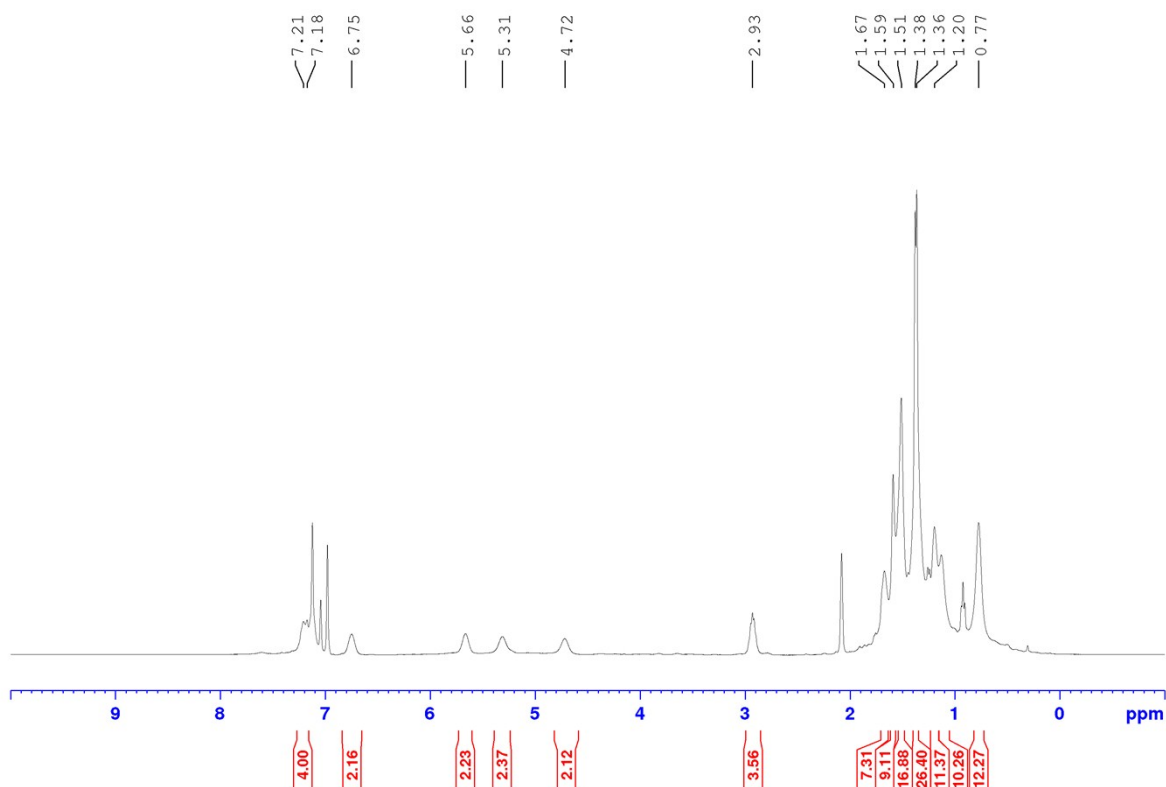


Figure S 10. ¹H NMR Spectrum of Compound **3** – [*i*Pr₂Me₂Al(Tipp)]₂, in d₈-Toluene at 228K.

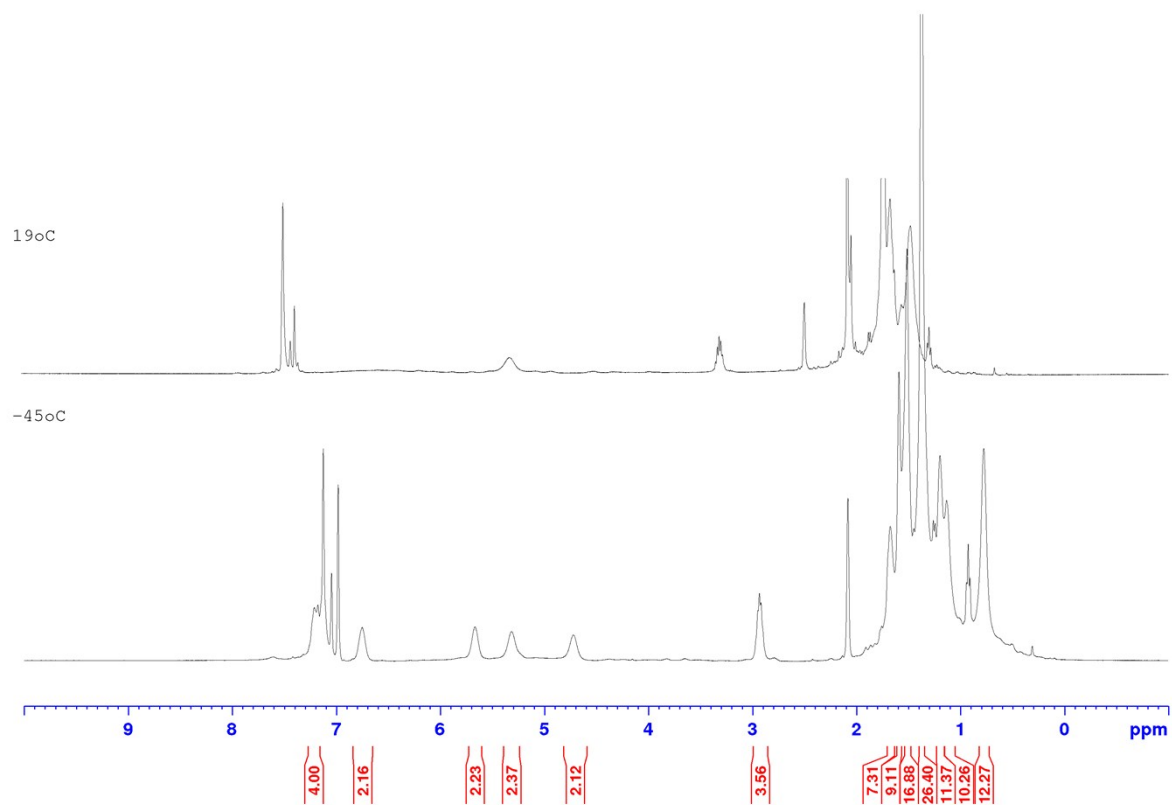


Figure S 11. Stacked VT ^1H NMR Spectrum of Compound **3** – $[\text{i}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})]_2$, in d_8 -Toluene.

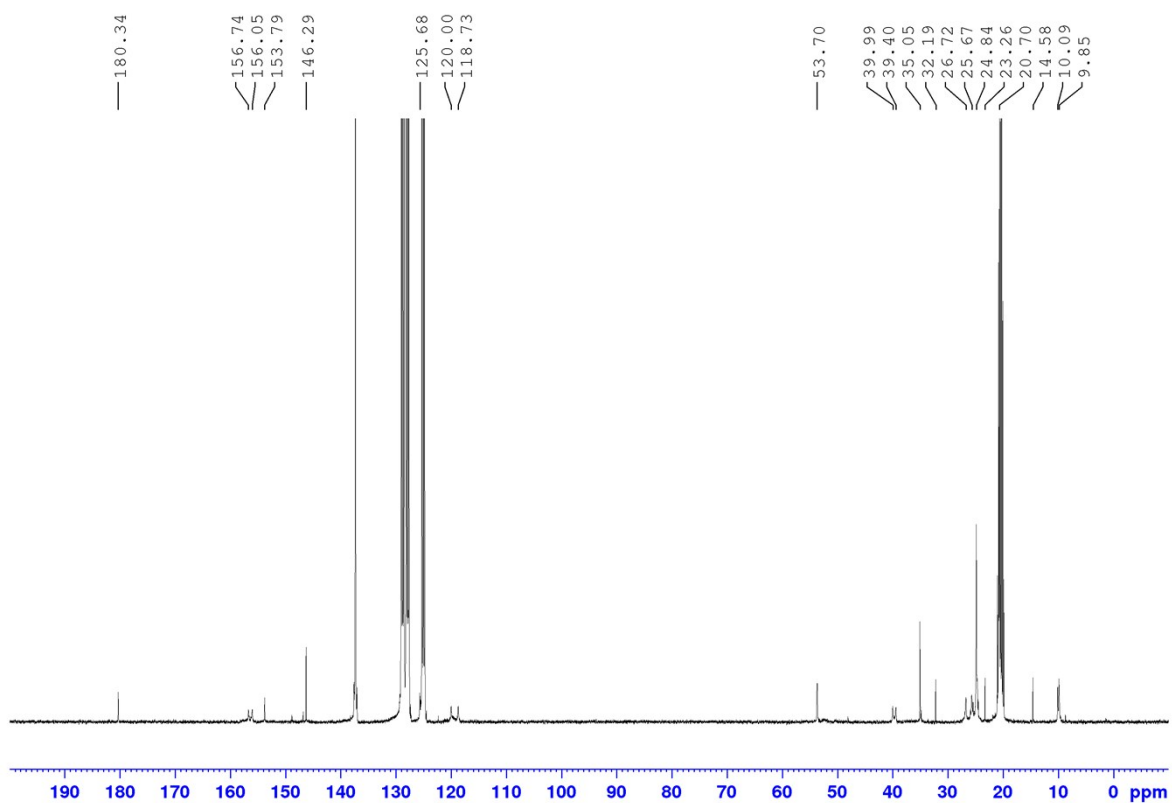


Figure S 12. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound **3** – $[\text{i}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})]_2$, in d_8 -Toluene at 228K.

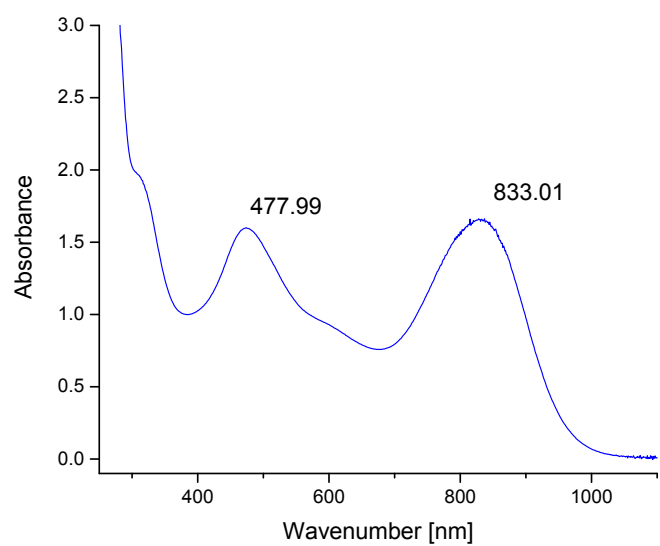
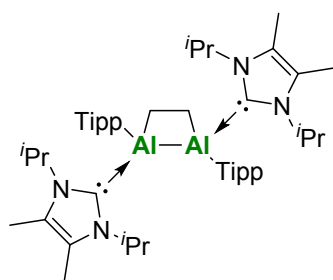


Figure S 13. UV/vis of compound **3** – $[\text{iPr}_2\text{Me}_2\text{Al}(\text{Tipp})]_2$, in pentane

Compound 4 – $\text{AlAl}^{\text{(Tipp)}} + \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$



Compound **3** (50 mg, 0.061 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Toluene, then freeze-pump-thawed degassed three times before the schlenk flask was backfilled with ethylene (1 atm) at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to orange-yellow and was stirred for a further 4 hours. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then extracted with 3 x 3 mL of pentane and concentrated to the point of crystallisation. After storage at $-30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 48 hours, orange-yellow crystalline powder of **4** was isolated. Yield = 36 mg, 70%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 7.18 (2H, s, *m-H* Tipp), 7.14 (2H, s, *m-H* Tipp), 5.88 (2H, m, $\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 4.34 (1H, m, *o-CH*(CH_3)₂), 4.13 (2H, m, *o-CH*(CH_3)₂), 3.92 (1H, m, *o-CH*(CH_3)₂), 2.95 (2H, m, *p-CH*(CH_3)₂), 1.64 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6\text{ Hz}$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.57 (12H, s, CCH_3), 1.40 (4H, s, AlCH_2), 1.38 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8\text{ Hz}$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.37 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8\text{ Hz}$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.25 (18H, overlapping d, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.97, (3H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7\text{ Hz}$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.90 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7\text{ Hz}$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.88 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0\text{ Hz}$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 177.44 (NCN), 157.6 (*o-C*), 156.5 (*o-C*), 155.9 (*ipso-C*), 146.3 (*p-C*), 124.9 (CCH_3), 121.2 (*m-C*), 120.1 (*m-C*), 119.2 (*m-C*), 61.6 ($\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 52.2 (*o-CH*(CH_3)₂), 47.1 (*o-CH*(CH_3)₂), 36.6 (*p-CH*(CH_3)₂), 35.0 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 34.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 32.0 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 27.2 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 26.9 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 24.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 23.1 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.1 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 18.4 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 14.4 (AlCH_2), 10.0 (CCH_3).

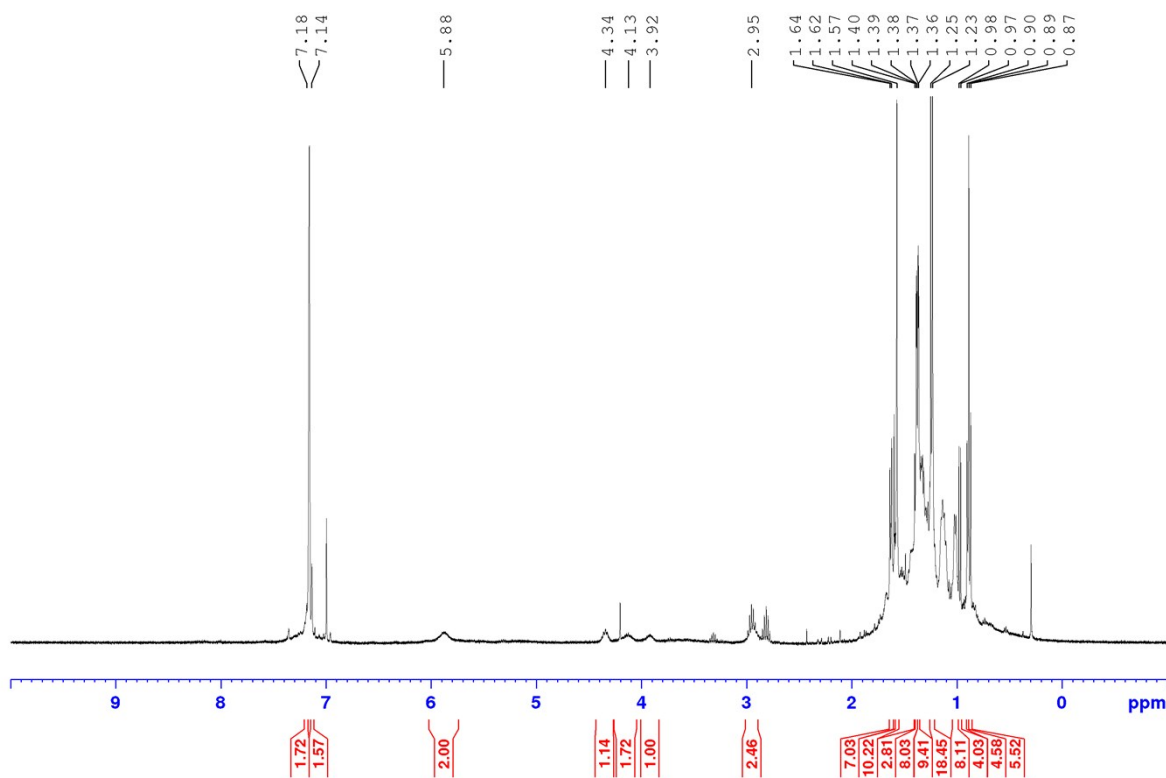


Figure S 14. $^1\text{H NMR}$ Spectrum of Compound **4** – $\text{AlAl}^{\text{(Tipp)}} + \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$, in C_6D_6

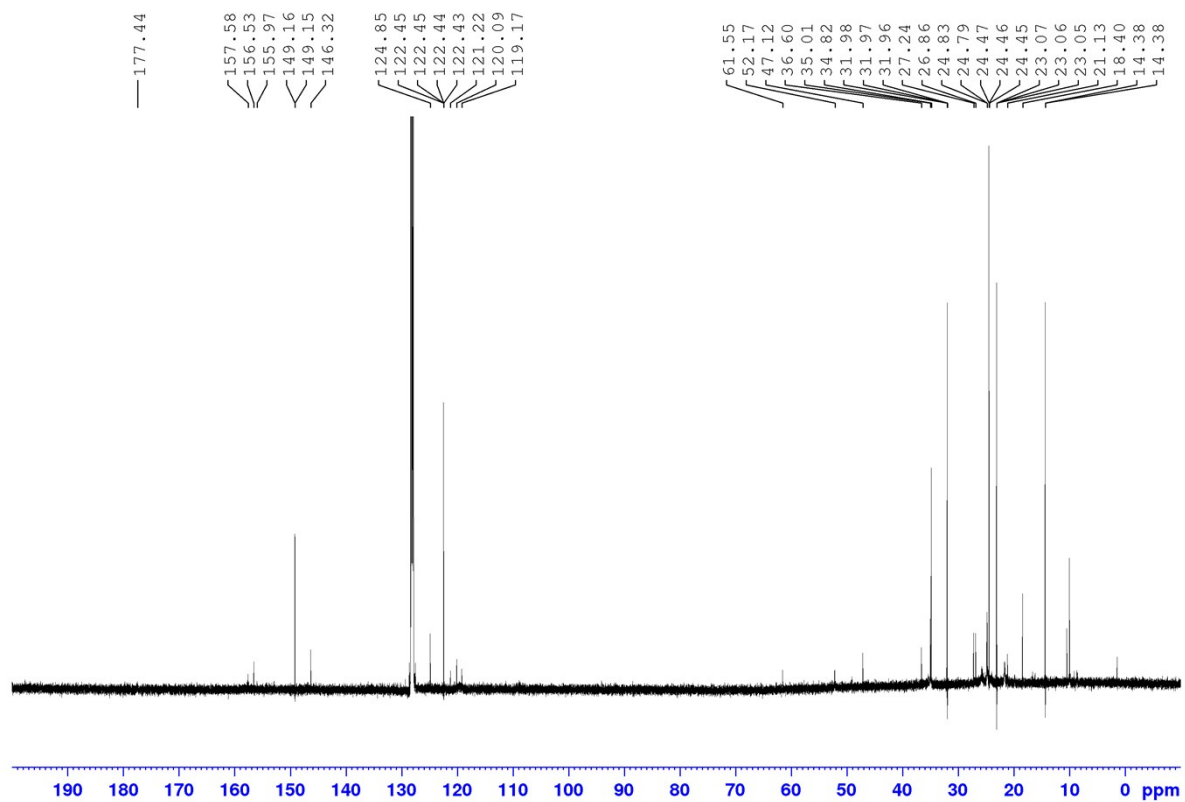
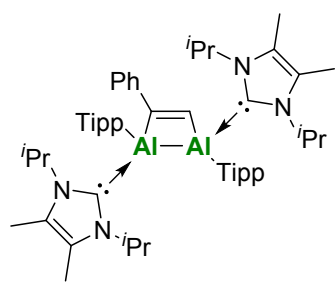


Figure S 15. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound **4** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tip})} + \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$, in C_6D_6

Compound 5 – AlAl(Tipp) + PhCCH



Compound **3** (50 mg, 0.061 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Toluene, PhCCH (6.7 μ L, 0.061 mmol) was added via syringe at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to yellow. The solution was stirred for 4 hours before volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then extracted with 3 x 3 mL of pentane and concentrated to the point of crystallisation. After storage at -30 $^{\circ}$ C for 48 hours, yellow crystalline material of **5** was isolated. Yield = 28 mg, 50%. **1 H NMR** (400 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 8.54 (1H, s, CH), 7.36-7.25 (4H, m, Ar-H), 7.21 (1H, s, *m*-Ar-H Tipp), 7.14 (1H, s, *m*-Ar-H Tipp), 7.12 (2H, s, *m*-Ar-H Tipp), 7.05 (1H, m, Ar-H), 5.95 (2H, m, NCH(CH₃)₂), 5.08 (2H, br. s., NCH(CH₃)₂), 4.23 (1H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *o*-iPr Tipp), 4.02 (1H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *o*-iPr Tipp), 3.89 (1H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *o*-iPr Tipp), 3.75 (1H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *o*-iPr Tipp), 2.96 (2H, (1H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *p*-iPr Tipp), 1.60 (6H, s, CCH₃), 1.57 (6H, s, CCH₃) 1.53 – 0.86 (60H, br. d, overlapping, CH(CH₃)₂). **$^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR** (100 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 193.54 (AlC=CH), 179.61 (AlCH), 176.53, (NCN), 176.34 (NCN), 159.56 (ipso-C PhCCH), 157.54 (*o*-C Tipp), 156.72 (*o*-C Tipp), 156.01 (ipso-C Tipp), 146.63 (*p*-C Tipp), 146.27 (*p*-C Tipp), 127.56 (*o*-C PhCCH), 125.67 (*p*-C PhCCH), 125.02 (CCH₃), 122.44 (*m*-C PhCCH), 120.40 (CCH₃), 120.28 (*m*-C Tipp), 119.34 (*m*-C Tipp), 118.55 (*m*-C Tipp), 61.53 (*m*-CH(CH₃)₂), 52.59 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 52.51 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 47.11 (*m*-CH(CH₃)₂), 35.05 (*p*-CH(CH₃)₂), 34.82 (*p*-CH(CH₃)₂), 27.49, 27.41, 27.38, 25.89, 25.56, 25.29, 25.06, 24.90, 24.83, 24.47, 24.43, 22.74, 22.09, 21.87, 21.67, 18.39, 14.30, 10.51 (CH(CH₃)₂ signals from 27.49-10.51), 10.11 (CCH₃), 10.10 (CCH₃). **IR**: 2778 cm^{-1} (C-H). **LIFDI-ESI**: $C_{60}H_{92}N_4Al_2$ calculated (found): 922.70 (922.0497 m/z).

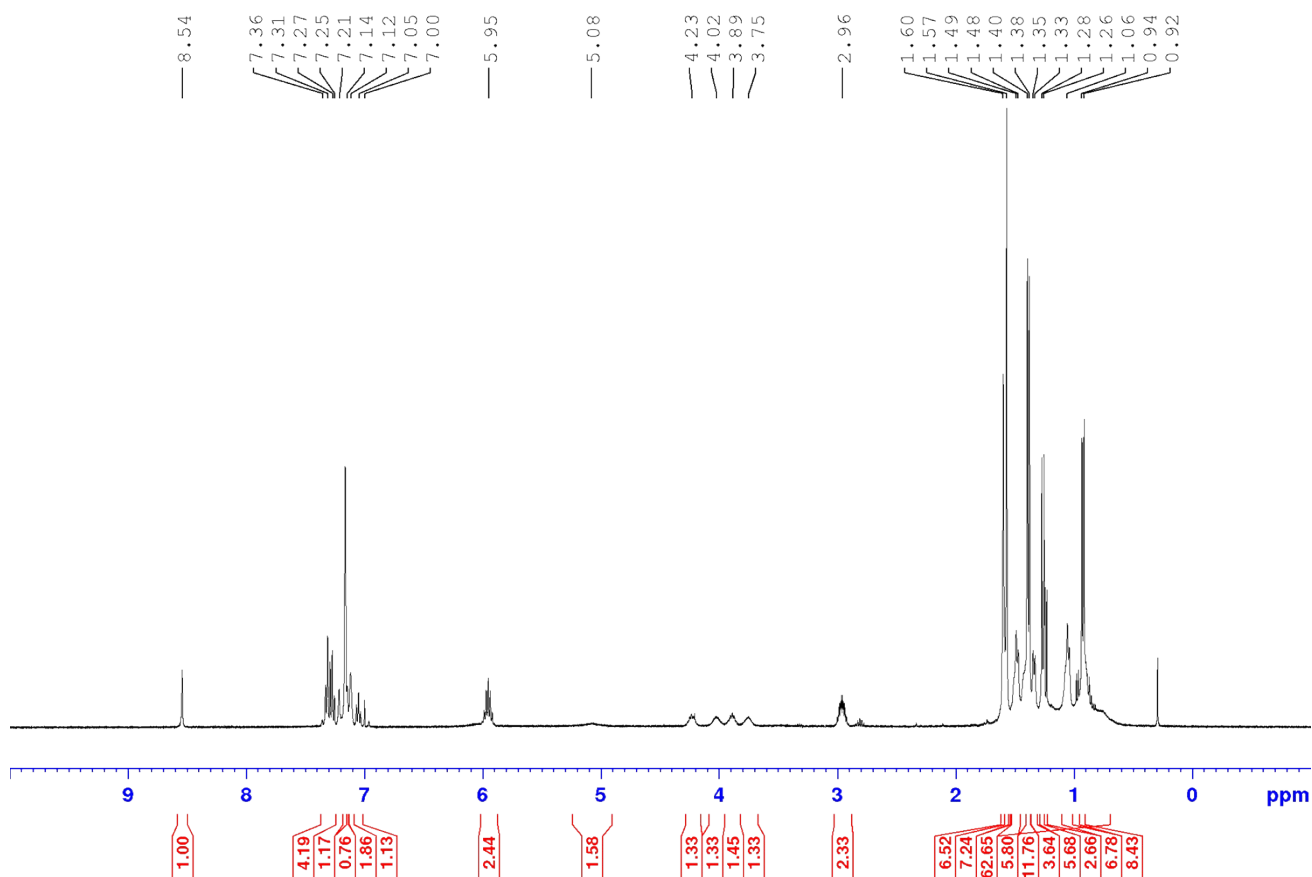


Figure S 16. 1 H NMR Spectrum of Compound **5** – AlAl(Tipp) + PhCCH, in C_6D_6

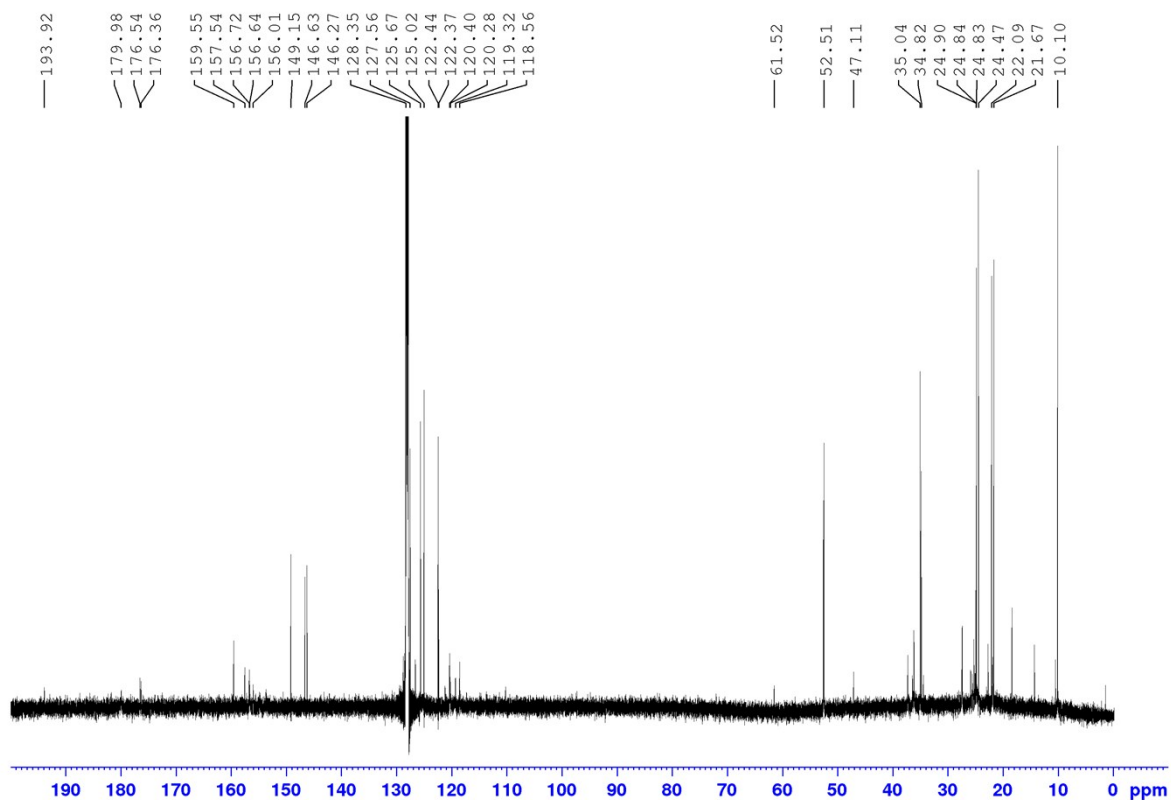


Figure S 17. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound 5 – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})}$ + PhCCH, in C_6D_6

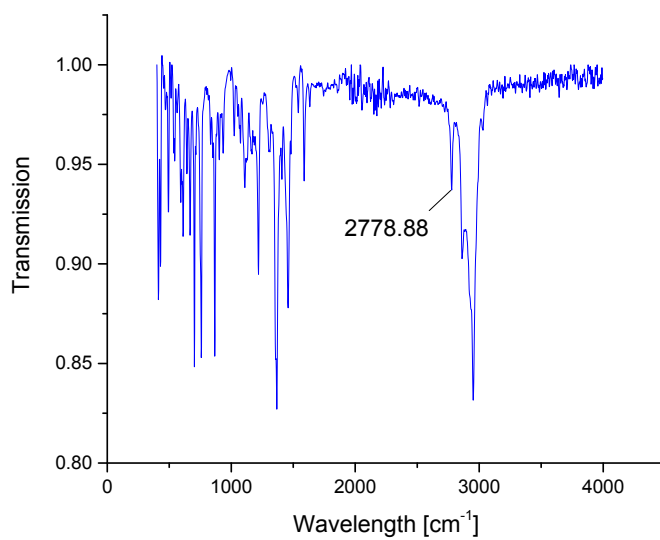
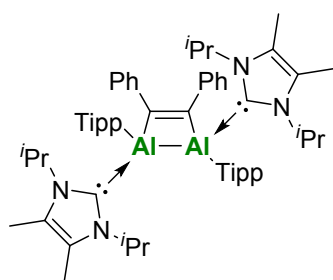


Figure S 18. IR Spectrum of Compound 5 – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})}$ + PhCCH

Compound 6 –AlAl^(Tipp) + PhCCPh



Compound **3** (50 mg, 0.061 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Toluene, PhCCPh (10 mg, 0.061 mmol) was added via syringe at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to yellow, and was stirred for a further 4 hours. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then extracted with 3 x 3 mL of pentane and concentrated to the point of crystallisation. After storage at -30 °C for 48 hours, yellow crystalline material of **5** was isolated. Yield = 36 mg, 59%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 7.19 (2H, s, *m*-Ar-*H* Tipp), 7.10 (2H, s, *m*-Ar-*H* Tipp), 7.08 (4H, m, *o*-Ar-*H* PhCCPh), 6.89 (2H, m, *p*-Ar-*H* PhCCPh), 6.81 (4H, m, *m*-Ar-*H* PhCCPh), 6.06 (2H, m, NCH(CH₃)₂), 5.04 (2H, m, NCH(CH₃)₂), 3.83 (2H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *o*-*i*Pr Tipp), 3.72 (2H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *o*-*i*Pr Tipp), 2.99 (2H, m, CH(CH₃)₂ *p*-*i*Pr Tipp), 1.68-1.23 (36H, m, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.62 (6H, s, CH₃ NHC), 1.54 (6H, s, CH₃ NHC), 0.99 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 7.47 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.76 (12H, m, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.55 (6H, m, CH(CH₃)₂). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 187.55 (AlC), 175.48 (NCN), 158.26 (*ipso*-C Tipp), 156.65 (*ipso*-C Tipp), 156.10 (*o*-C Tipp), 155.96 (*o*-C Tipp), 153.68 (*ipso*-C PhCCPh), 146.28 (*p*-C Tipp), 127.09 (*o*-C PhCCPh), 125.22 (CCH₃), 122.44 (*p*-C PhCCPh), 121.57 (*m*-C PhCCPh), 121.45 (CCH₃), 120.39 (*m*-C Tipp), 119.89 (*m*-C Tipp), 119.02 (*m*-C Tipp), 53.13 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 52.77 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 48.50 (*o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 37.62 (*o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 36.42 (*o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 35.03 (*p*-CH(CH₃)₂), 28.2, 26.6, 25.3, 25.1, 25.0, 24.8, 24.7, 24.6, 24.5, 23.5, 22.5, 21.3, 21.1, 21.0, (CH(CH₃)₂ signals from 28.2-21.0), 10.3 (CCH₃), 10.1 (CCH₃). IR: 1544 cm⁻¹ (C=C). LIFDI-ESI: C₆₆H₉₆N₄Al₂ calculated (found): 998.73 (997.9891 m/z).

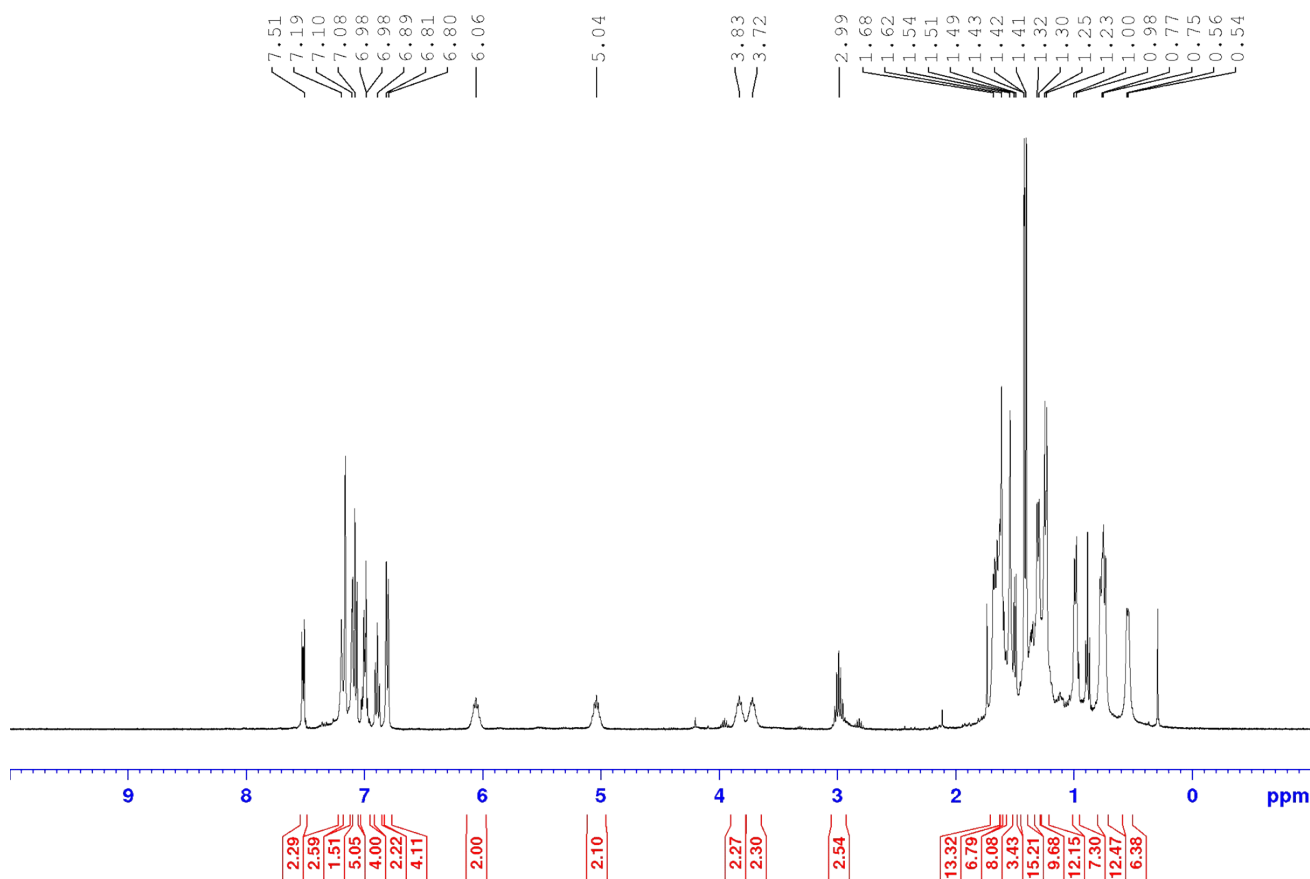


Figure S 19. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **6** - AlAl^(Tipp) + PhCCPh, in C₆D₆.

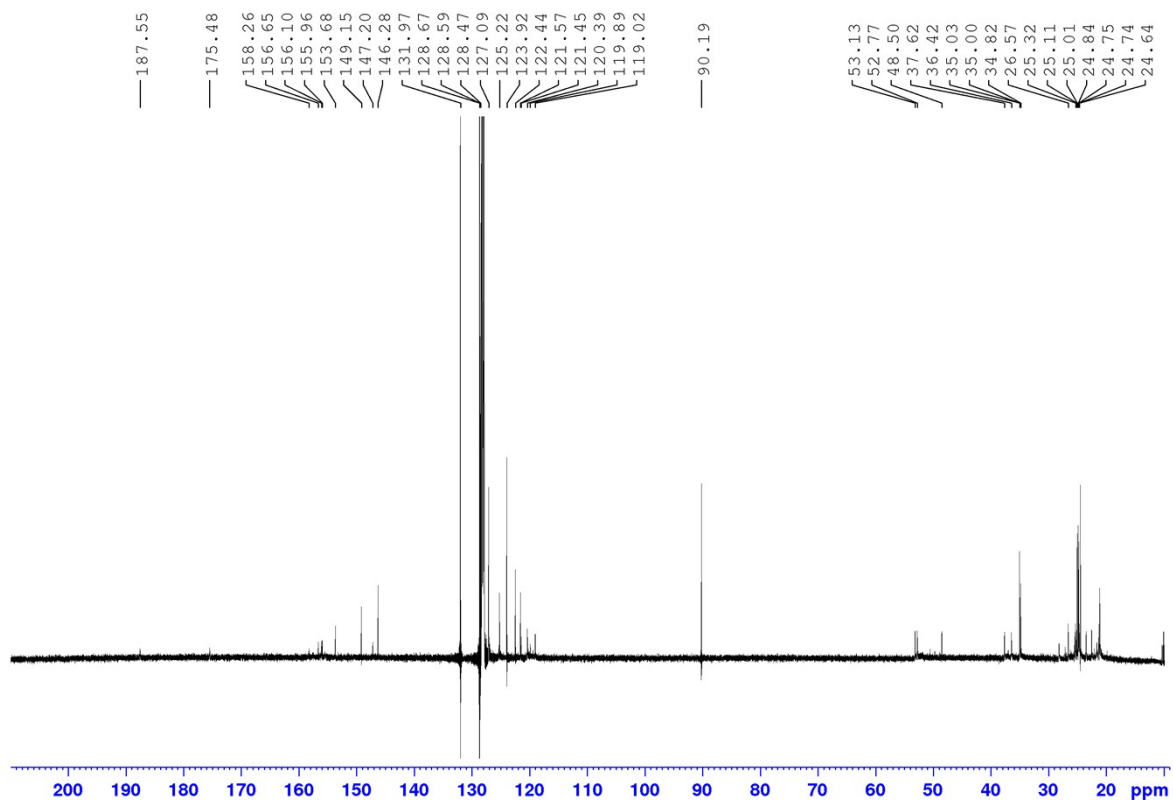


Figure S 20. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of compound **6** - $\text{AlAl}(\text{Tipp}) + \text{PhCCPh}$, in C_6D_6 . Contains unreacted PhCCPh (132.0, 128.7, 123.9, 90.2 ppm).

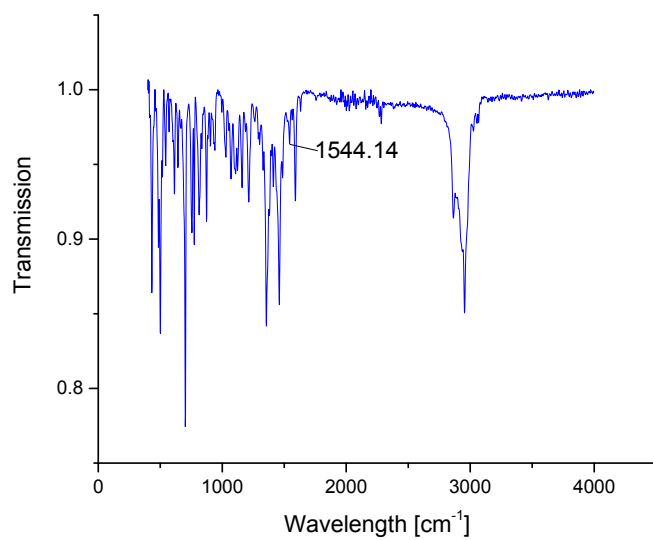
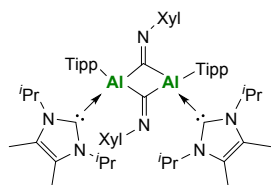


Figure S 21. IR Spectrum of Compound **6** – $\text{AlAl}(\text{Tipp}) + \text{PhCCPh}$

Compound 7 – AlAl^(Tipp) + XylINC



Compound **3** (50 mg, 0.061 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Toluene, 2,6-dimethylphenyl isocyanate (XylINC) (16.10 mg, 2 eq. 0.121 mmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of Toluene and added via syringe at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to dark red, and was stirred for a further 4 hours. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then extracted with 3 x 3 mL of pentane and concentrated to the point of crystallisation. After storage at -30 °C for 48 hours, red crystalline material of **7** was isolated. Yield = 31 mg, 52%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 7.12 (2H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, *m*-H Xyl), 7.06 (2H, s, *m*-H Tipp), 7.04 (2H, s, *m*-H Tipp), 6.89 (2H, d, *J*_{HH} = 7.2 Hz, *m*-H Xyl), 6.77 (2H, t, *J*_{HH} = 7.4 Hz, *p*-H Xyl), 6.43 (2H, m, NCH(CH₃)₂), 4.35 (2H, m, NCH(CH₃)₂), 3.94 (2H, m, *o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 3.40 (2H, m, *o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 3.27 (2H, m, *p*-CH(CH₃)₂), 2.63 (6H, s, *o*-CH₃ Xyl), 2.07 (6H, s, *o*-CH₃ Xyl), 1.73 (6H, s, CCH₃ NHC), 1.69 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.5 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.61 (6H, s, CCH₃ NHC), 1.48 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.6 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.32 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.8 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.27 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.9 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.24 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 7.0 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.89 (12H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.5 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.74 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.6 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.53 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.6 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.36 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 7.1 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.18 (6H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.8 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 303.4 (AlC=N), 172.0 (NCN), 171.8 (NCN), 161.6 (*ipso*-C Xyl), 158.1 (*o*-C Tipp), 156.4 (*o*-C Tipp), 155.9 (*ipso*-C Tipp), 155.6 (*ipso*-C Tipp), 147.6 (*p*-C Tipp), 134.9 (*o*-C Xyl), 126.9 (*p*-C Xyl), 126.2 (CCH₃ NHC), 125.9 (CCH₃ NHC), 121.7 (*m*-C Xyl), 120.3 (*m*-C Tipp), 119.9 (*m*-C Tipp), 118.1 (*m*-C Tipp), 61.5 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 59.7 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 54.6 (*o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 51.6 (*o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 48.5 (*p*-CH(CH₃)₂), 37.2, 36.9, 34.8, 27.3, 26.7, 25.9, 25.5, 24.8, 22.4, 22.1 (*o*-CH₃ Xyl), 20.95 (*o*-CH₃ Xyl), 19.9, 19.7, 18.7 (CH(CH₃)₂ signals from 37.2 -18.7), 10.2 (CCH₃ NHC), 10.0 (CCH₃ NHC). IR: 1594, 1544 cm⁻¹ (C=N). LIFDI-ESI: C₇₀H₁₀₄N₆Al₂ calculated (found): 1082.80 (1081.8679 m/z).

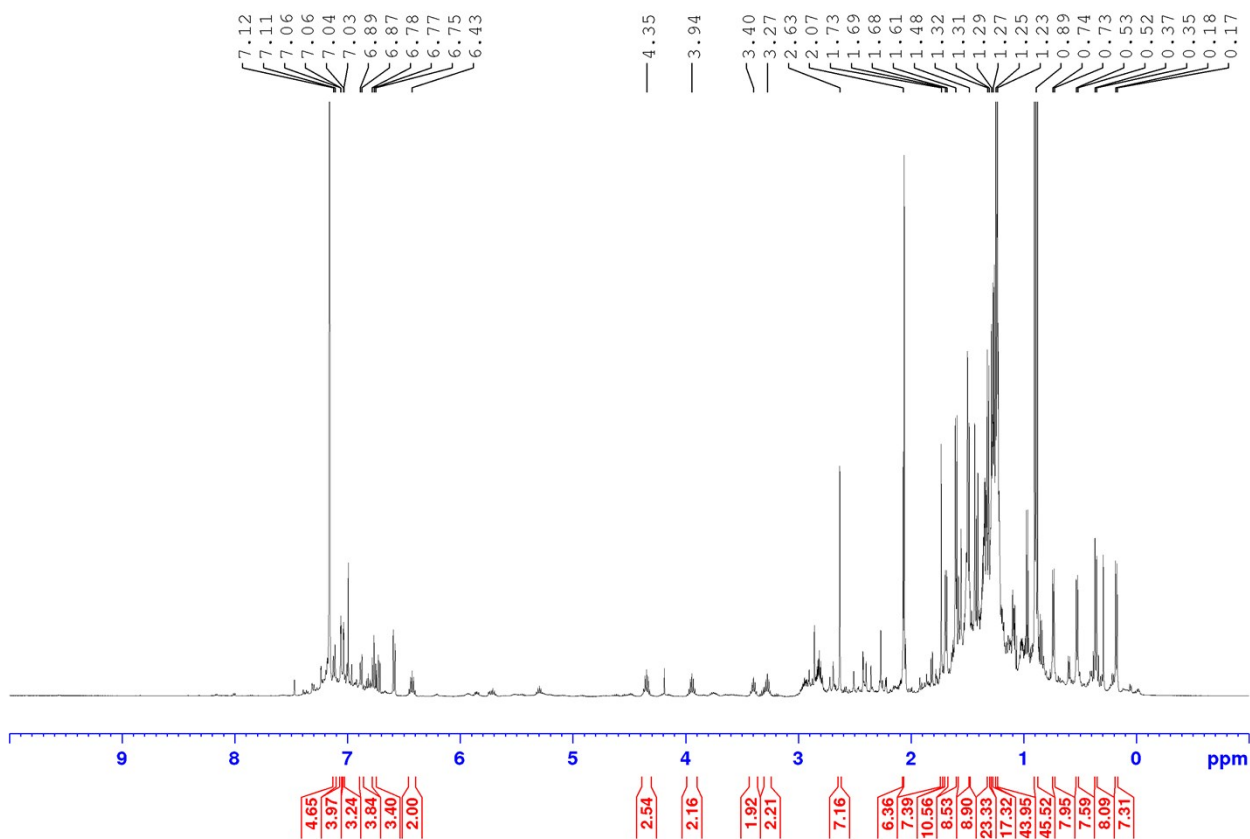


Figure S 22. ¹H NMR Spectrum of Compound **7** – AlAl^(Tipp) + XylINC, in C₆D₆

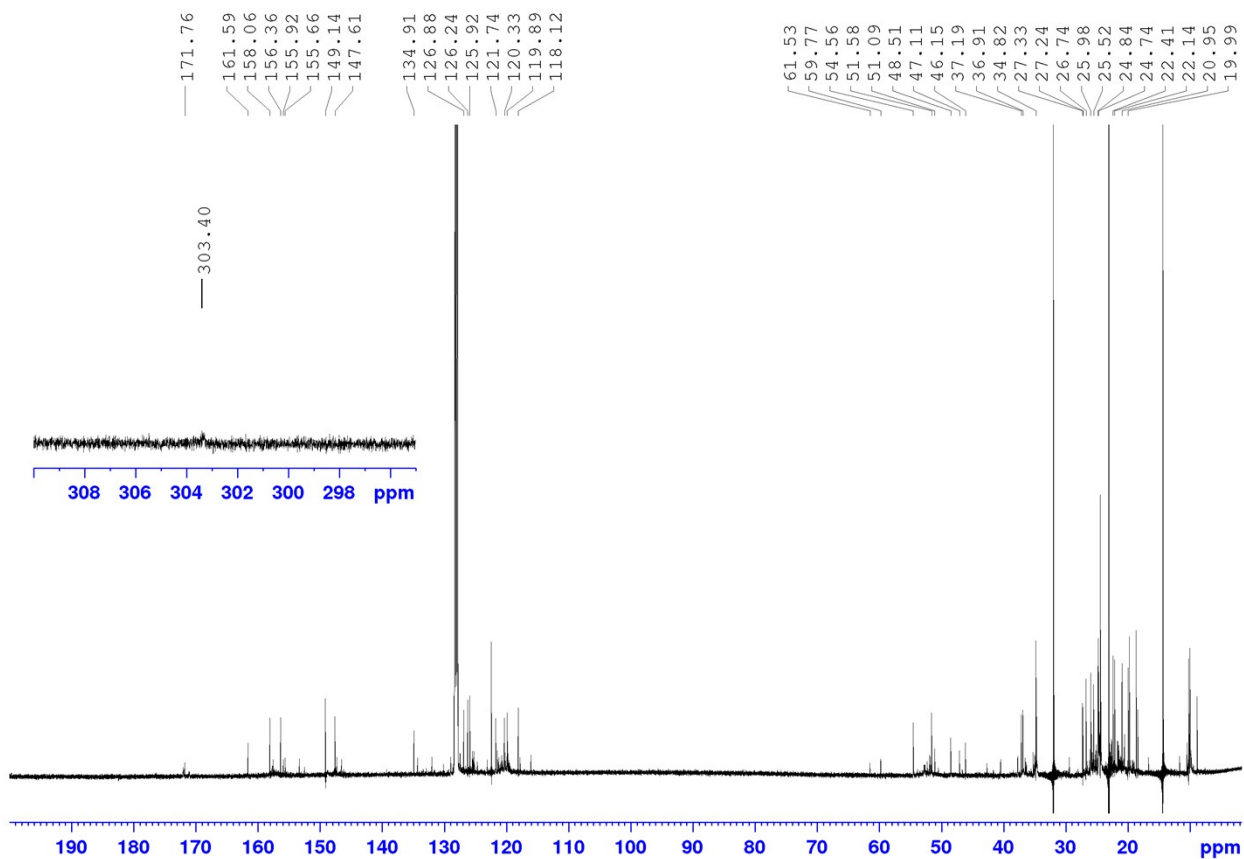


Figure S 23. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound 7 – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})}$ + XylNC, in C_6D_6

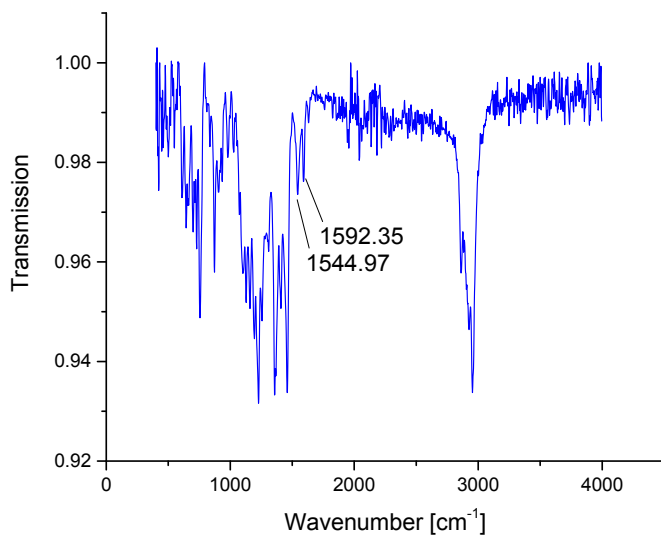
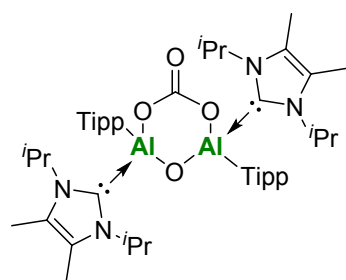


Figure S 24. IR Spectrum of compound 7 – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})}$ + XylNC

Compound 9 - AlAl^(Tipp) + CO₂

Compound **3** (50 mg, 0.061 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Toluene, then freeze-pump-thawed degassed three times before the schlenk flask was backfilled with CO₂ (1 atm) at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to pale yellow, and was stirred for a further 4 hours at room temperature. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then washed with 3 x 5 mL of hexane and extracted with toluene. The toluene solution was then concentrated to the point of crystallisation. After storage at -30 °C for 48 hours, colourless crystals of **9** were isolated. Yield = 52 mg, 86%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 7.32 (2H, s, *m*-Ar-*H* Tipp), 7.19 (2H, s, *m*-Ar-*H* Tipp), 4.69 (2H, m, NCH(CH₃)₂), 4.01 (4H, m, *o*-CH(CH₃)₂), 3.60 (2H, m, NCH(CH₃)₂), 2.89 (2H, m, *p*-CH(CH₃)₂), 1.50 (12H, s, CCH₃), 1.35-1.31 (72H, br. overlapping doublet), CH(CH₃)₂), 1.22 (12H, d, *J*_{HH} = 6.87 Hz, CH(CH₃)₂). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, C₆D₆, 228 K, δ ppm): 185.20 (NCN), 159.12 (CO₃), 156.85 (*ipso*-C), 156.07 (*o*-C), 148.47 (*p*-C), 147.34 (*o*-C), 125.64 (CCH₃), 122.49 (CCH₃), 119.57 (*m*-C), 51.20 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 51.11 (NCH(CH₃)₂), 36.72 (CH(CH₃)₂), 35.03 (CH(CH₃)₂), 31.97 (CH(CH₃)₂), 26.33 (CH(CH₃)₂), 24.54 (CH(CH₃)₂), 22.36 (CH(CH₃)₂), 21.05 (CH(CH₃)₂), 14.37 (CH(CH₃)₂), 8.88 (CCH₃), 8.07 (CCH₃). IR: 1658 cm⁻¹ (CO₃).

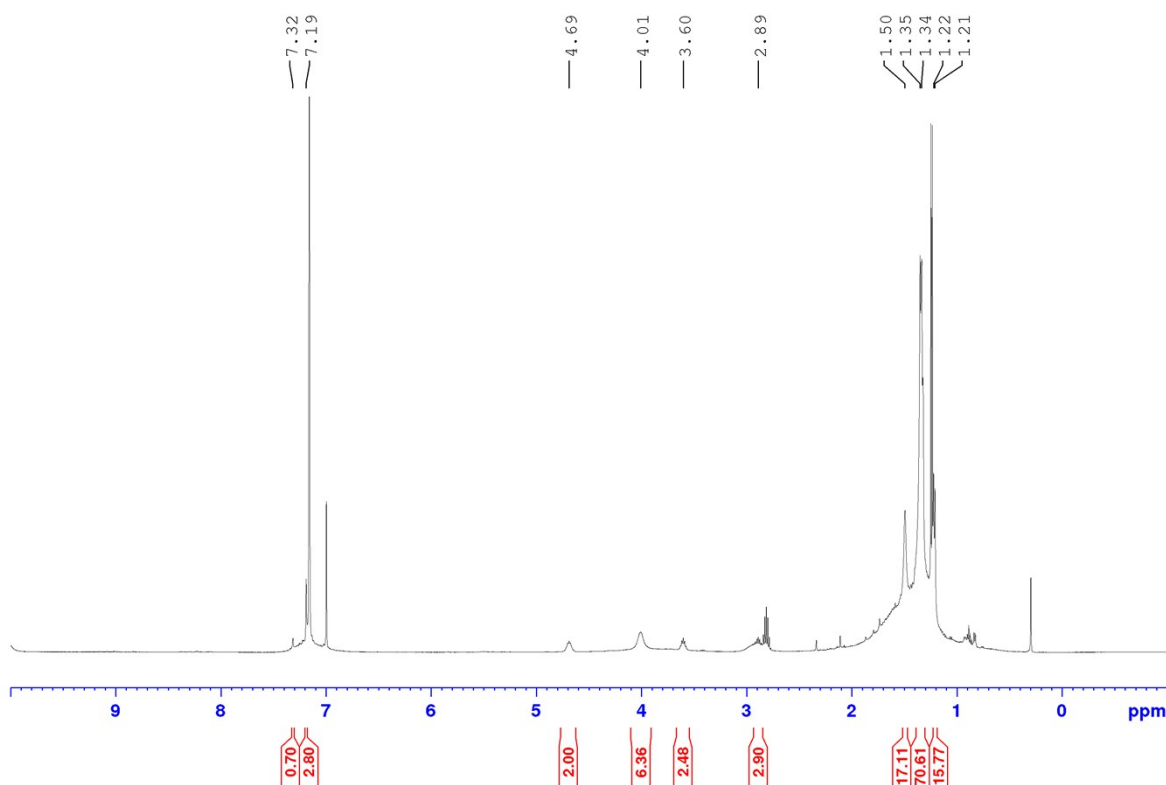


Figure S 25. ¹H NMR Spectrum of Compound **9** – AlAl^(Tipp) + CO₂, in C₆D₆

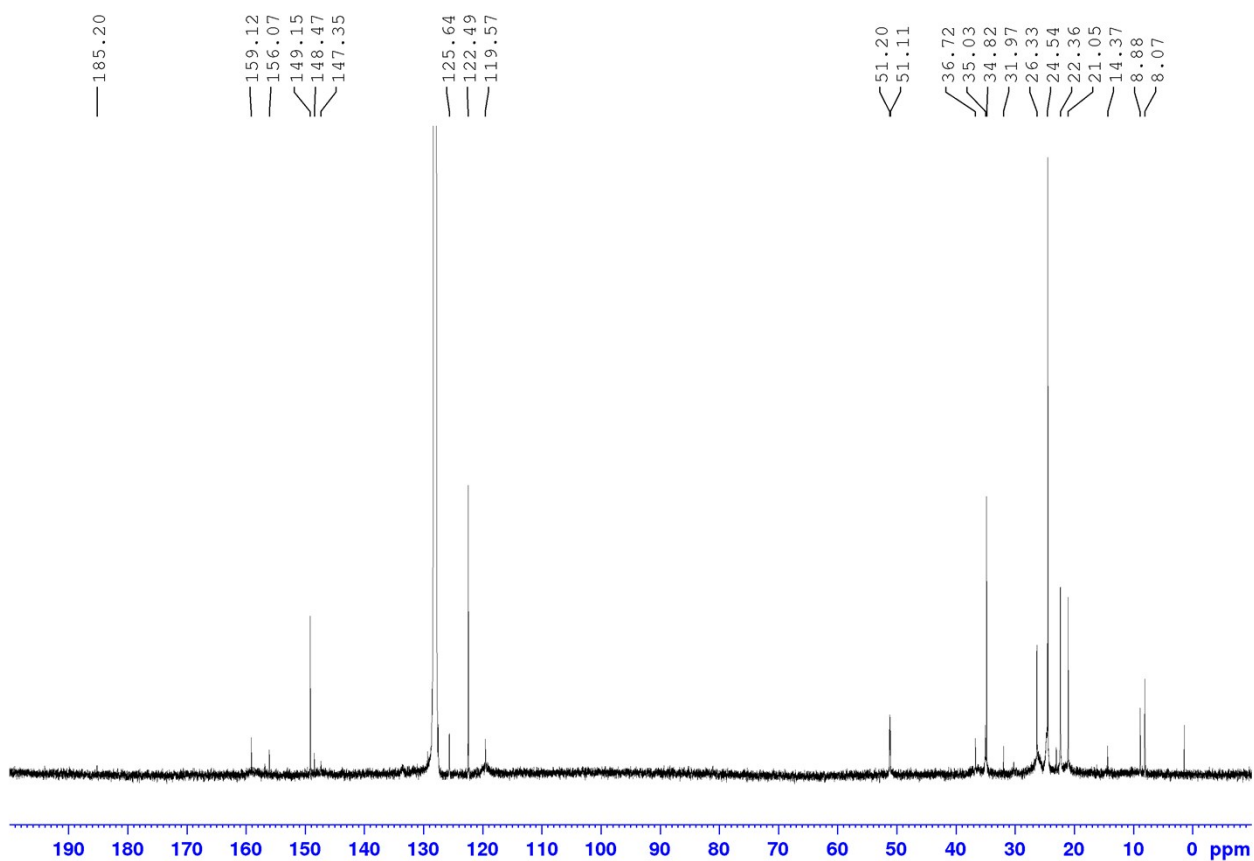


Figure S 26. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound **9** – $\text{AlAl}(\text{Tipp}) + \text{CO}_2$, in C_6D_6

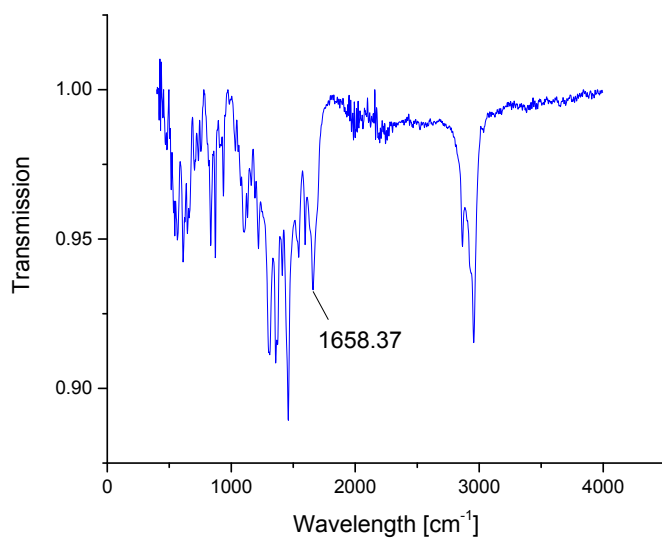
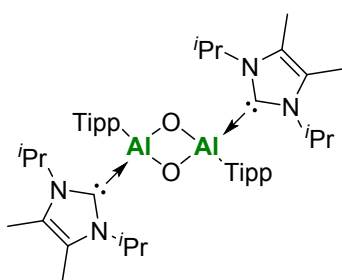


Figure S 27. IR Spectrum of Compound **9** - $\text{AlAl}(\text{Tipp}) + \text{CO}_2$

Compound 10 – $\text{AlAl}(\text{Tipp}) + \text{O}_2$



Compound **3** (42 mg, 0.051 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Toluene, then freeze-pump-thawed degassed three times before the schlenk flask was backfilled with O_2 (1 atm) at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to pale yellow then colourless and was stirred for a further 4 hours at room temperature. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then washed with 3 x 5 mL of hexane and extracted with toluene. The toluene solution was then concentrated to the point of crystallisation. After storage at $-30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 48 hours, colourless crystals of **10** were isolated. Yield = 36 mg, 83%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, C_6D_6 ,

228 K, δ ppm): 7.58 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.24 (2H, s, *m-H* Tipp), 7.15 (2H, s, *m-H* Tipp), 5.31 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 5.21 (2H, m, *o-CH*(CH_3) $_2$), 3.65 (2H, m, *o-CH*(CH_3) $_2$), 2.93 (2H, m, *p-CH*(CH_3) $_2$), 1.74 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.61 (6H, s, CCH_3), 1.53 (6, s, CCH_3), 1.34 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.20 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.5$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.13 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.97 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.81 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 177.7 (NCN), 157.5 (*o-C* Tipp), 154.5 (*ipso-C* Tipp), 147.5 (*p-C* Tipp), 125.3 (CCH_3), 124.1 (CCH_3), 119.9 (*m-C* Tipp), 118.8 (*m-C* Tipp), 52.7 (NCH(CH_3) $_2$), 50.5 (NCH(CH_3) $_2$), 35.1 (*o-CH*(CH_3) $_2$), 34.8 (*o-CH*(CH_3) $_2$), 32.0 (*p-CH*(CH_3) $_2$), 26.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 26.0 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 24.7 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 23.1 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 22.0 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.7 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.5 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 18.4 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 14.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 10.0 (CCH_3), 9.8 (CCH_3).

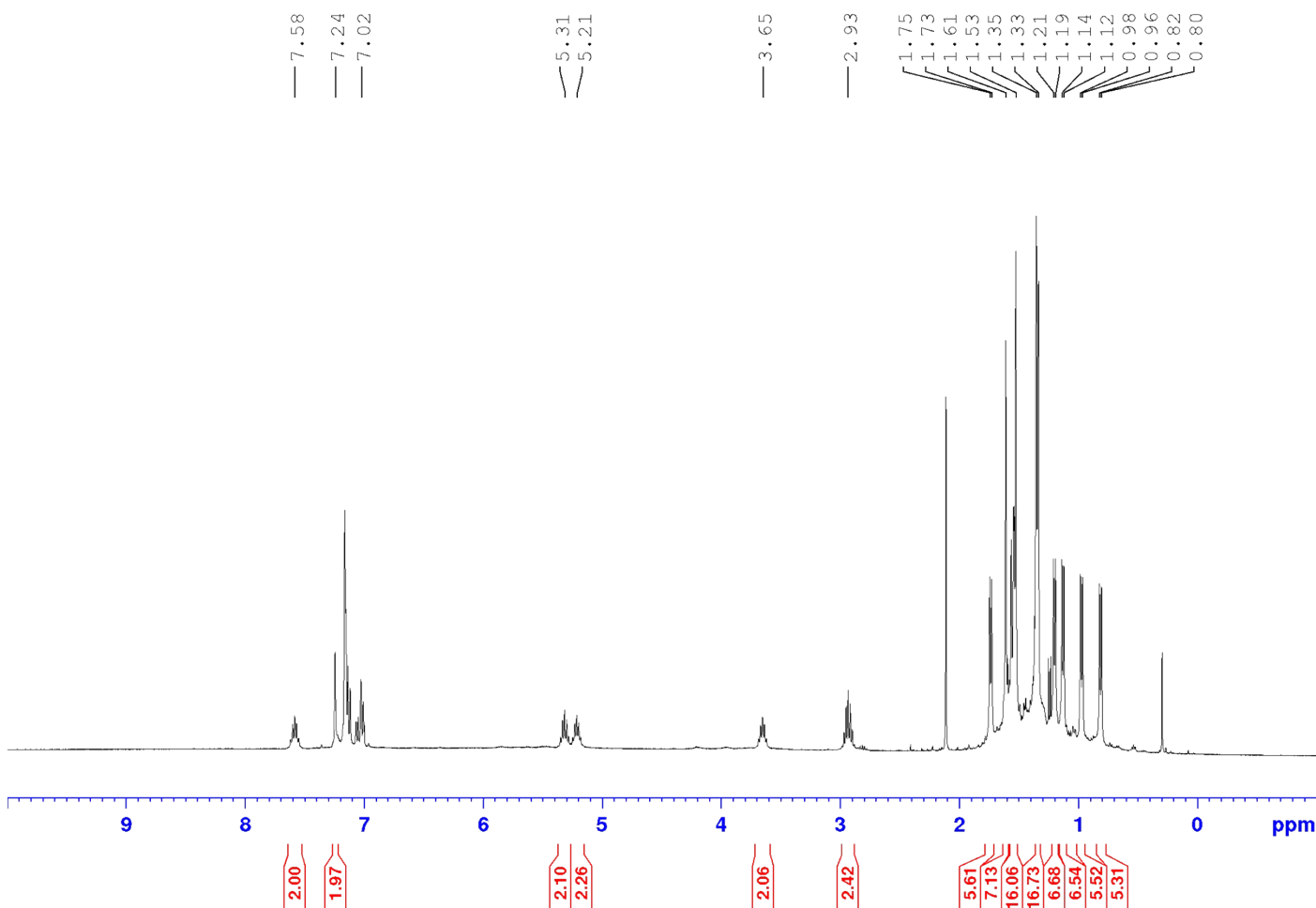


Figure S 28. $^1\text{H NMR}$ Spectrum of Compound **10** – $\text{AlAl}(\text{Tipp}) + \text{O}_2$, in C_6D_6

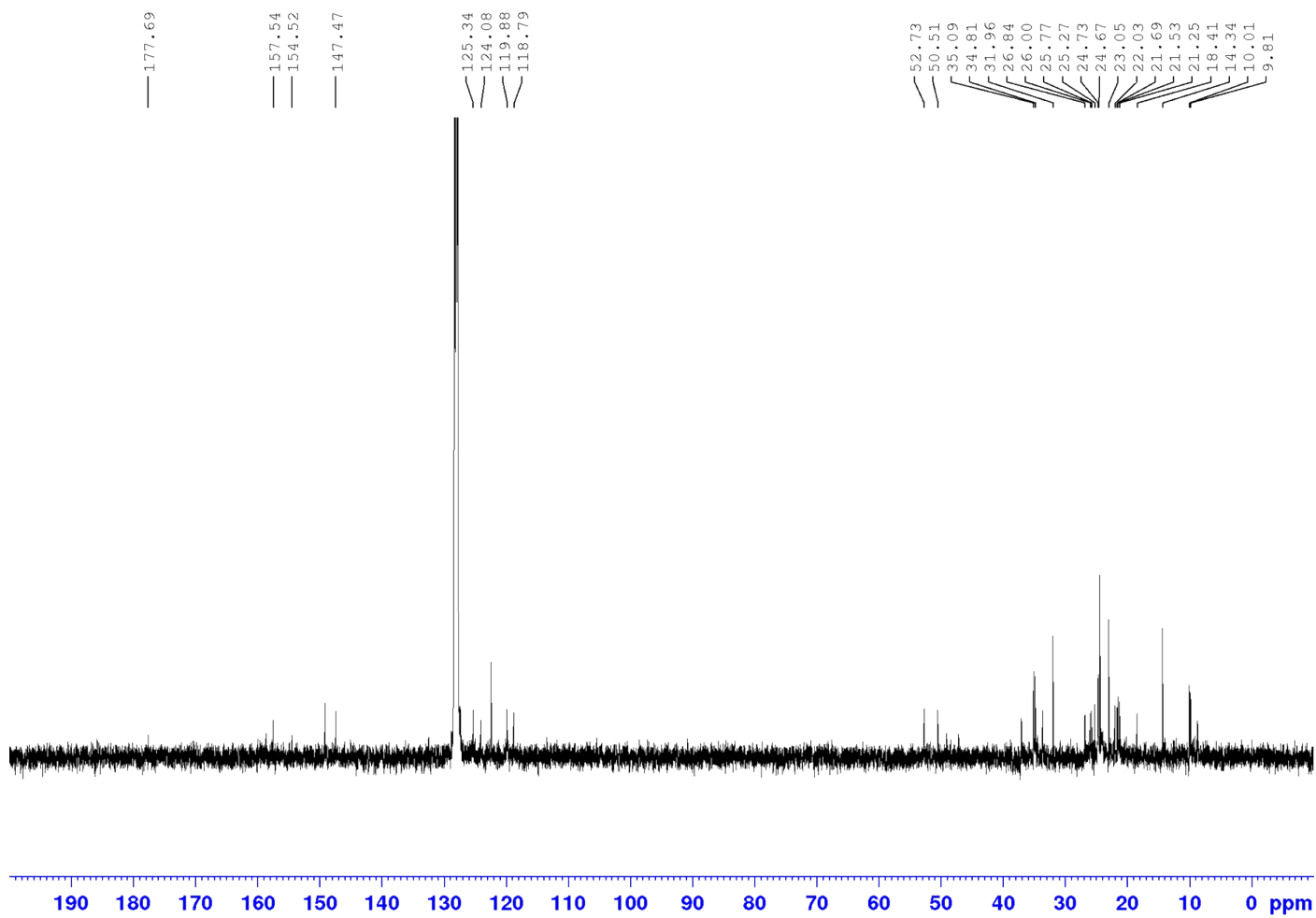
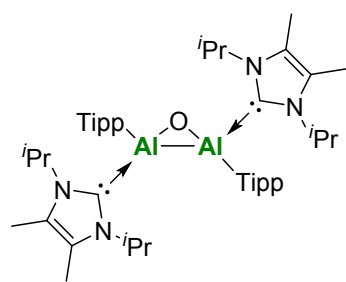


Figure S 29. ^1H NMR Spectrum of Compound **10** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{O}_2$, in C_6D_6

Compound 11 – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{N}_2\text{O}$ / *N*-Methylmorpholine-*N*-Oxide



Compound **3** (50 mg, 0.061 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Toluene, followed by the addition of *N*-methylmorpholine-*N*-Oxide (7mg, 0.061 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to red, and was stirred for a further 4 hours at room temperature. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The product was then extracted with 3 x 5 mL of hexane and then concentrated to the point of crystallisation (approximately 0.3 mL). After storage at -30 °C for 24 hours, red crystals of **10** were isolated. Yield = 37 mg, 73%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 7.58 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 7.24 (2H, s, *m-H* Tipp), 7.15 (2H, s, *m-H* Tipp), 5.31 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 5.21 (2H, m, *o-CH*($\text{CH}_3)_2$), 3.65 (2H, m, *o-CH*($\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.93 (2H, m, *p-CH*($\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.74 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.61 (6H, s, CCH_3), 1.53 (6, s, CCH_3), 1.34 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.25 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.20 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.5$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.13 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.97 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.81 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 177.7 (NCN), 157.5 (*o-C* Tipp), 154.5 (*ipso-C* Tipp), 147.5 (*p-C* Tipp), 125.3 (CCH_3), 124.1 (CCH_3), 119.9 (*m-C* Tipp), 118.8 (*m-C* Tipp), 52.7 ($\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 50.5 ($\text{NCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 35.1 (*o-CH*($\text{CH}_3)_2$), 34.8 (*o-CH*($\text{CH}_3)_2$), 32.0 (*p-CH*($\text{CH}_3)_2$), 26.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 26.0 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.8 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 24.7 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 23.1 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 22.0 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.7 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.5 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 18.4 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 14.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 10.0 (CCH_3), 9.8 (CCH_3). **UV/vis**: 314 nm ($\epsilon = 1952 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$), 512 nm ($\epsilon = 1155 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$).

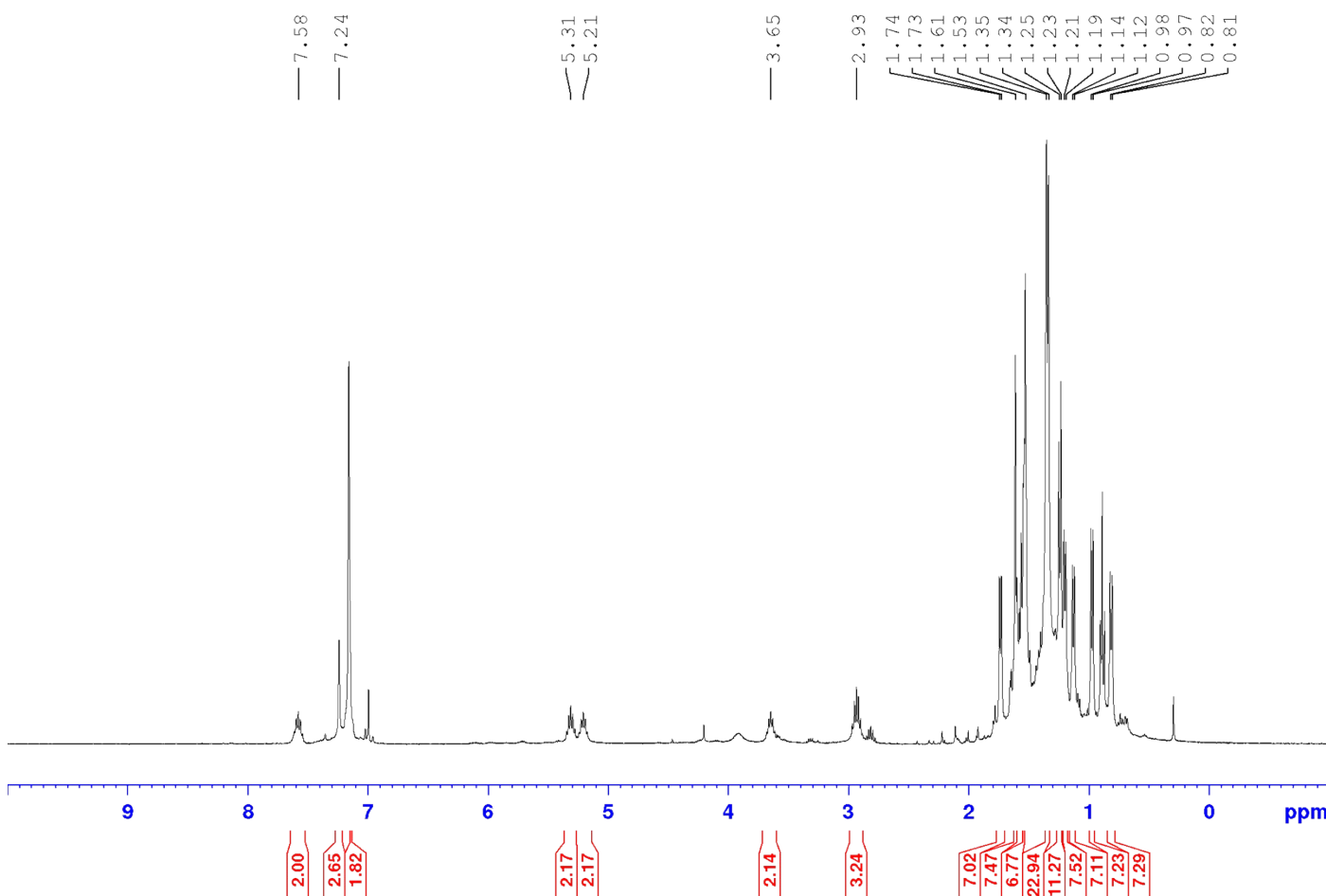


Figure S 30. $^1\text{H NMR}$ Spectrum of Compound **11** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{N}_2\text{O}$, in C_6D_6

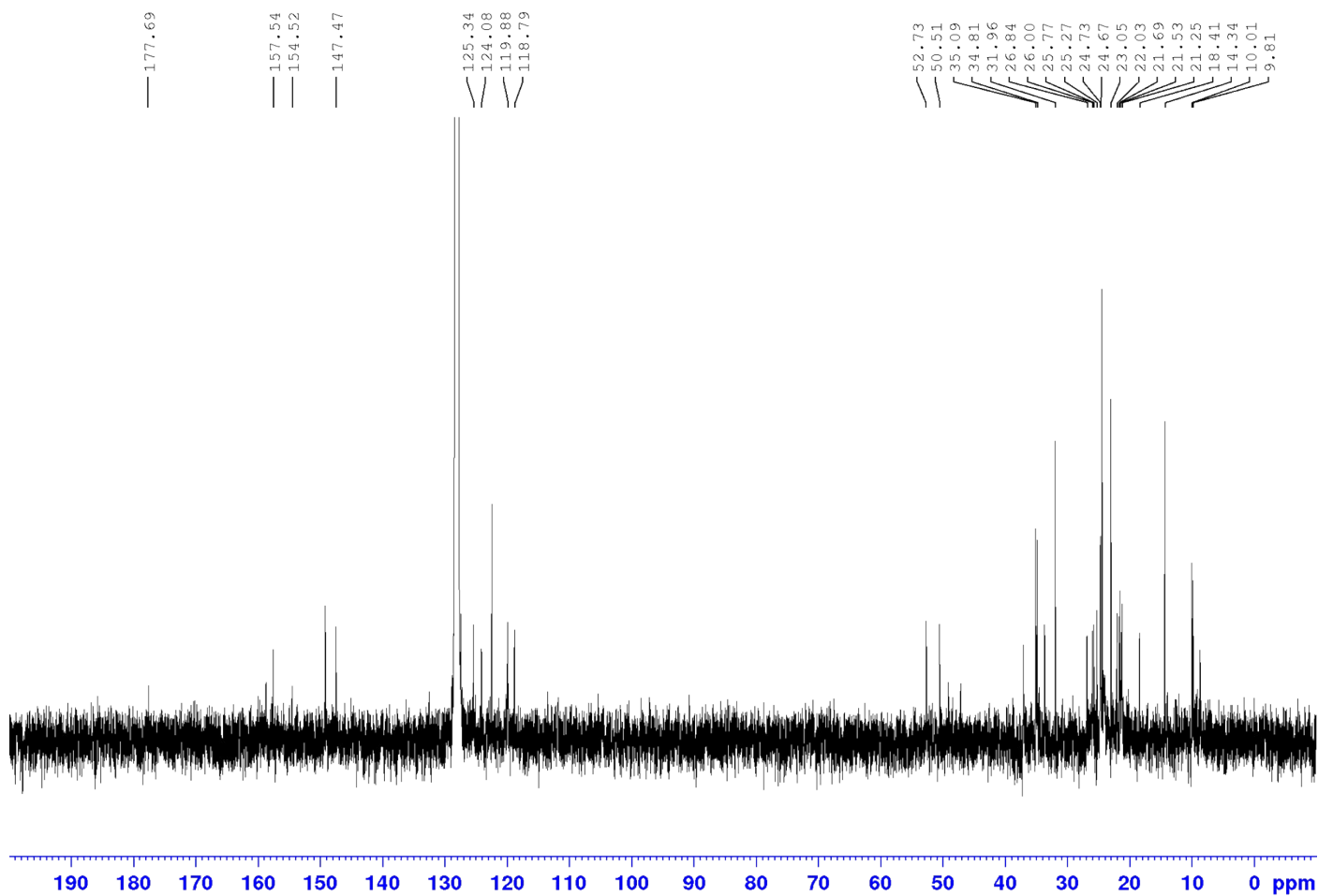


Figure S 31. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound **11** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{N}_2\text{O}$, in C_6D_6

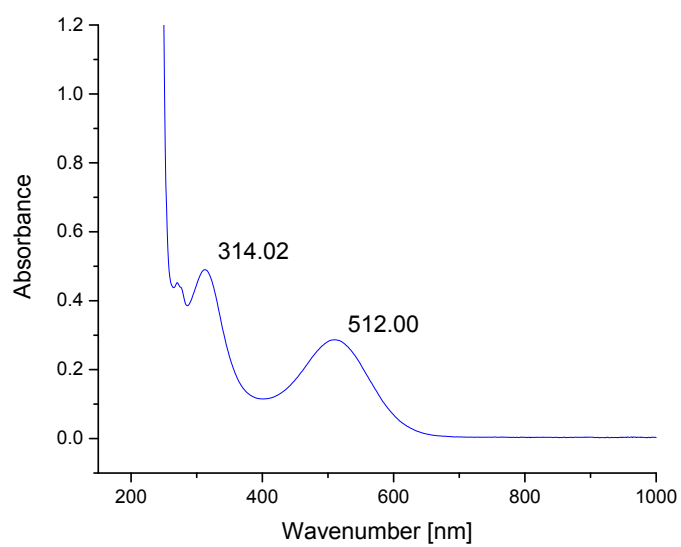
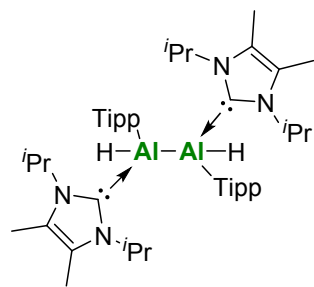


Figure S 32. UV/Vis spectra of Compound **11** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{N}_2\text{O}$, in pentane

Compound 12 – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{H}_2$



Compound **3** (75 mg, 0.079 mmol) was dissolved in 2 mL of Hexane, then freeze-pump-thawed degassed three times before the schlenk flask was backfilled with H_2 (1 atm) at room temperature. The reaction was heated in an oil bath to 50 °C for 16 hrs. Volatiles were removed under reduced pressure, to leave a yellow solid. The solid was extracted with 3 x 5 mL of hexane and concentrated to the point of crystallisation, after 1 week at -30 °C yellow microcrystalline material of **12** was isolated. Yield = 64 mg, 85%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 7.23 (2H, s, *m-H* Tipp), 5.85 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 4.20 (2H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 2.94 (1H, m, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.62 (6H, s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.60 (6H, s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.51 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.5$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.45 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.7$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.36 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.24 (12H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.20 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.03 (6H, d, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.9$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100 MHz, C_6D_6 , 228 K, δ ppm): 177.00 (NCN), 157.68 (*ipso-C*), 157.31 (*o-C*), 146.22 (*p-C*), 125.32 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 119.65 (*m-C*), 61.54 (NCH(CH_3)₂), 52.66 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 47.12 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 34.82 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 25.99 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 22.74 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 21.16 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 18.40 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 14.29 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 10.51 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)$), 10.09 ($\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)$). $^{27}\text{Al NMR}$ (78.2 MHz, C_6D_6 , δ ppm): no signal found. IR: 1593, 1634 cm^{-1} (Al-H). UV/vis: 297 nm ($\epsilon = 65,284$ L mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹), 331 nm ($\epsilon = 60,621$ L mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹).

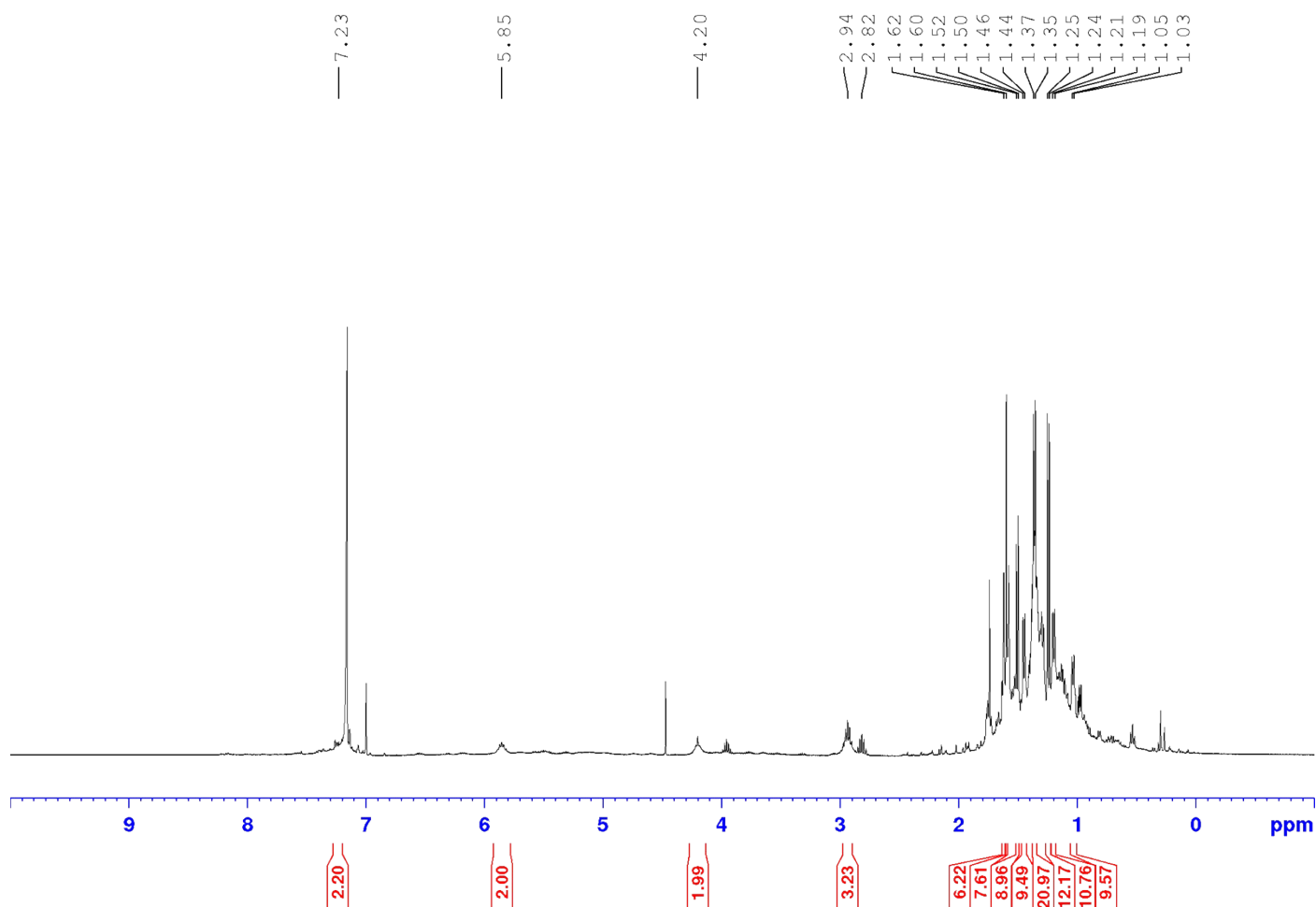


Figure S 33. $^1\text{H NMR}$ Spectrum of Compound **12** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{H}_2$, in C_6D_6

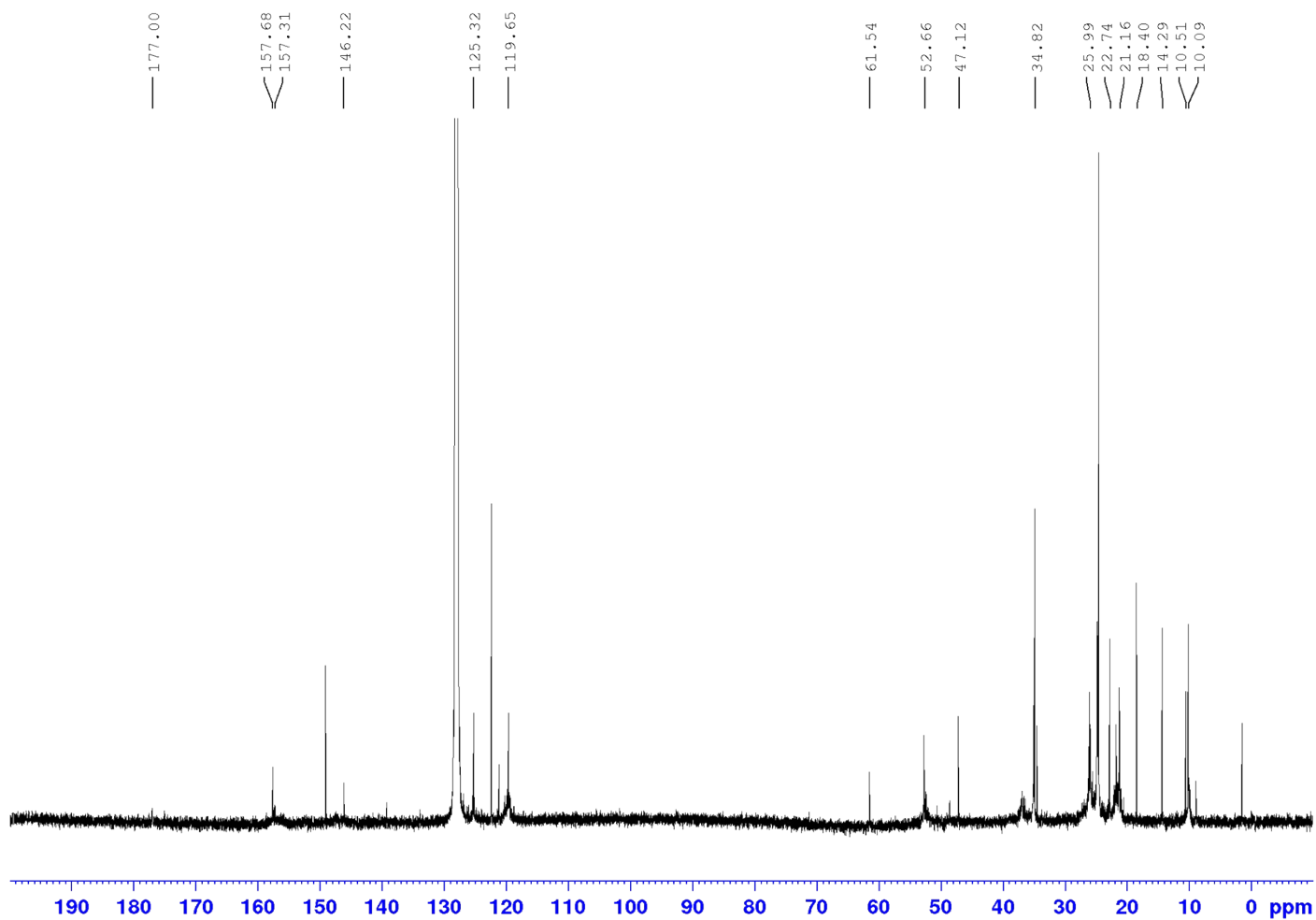


Figure S 34. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR Spectrum of Compound **12** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{H}_2$, in C_6D_6

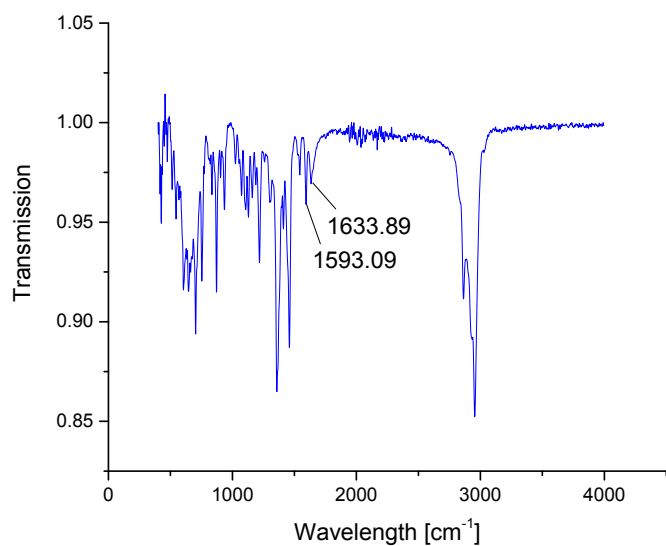


Figure S 35. IR Spectrum of Compound **12** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{H}_2$

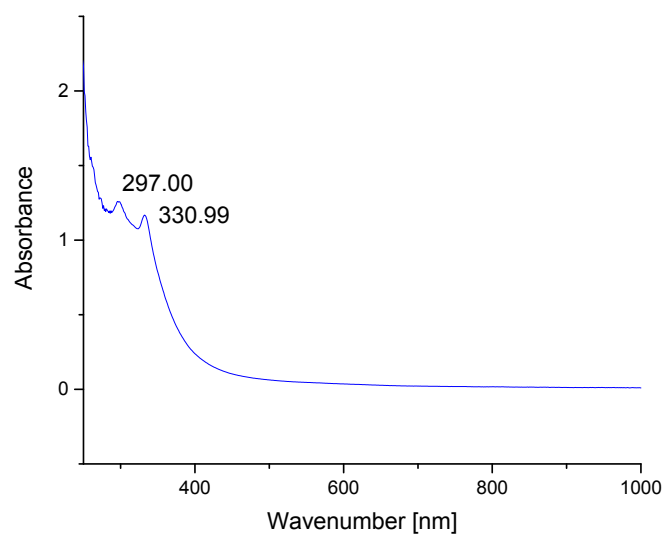


Figure S 36. UV/vis of Compound **11** – AlAl^(Tipp) + H₂, in pentane

1.3 Supporting Spectra for Reactivity

Rearrangement of $\text{Al}=\text{Al}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{PhCCH}$

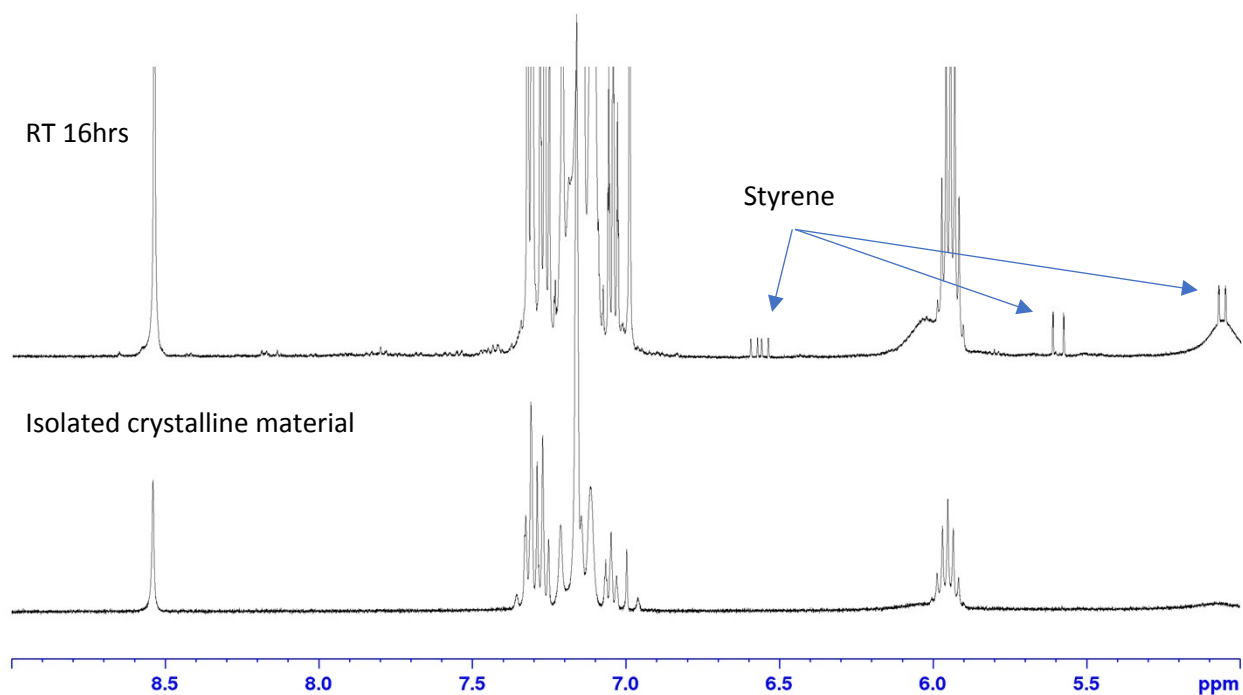


Figure S 37. ^1H NMR Stack plot (9.0 – 5.0 ppm) for rearrangement of Compound **5** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{PhCCH}$, in C_6D_6 from isolated crystalline material

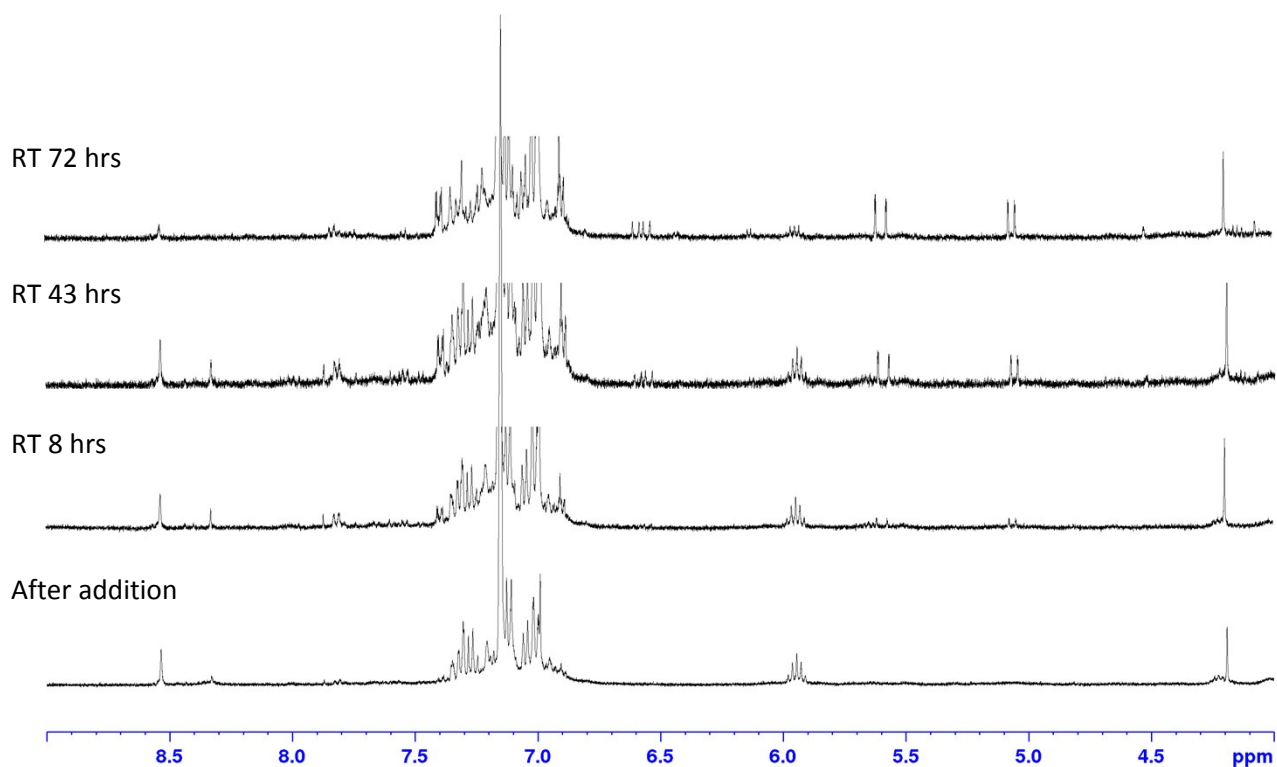


Figure S 38. ^1H NMR Stack plot (9.0 – 4.0 ppm) for rearrangement of Compound **5** – $\text{AlAl}^{(\text{Tipp})} + \text{PhCCH}$, in C_6D_6 , from reaction mixture. Compound **3** (15 mg, 18.2 μmol) was dissolved in 0.5 mL of C_6D_6 , PhCCH (2.0 μL , 18.2 μmol) was

added via syringe at room temperature. The reaction mixture instantly changed from the black colour of **3** to yellow and was monitored at regular intervals by ^1H NMR.

Small Molecule Activation Reactions

Dialumene **3** (30 mg, 37 μmol) in 0.5 mL C_6D_6 and N-Methylmorpholine N-oxide (4 mg, 37 μmol) were added to a Teflon tapped NMR tube, instant colour change from black to red (formation of compound **11**) was observed and ^1H NMR was taken. To the NMR tube containing the *insitu* generated compound **11** a further equivalent of N-Methylmorpholine N-oxide (4 mg, 37 μmol) was added, colour change from red to yellow which then further faded to colourless was observed (formation of compound **10**) and ^1H NMR was taken.

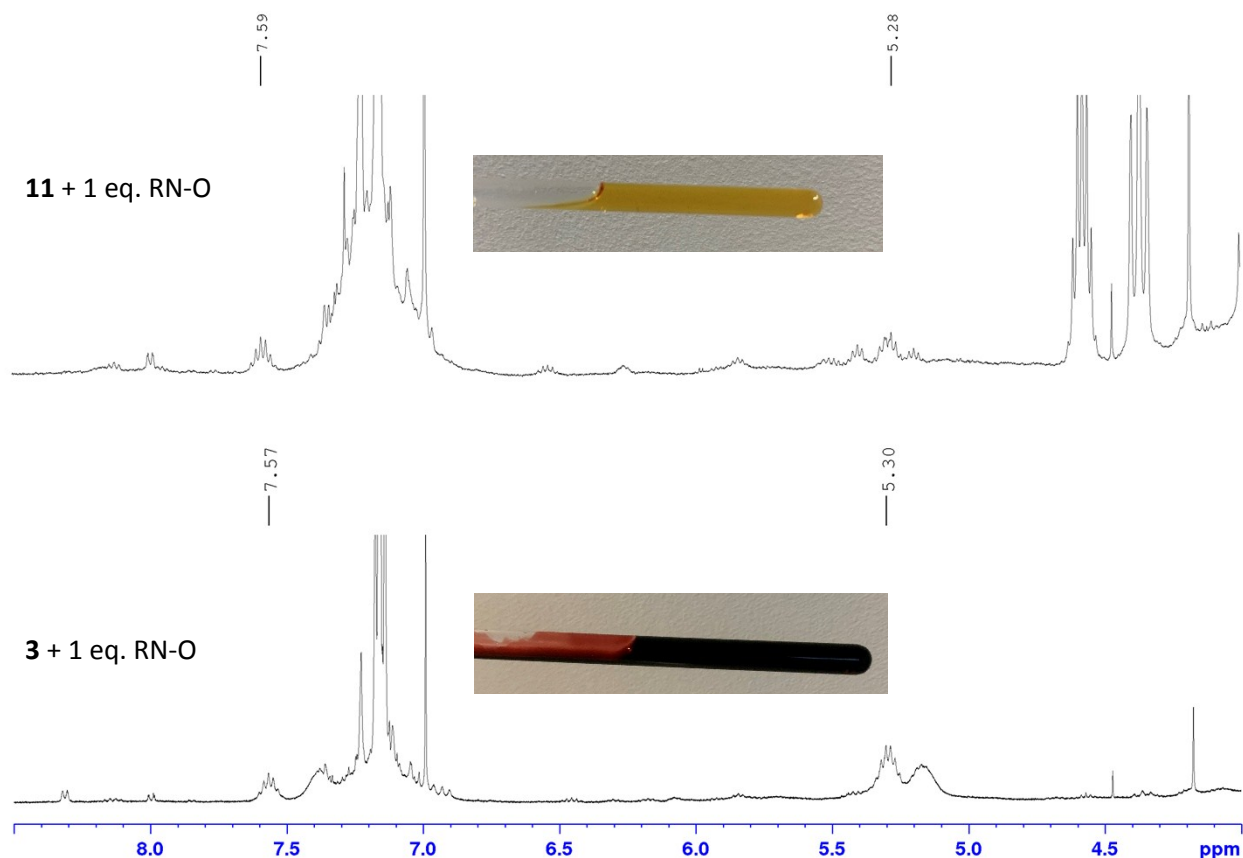


Figure S 39. Stacked ^1H NMR spectra for sequential N-Methylmorpholine N-oxide addition to **3**, in C_6D_6 .

1.4 Catalysis

CO₂ Hydroboration

General Procedure: Dialumene **3** (10 mg, 5 mol%) in 0.5 mL C₆D₆ and Pinacol borane (34 μL 0.24 mmol) were added to a Teflon capped NMR tube. The solution was freeze–pump–thaw degassed three times before being refilled with 1 bar of CO₂. The ¹H and ¹¹B NMR spectra were recorded and then regularly monitored by NMR spectroscopy until >80% consumption of HBpin.

Dialumene **3** (2 mg, 1 mol%) in 0.5 mL C₆D₆ and Pinacol borane (34 μL, 0.24 mmol) were added to a Teflon capped NMR tube. The solution was freeze–pump–thaw degassed three times before being refilled with 1 bar of CO₂. The ¹H and ¹¹B NMR spectra were recorded and then placed in an oil bath at 60 °C and regularly monitored by NMR spectroscopy until >80% consumption of HBpin.

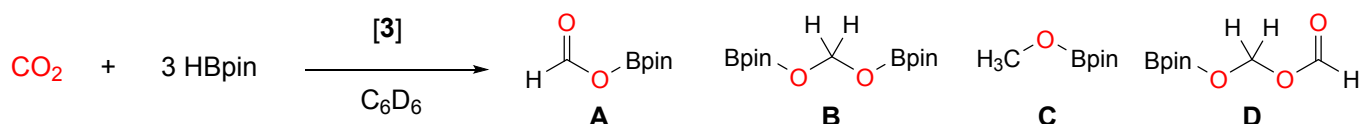


Table S 1. Product distribution across the 3 catalytic reactions. Yields calculated based on relative NMR integrals

Entry	Catalyst Loading/ mol %	Time/ hr	Temperature/ °C	HBpin consumed/ %	Product distribution/ %			
					A	B	C	D
1	5	58	20	81	39	27	34	0
2	5	24	20	66	65	15	17	3
3	1	24	60	62	49	7	41	3

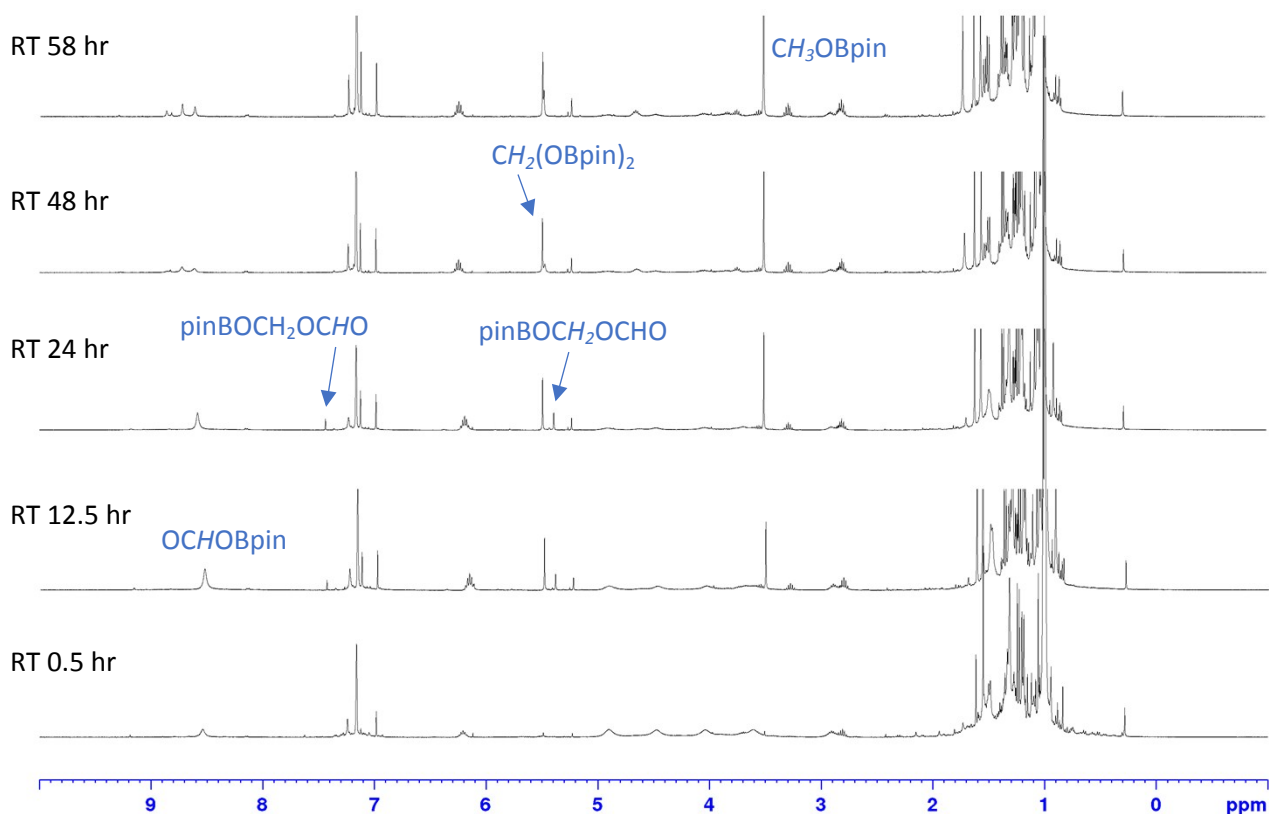


Figure S 40. Stacked ¹H NMR spectra for 5 mol% **3** with HBpin and 1 atm of CO₂ at Room Temperature in C₆D₆

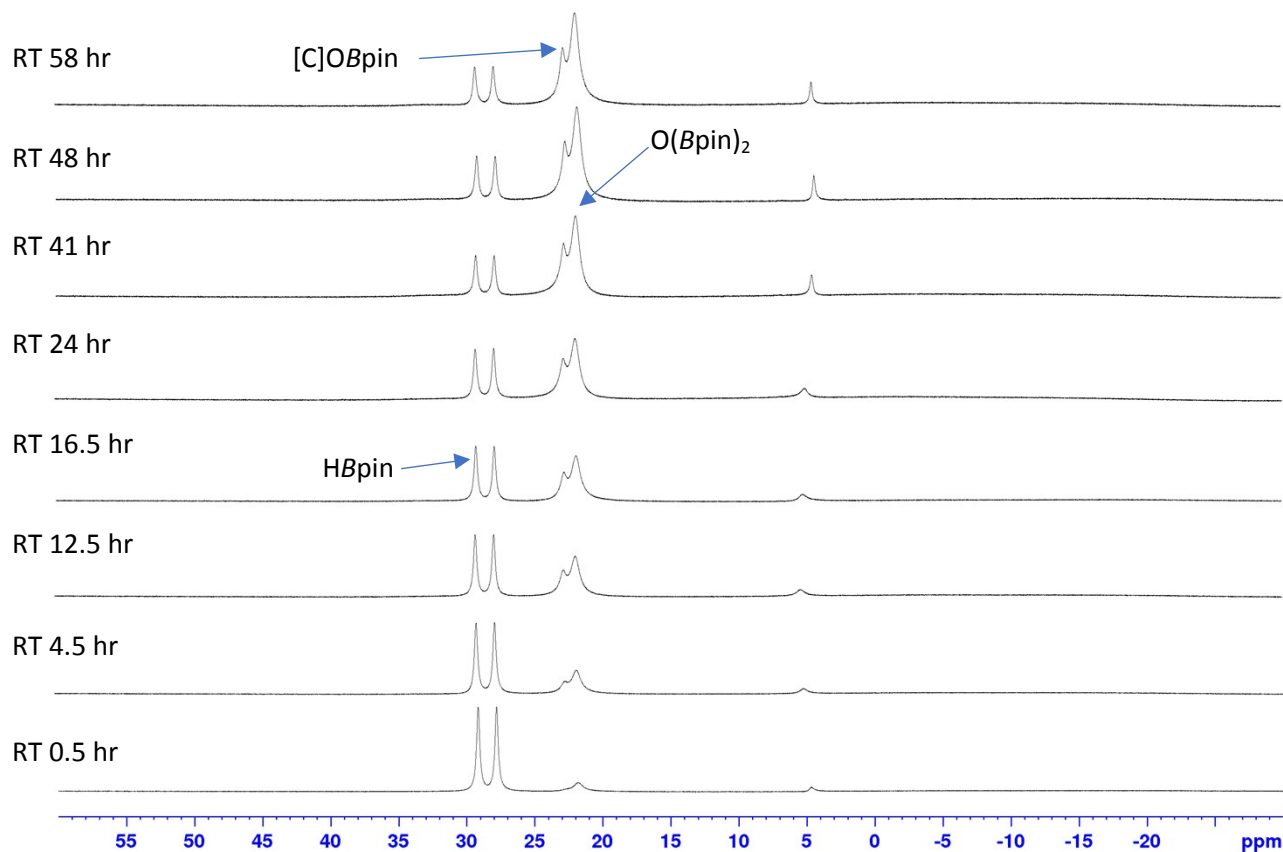


Figure S 41. Stacked ^{11}B NMR spectra for 5 mol% **3** with HBpin and 1 atm of CO_2 at Room Temperature in C_6D_6

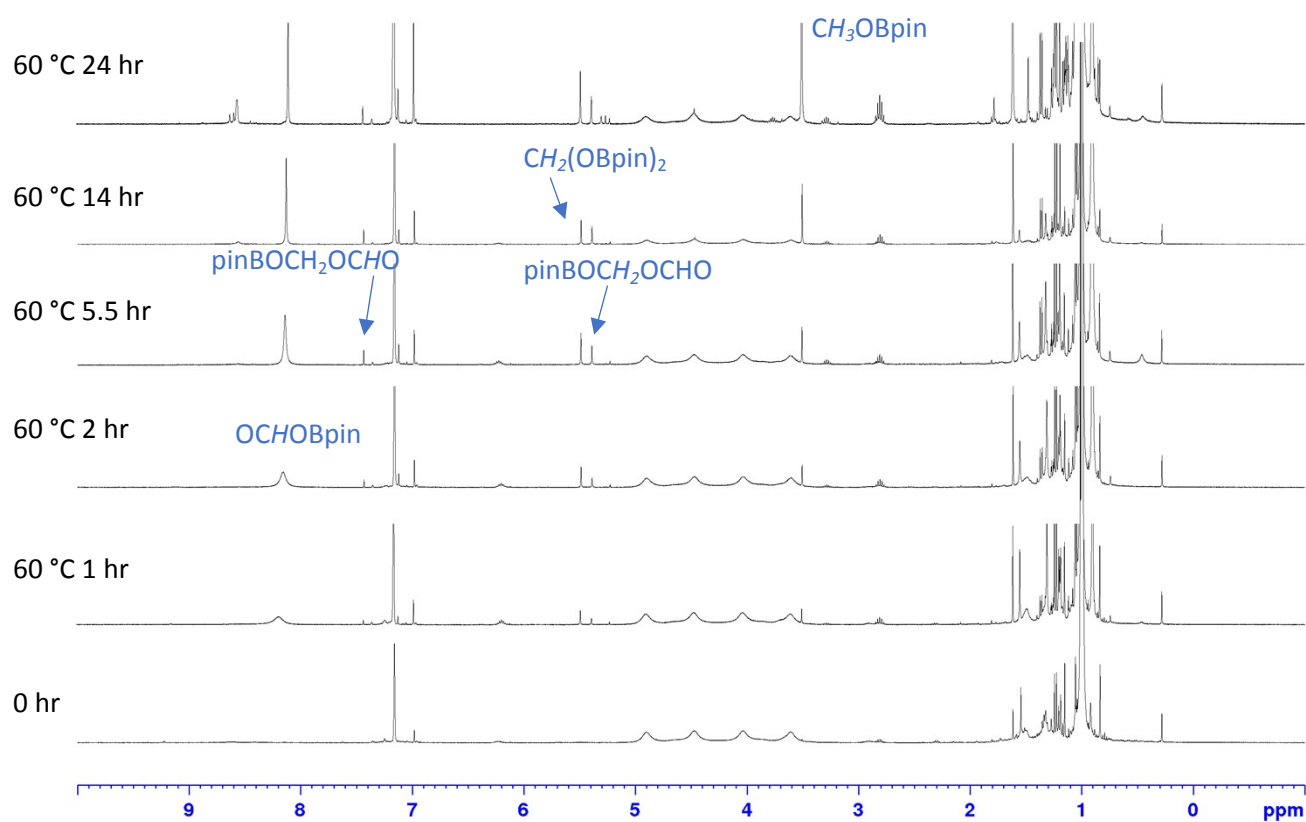


Figure S 42. Stacked ^1H NMR spectra for 1 mol% **3** with HBpin and 1 atm of CO_2 at 60 °C in C_6D_6

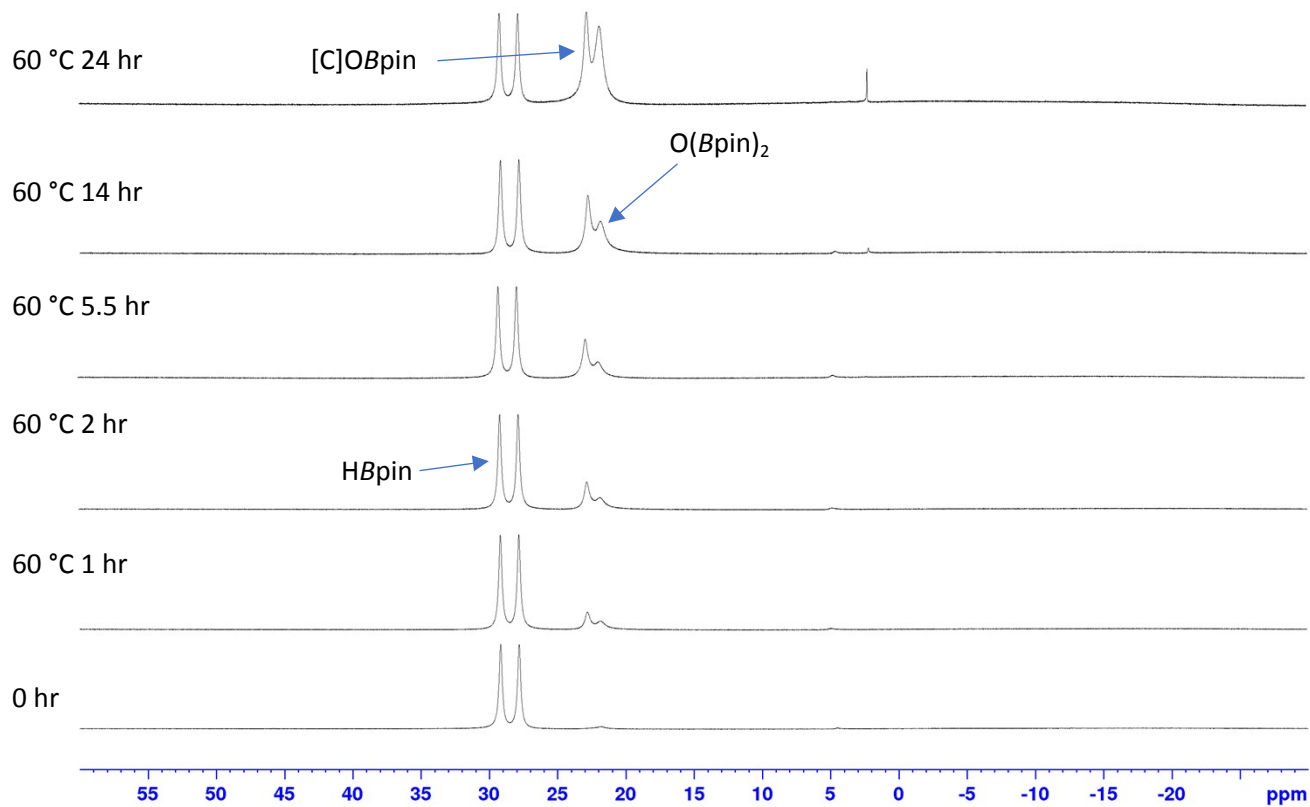


Figure S 43. Stacked ^{11}B NMR spectra for 1 mol% **3** with HBpin and 1 atm of CO_2 at 60 °C in C_6D_6

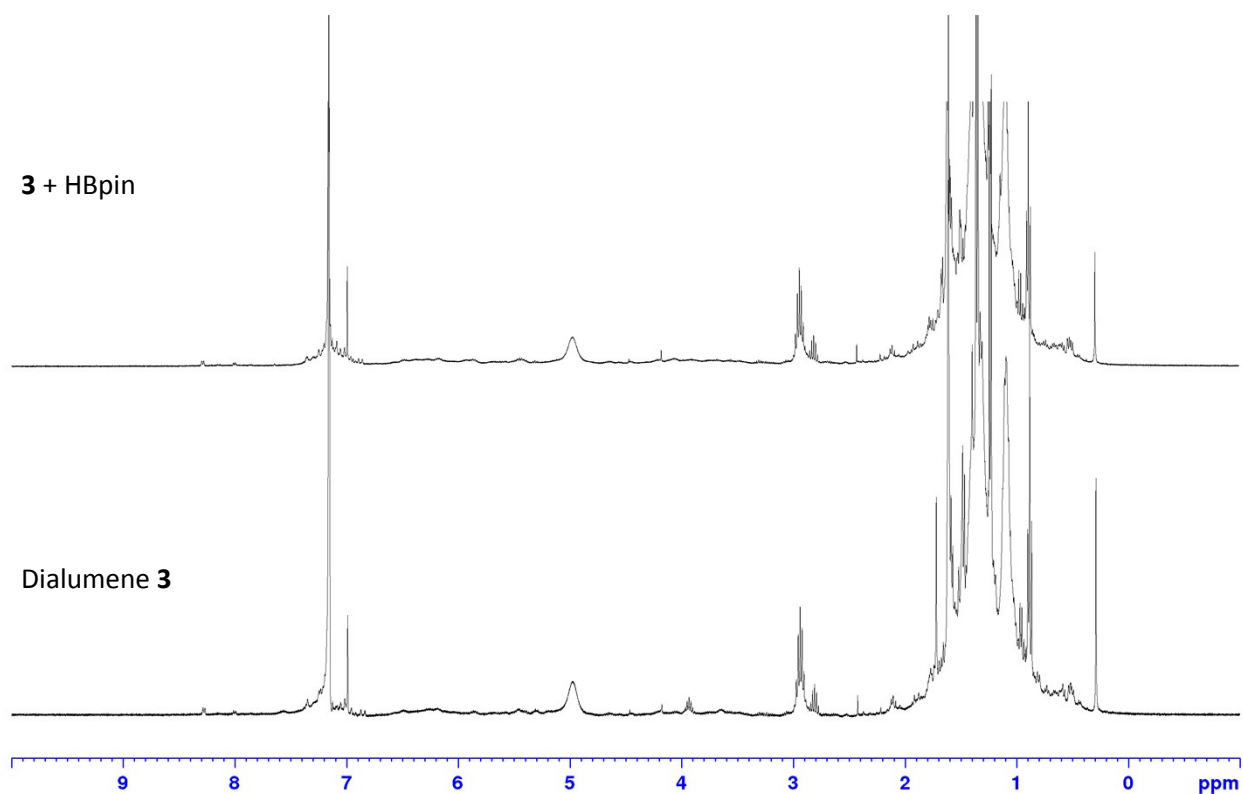


Figure S 44. Stacked ^1H NMR spectrum for reaction of 1 eq. of HBpin (1.6 μL , 24 μmol) and dialumene **3** (20 mg, 24 μmol). No apparent change via ^1H spectroscopy.

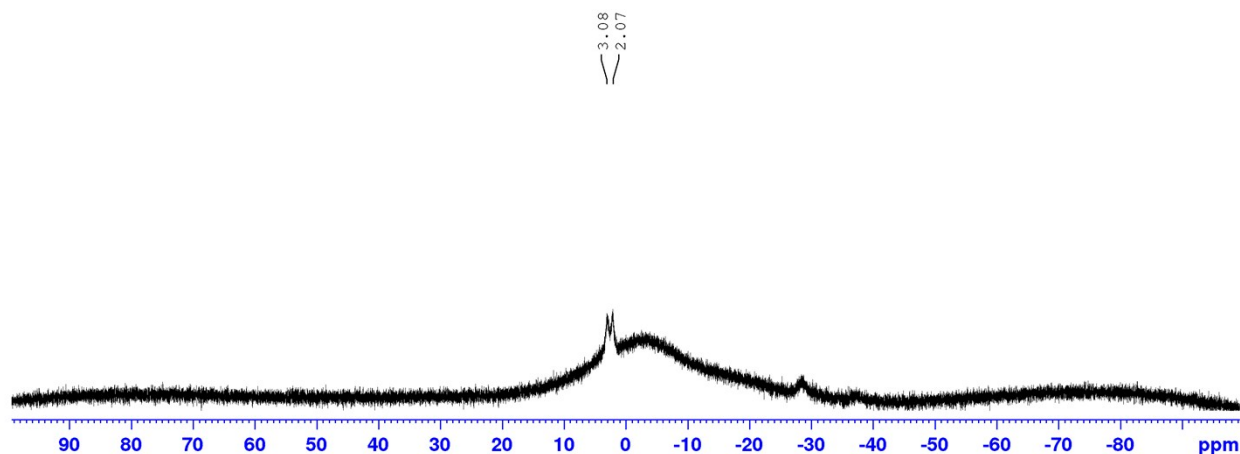


Figure S 45. ^{11}B NMR spectrum for reaction of 1 eq. of HBpin (1.6 μL , 24 μmol) and dialumene **3** (20 mg, 24 μmol). Complete consumption of HBpin and formation of new 4-coordinate boron species (δ 2.57 ppm $J_{\text{HB}} = 129.8$ Hz).

Amine Borane Dehydrogenation

General Procedure: Aluminium catalyst (5 mol%) in 0.5 mL C_6D_6 and dimethylaminoborane (21 mg, 0.35 mmol) were added to a Teflon tapped NMR tube. The ^1H and ^{11}B NMR spectra were recorded and then regularly monitored by NMR spectroscopy until >80% consumption of Me_2NHBH_3 .

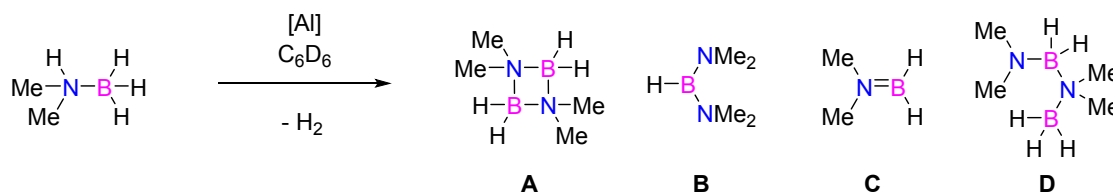


Table S 2. Product distribution across the 4 catalytic reactions. Yields calculated based on relative NMR integrals

Entry	Catalyst	Catalyst loading / mol %	Temp/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$	Time/ hr	Conversion / %	Product distribution				
						A	B	C	D	Others
1	1	5	60	24	31	11	-	-	15	5
2	3	5	20	44	78	35	5	-	23	-
3	3	1	20	16.5	60	45	1	<1	14	-
4	3^{si}	5	20	16.5	17	5	1	-	11	-

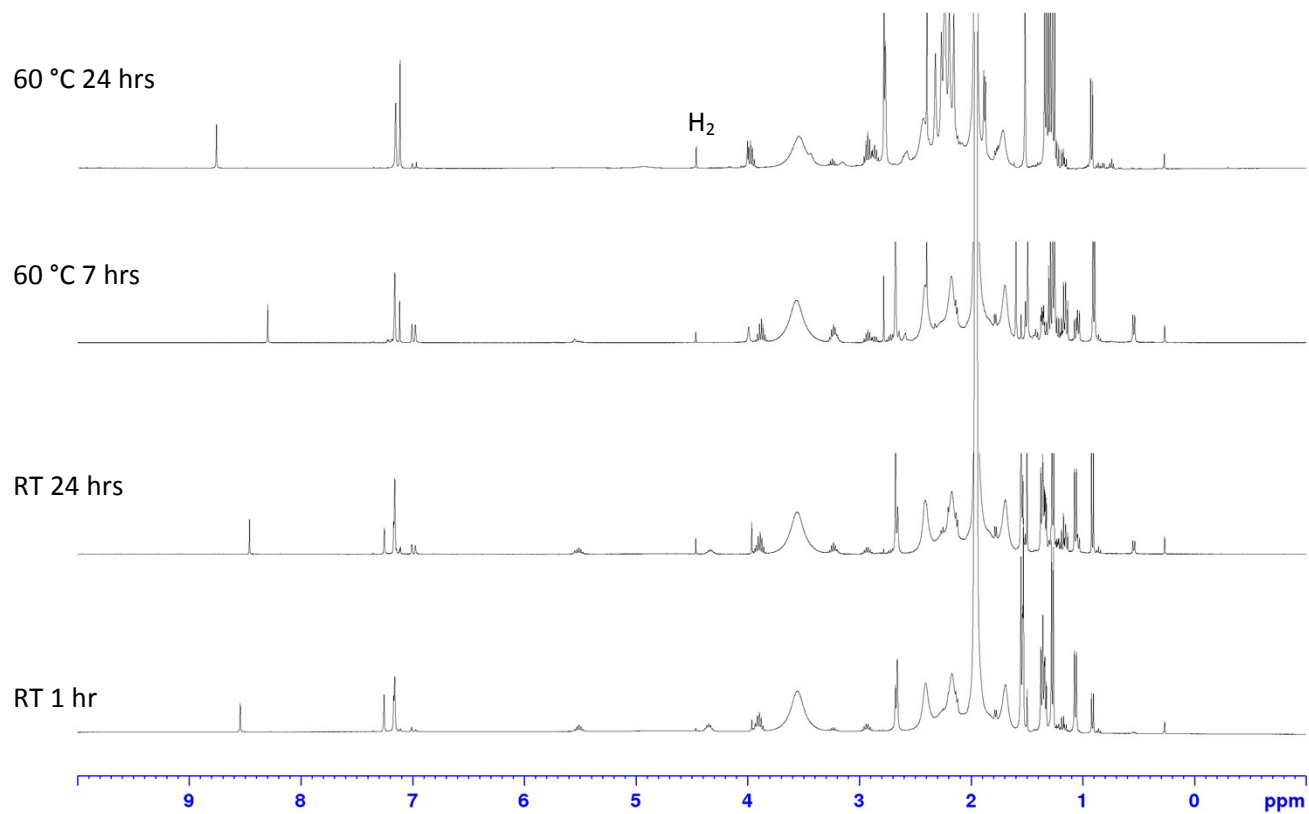


Figure S 46. Stacked ^1H NMR spectra for 5 mol% **1** (7 mg, 5 mol%) with Me_2NHBH_3 at Room temperature then 60 °C in C_6D_6 (Entry 1).

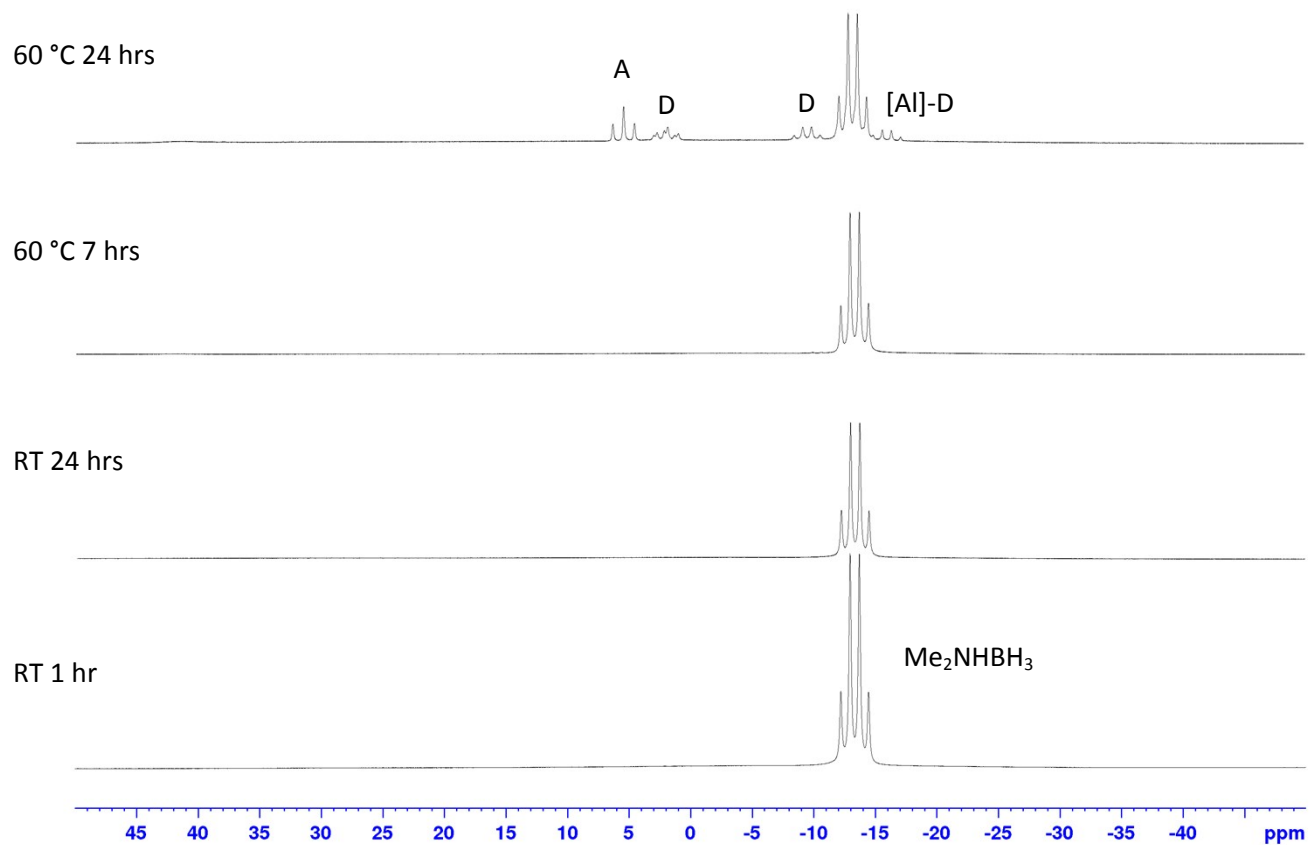


Figure S 47. Stacked ^{11}B NMR spectra for 5 mol% **1** (7 mg, 5 mol%) with Me_2NHBH_3 at Room temperature then 60 °C in C_6D_6 (Entry 1).

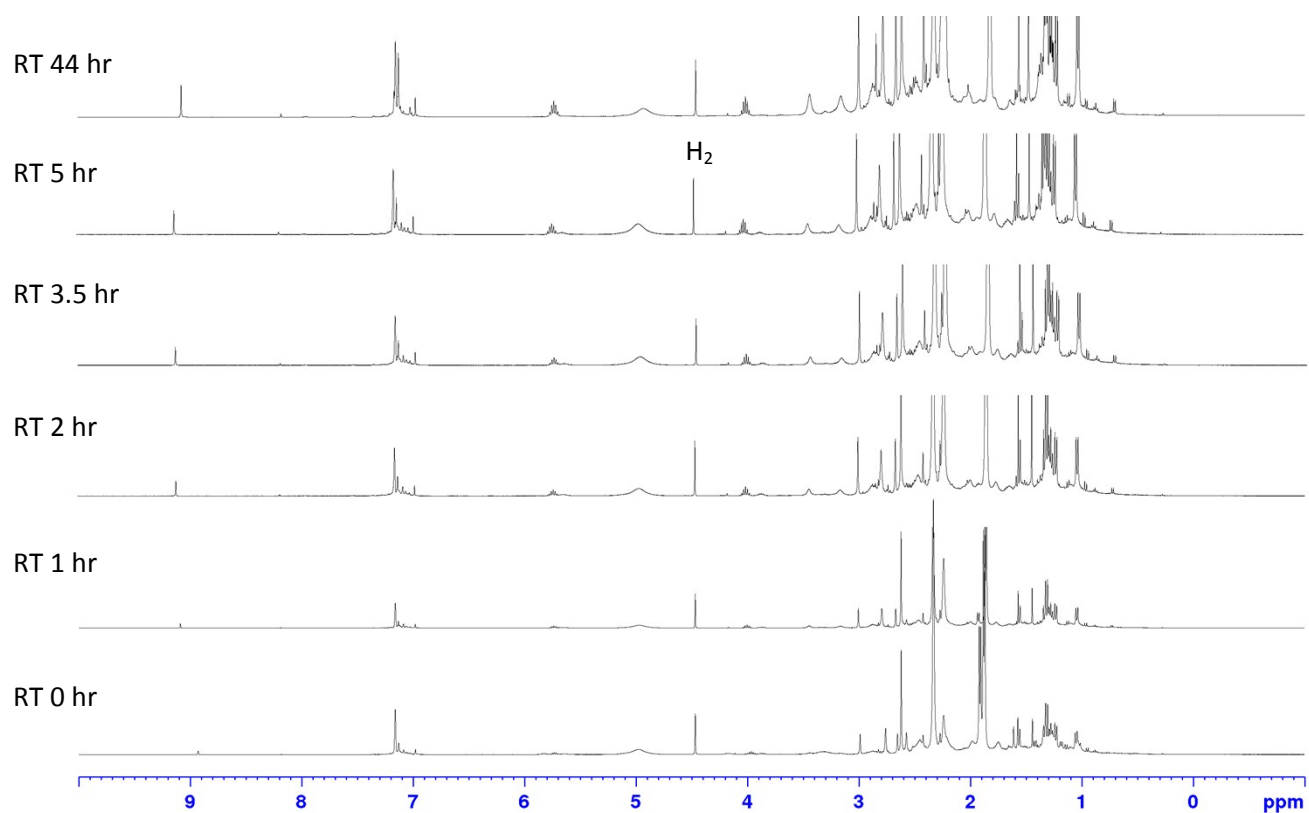


Figure S 48. Stacked ^1H NMR spectra for 5 mol% **3** (14 mg, 5 mol%) with Me_2NHBH_3 at Room temperature in C_6D_6 (Entry 2).

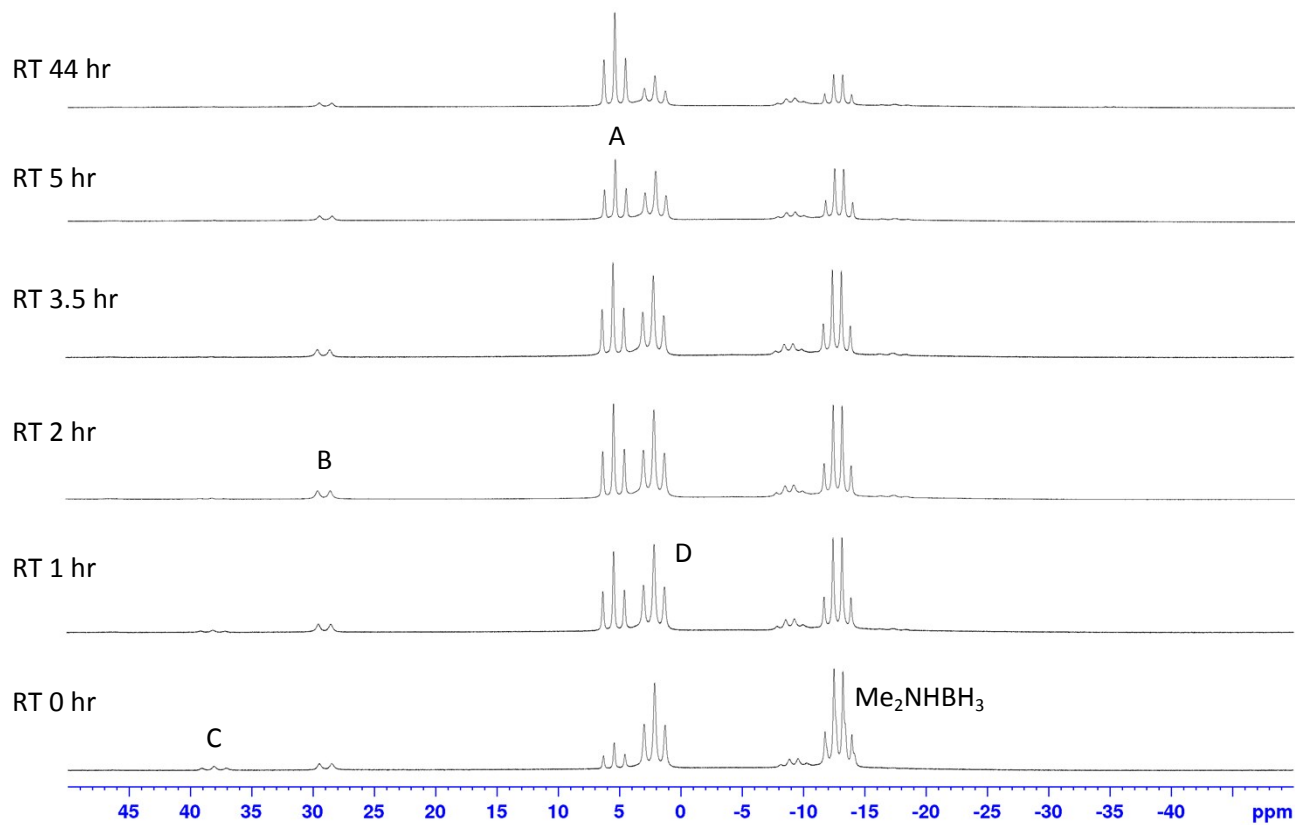


Figure S 49. Stacked ^{11}B NMR spectra for 5 mol% **3** (14 mg, 5 mol%) with Me_2NHBH_3 at Room temperature in C_6D_6 (Entry 2).

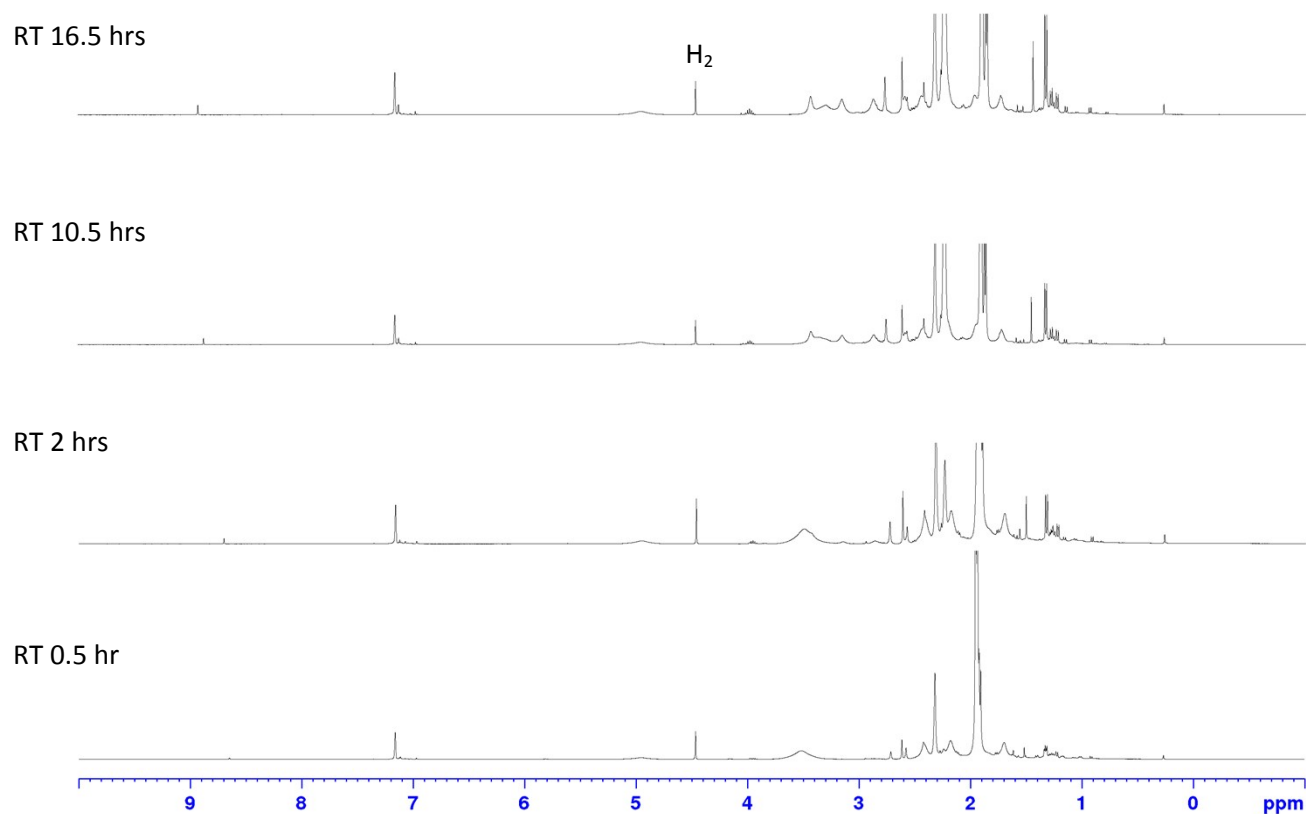


Figure S 50. Stacked ^1H NMR spectra for 1 mol% **3** (3 mg, 1 mol%) with Me_2NHBH_3 at Room temperature in C_6D_6 (Entry 3).

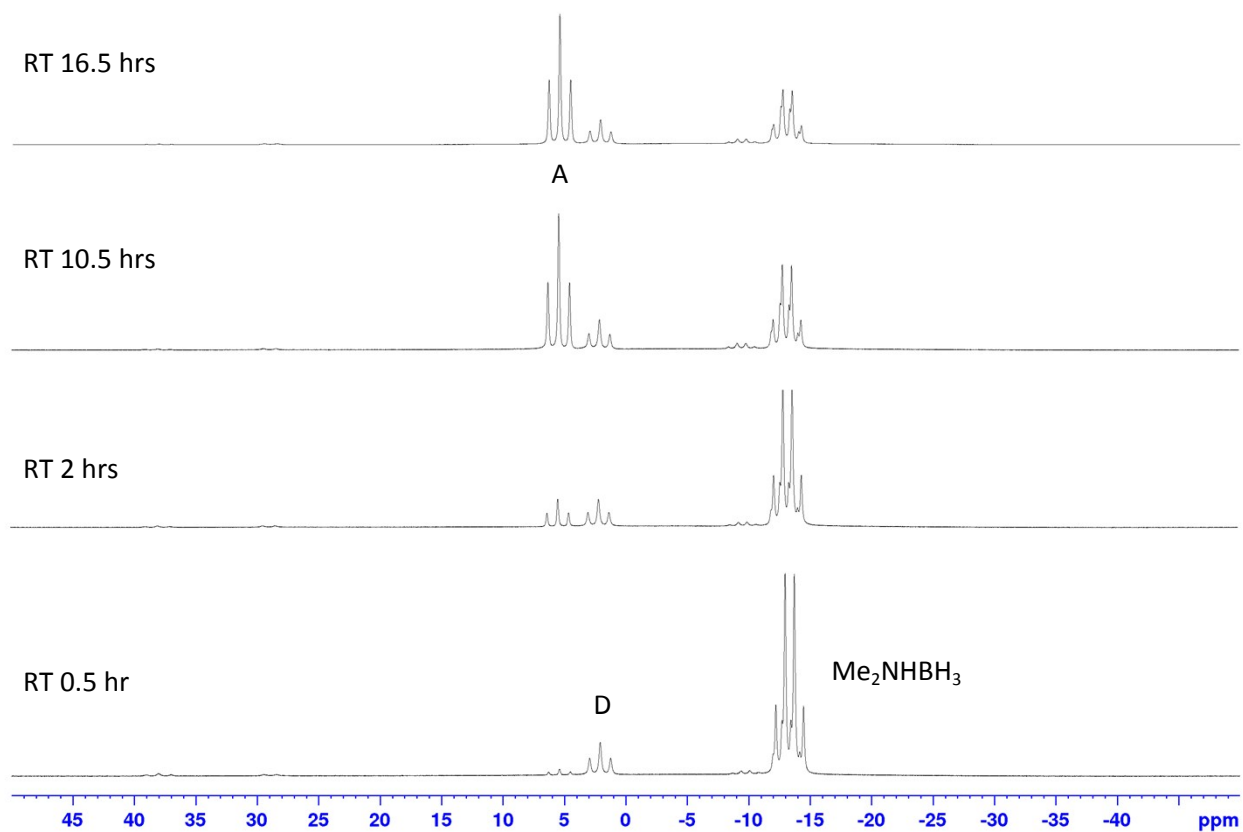


Figure S 51. Stacked ¹¹B NMR spectra for 1 mol% **3** (3 mg, 1 mol%) with Me₂NHBH₃ at Room temperature in C₆D₆ (Entry 3).

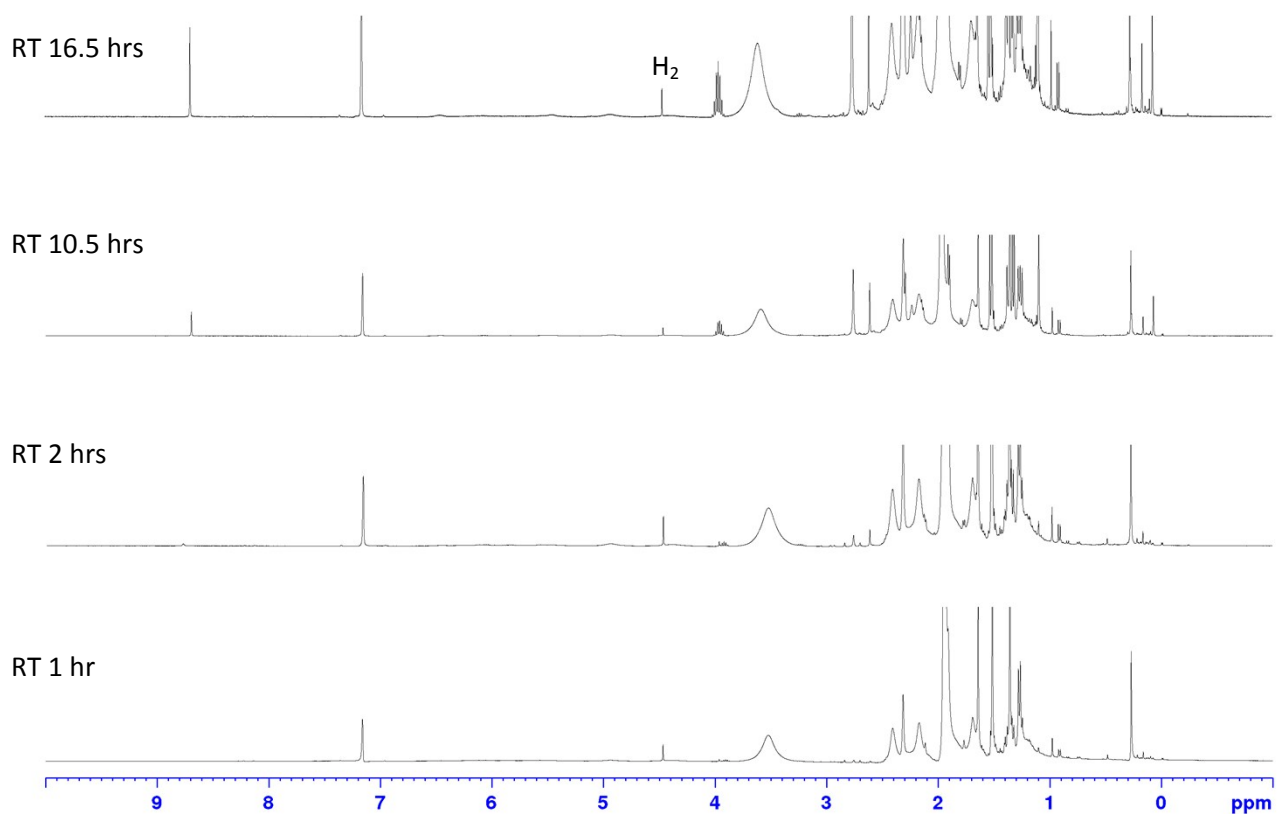


Figure S 52. Stacked ¹H NMR spectra for 5 mol% **3^{si}** (13 mg, 5 mol%) with Me₂NHBH₃ at Room temperature in C₆D₆ (Entry 4).

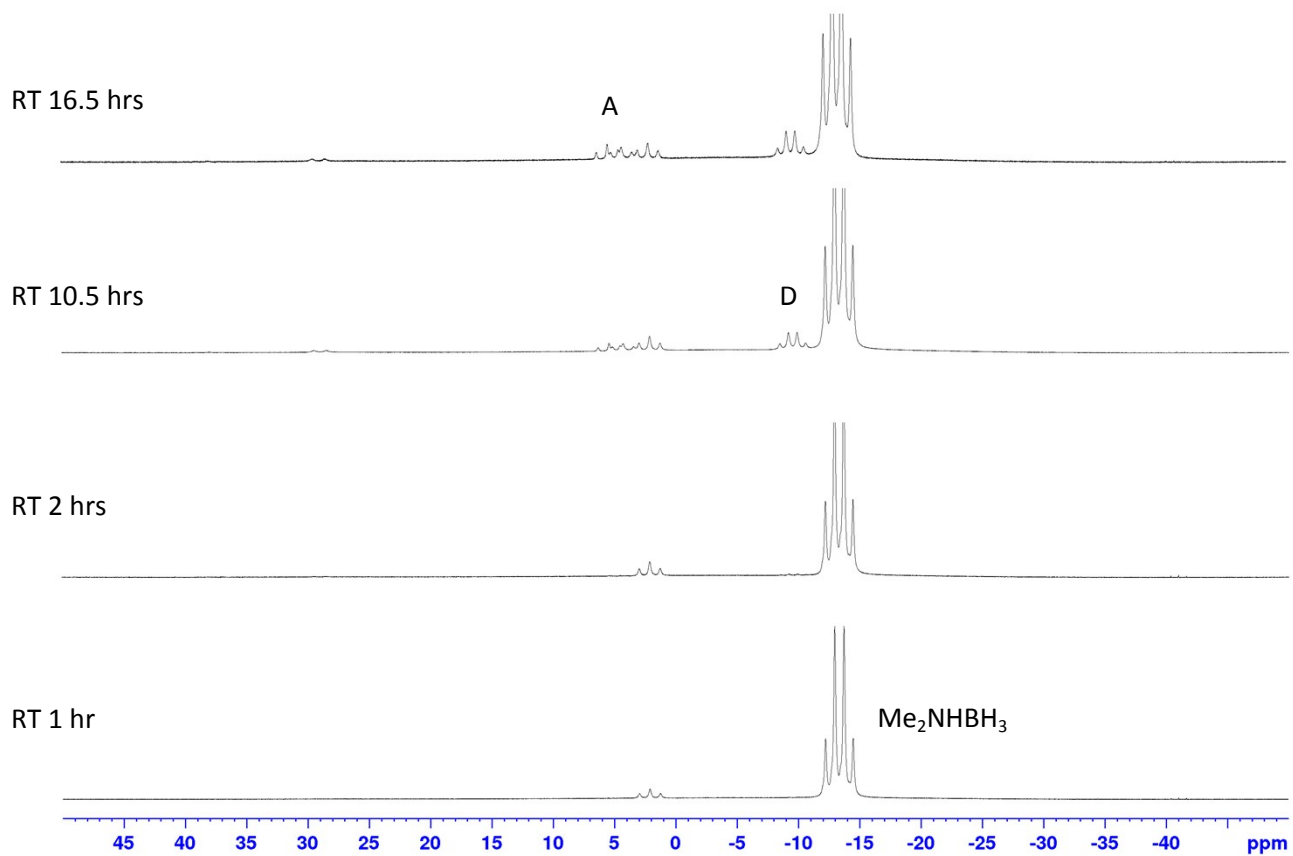


Figure S 53. Stacked ¹¹B NMR spectra for 5 mol% **3^{Si}** (13 mg, 5 mol%) with Me₂NHBH₃ at Room temperature in C₆D₆ (Entry 4).

2. X-Ray Crystallography

2.1 General Procedures

Crystallographic data were collected on the single crystal X-ray diffractometers “Apex II CCD” equipped with a fine-focus sealed tube source, a Triumph monochromator and a CCD detector (7), “Bruker Photon CMOS” equipped with a IMS microsource, a Helios optic monochromator and a CMOS plate detector (2, 4, 6) and a “Bruker Photon CMOS” equipped with a TXS rotating anode source, a Helios optic monochromator and a CMOS plate detector (3, 11). The data collection was performed, using the APEX II^{S5} and APEX III^{S6} software package on single crystals coated with Fomblin® Y as perfluorinated ether. The crystals were fixed on the top of a kapton micro sampler with perfluorinated ether, transferred to the diffractometer and frozen under a stream of cold nitrogen. A matrix scan was used to determine the initial lattice parameters. Reflections were corrected for Lorentz and polarisation effects, scan speed, and background using SAINT.^{S7} Absorption corrections, including odd and even ordered spherical harmonics were performed using SADABS.^{S7} Space group assignments were based upon systematic absences, E statistics, and successful refinement of the structures. Structures were solved using direct methods with the aid of successive difference Fourier maps, and were refined against all data using the APEX II and APEX III software in conjunction with SHELXL-2014^{S8} and SHELXLE.^{S9} Hydrogen atoms were calculated in ideal positions as follows: methyl hydrogen atoms were refined as part of rigid rotating groups, with a C–H distance of 0.98 Å and $U_{iso}(H) = 1.5 \cdot U_{eq}(C)$. Methylene, aromatic and other H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model with C–H distances of 0.99 Å, 0.95 Å and 1.00 Å, respectively, and $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2 \cdot U_{eq}(C)$. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Full-matrix least-squares refinements were carried out by minimizing $\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2$ with the SHELXL weighting scheme.^{S10} Neutral atom scattering factors for all atoms and anomalous dispersion corrections for the non-hydrogen atoms were taken from International Tables for Crystallography.^{S11} A split layer refinement was used for disordered groups and SIMU, DELU and SAME restraints were employed to stabilize the refinement of the layers. All images were created using mercury.^{S12}

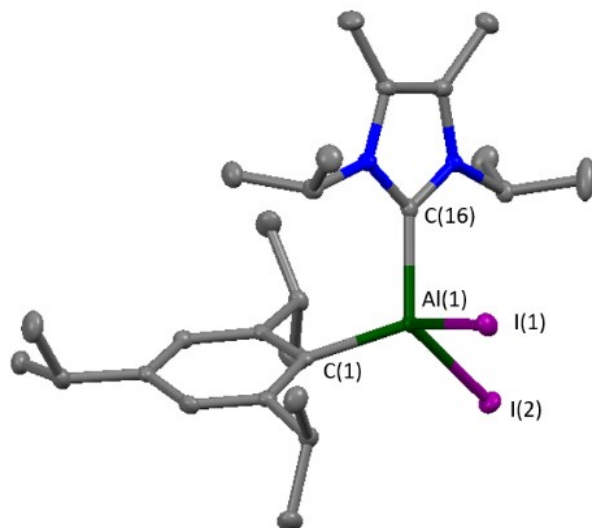


Figure S 54. Molecular structure of compound **2** in the solid state. Ellipsoids are set at the 50% probability level; hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles(°): Al(1)-C(1) 1.9887(19), Al(1)-C(16) 2.0645(18), Al(1)-I(1) 2.5968(9), Al(1)-I(2) 2.5762(8), C(1)-Al(1)-(C16) 107.86(7), I(1)-Al(1)-I(2) 102.93(2).

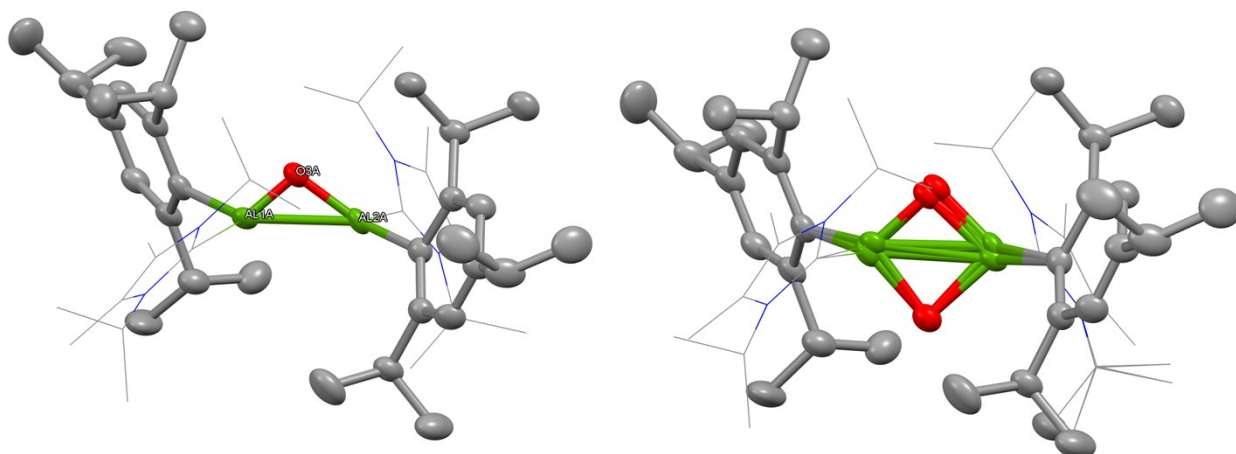


Figure S 55. Molecular structure of compound **11** in the solid state. Ellipsoids are set at the 50% probability level; NHC ligands are depicted in wire frame and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Part A disorder (left); Full structure (right). Due to presence of disorder around the central Al-O core, key bond lengths and angles are not discussed.

2.2 X-ray Crystallographic Table

Compound (CCDC code)	2 (1989167)	3 (1989168)	4 (1989169)	6 (1989170)	7 (1989171)	11 (1989172)
Molecular formula	C ₂₆ H ₄₃ Al ₁ N ₂ I ₂	C ₅₅ H ₉₃ Al ₂ N ₄	C ₅₄ H ₉₀ Al ₂ N ₄	C ₇₂ H ₁₀₂ Al ₂ N ₄	C ₇₀ H ₁₀₄ Al ₂ N ₆	C ₅₈ H ₁₀₀ Al ₂ N ₄ O _{1.79}
Molecular weight	664.40	864.29	849.26	1077.54	1083.55	936.20
Space group	P21/n	C2/c	P21/c	P2/c	C2/c	C2/c
a (Å)	10.145(2)	35.126(3)	12.4062(10)	13.5339(6)	21.6994(18)	36.035(2)
b (Å)	17.053(4)	15.4352(11)	18.1378(16)	13.5131(6)	15.8898(18)	15.3951(8)
c (Å)	17.044(3)	21.8147(17)	24.620(2)	18.1559(6)	20.777(2)	21.8876(12)
α °	90	90	90	90	90	90
β °	102.029(8)	109.512(4)	101.846(3)	100.481(2)	90.177(8)	104.190(3)
γ °	90	90	90	90	90	90
Volume (Å³)	2883.9(10)	11148.2(15)	5422.0(8)	3265.0(2)	7163.9(12)	11771.9(11)
D_c (g cm⁻³)	1.530	1.030	1.040	1.096	1.005	1.056
μ (mm⁻¹)	2.227	0.088	0.090	0.087	0.081	0.090
Reflections collected	80760	226432	73016	95226	101077	85121
Unique reflections	5252	10196	9874	5992	6569	10794
Parameters varied	292	605	581	395	510	766
R_{int}	0.0330	0.0431	0.0693	0.0563	0.0552	0.0443
R₁	0.0151 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0174 (all data)	0.0471 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0536 (all data)	0.0645 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0949 (all data)	0.0406 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0460 (all data)	0.0747 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0884 (all data)	0.0582 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0845 (all data)
wR₂	0.0367 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0385 (all data)	0.1268 (I>2σ(I)) 0.1328 (all data)	0.1672 (I>2σ(I)) 0.1923 (all data)	0.0962 (I>2σ(I)) 0.0997 (all data)	0.1843 (I>2σ(I)) 0.1924 (all data)	0.1440 (I>2σ(I)) 0.1602 (all data)

3. DFT Calculations

3.1 General Information

Geometry optimizations and harmonic frequency calculations were performed using *Gaussian09*^{S13} employing the B3LYP-D3^{S14-18}/6-311G(d)^{S19,20} level of density functional theory. The SMD polarizable continuum model was used to account for solvent effects of benzene.^{S21} Stationary points are characterized as minima by analysis of computed Hessians. Optimization of the small model systems were performed retaining C_i symmetry. For improved energies, single point calculations were conducted at the SMD-B3LYP-D3/6-311G(2d,2p)^{S19,20} level. Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis were performed on the B3LYP-D3/6-311G(2d,2p)^{S19,20} level of theory using the *NBO 6.0* program,^{S22} interfaced with *Gaussian09*.^{S23,24} Pictures of molecular structures were generated with the ChemCraft^{S25}, Mercury^{S26} or GaussView^{S27} programs.

3.2 Results

Table S 3. Comparison of selected bond length [Å], angles, dihedral, trans-bent and twisted angles [°] for the calculated and experimental structures of **3**, **3^{Si}** and **7**. Geometries are calculated at the B3LYP-D3/6-311G(d) level of theory. Experimental data are taken from SC-XRD analysis. θ represents the *trans*-bent angle and τ the twist angle.

Compound	bond/angle/dihedral	exp.	calc.	$\Delta(\text{calc.}-\text{exp.})$
3	r(Al ¹ Al ²)	2.4039(8)	2.38	0.02
	r(Al ^{1/2} C ^{1/C27})	2.029(2)/2.018(2)	2.02/2.02	0.01/0.00
	r(Al ^{1/2} C ^{16/C42})	2.060(2)/2.042(2)	2.05/2.04	0.01/0.00
	a(C ^{1/27} Al ^{1/2} C ^{16/42})	110.27(7)/112.84(7)	107.5/113.4	2.8/0.6
	d(C ¹ Al ¹ Al ² C ²⁷)	-167.04(9)	-172.1	5.1
	d(C ¹⁶ Al ¹ Al ² C ⁴²)	-175.54(8)	-177.5	2.0
	d(C ¹ Al ¹ Al ² C ⁴²)	35.81(9)	32.6	3.2
	d(C ¹⁶ Al ¹ Al ² C ²⁷)	-18.39(9)	-22.2	3.8
	θ	17.25/23.70	19.0/21.5	1.8/2.2
	τ	12.06	7.2	4.9
3^{Si}*	r(Al ¹ Al ^{1'})	2.394(1)	2.39	0.00
	r(Al ¹ Si ¹)	2.494(1)	2.47	0.02
	r(Al ¹ C ¹)	2.072(3)	2.08	0.01
	a(Si ¹ Al ¹ C ¹)	116.21(9)	114.7	1.5
	d(Si ¹ Al ¹ Al ^{1'} Si ^{1'})	180.00(7)	171.3	8.7
	d(C ¹ Al ¹ Al ^{1'} C ^{1'})	180.0(1)	173.3	6.7
	d(Si ¹ Al ¹ Al ^{1'} C ^{1'})	1.2(1)	7.7	6.5
	θ	0.71	0.7	0.0
	τ	0.00	7.4	7.4
7	r(Al ¹ C ¹)	2.042(7)	2.04	0.00
	r(Al ¹ C ¹⁶)	2.109(3)	2.11	0.00
	r(Al ¹ C ²⁷)	2.059(3)	2.05	0.01
	r(C ²⁷ -N ³)	1.292(4)	1.29	0.00
	r(Al ¹ Al ^{1'})	2.948(1)	2.93	0.02
	r(C ²⁷ C ^{27'})	2.718(4)	2.70	0.02
	a(Al ¹ C ²⁷ Al ^{1'})	91.6(1)	91.0	0.6
	a(C ²⁷ Al ¹ C ^{27'})	82.7(1)	82.2	0.5
	a(C ²⁷ N ¹ C ²⁸)	126.3(2)	127.2	0.9

*in the original publication the calculations on **3^{Si}** were performed without dispersion, which is however important in the Tipp-substituted case **3** and was thus also applied to **3^{Si}** for comparative reasons.

Calculated properties

Table S 4. Calculated transitions and UV-Vis absorption bands using TD-DFT (time-dependent-DFT) for **3**.

Wavelength [nm]	MO contributions	f	Contribution
794	HOMO→LUMO	0.1977	96.4%
661	HOMO→LUMO+1	0.0296	95.4%
634	HOMO→LUMO+2	0.0107	98.5%
592	HOMO→LUMO+3	0.0271	89.5%
	HOMO→LUMO+4		4.6%
518	HOMO→LUMO+5	0.0262	95.34%
448	HOMO→LUMO+10	0.0925	89.5%

Table S 5. Monomerisation energies of dialumenes **3** and **3^{Si}**.

Compound	ΔG_{298} [kcal/mol]	$D^0(0)$ [kcal/mol]	ΔG_{298}^{03} [kcal/mol]	$D^0(0)^{03}$ [kcal/mol]
3	22.1	37.2	60.6	79.9
3^{Si}	22.5	38.5	53.1	70.1

Table S 6. NHC Dissociation energies for dialumenes **3** and **3^{Si}**.

Compound	$\Delta G_{298}^{\text{NHC}}$ [kcal/mol]	$D^0(0)^{\text{NHC}}$ [kcal/mol]
3	26.0	41.9
3^{Si}	16.9	33.9

Calculated properties

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592	HOMO→LUMO+3	0.0271	89.5%
	HOMO→LUMO+4		4.6%
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Compound	ΔG_{298} [kcal/mol]	$D^0(0)$ [kcal/mol]	ΔG_{298}^{03} [kcal/mol]	$D^0(0)^{03}$ [kcal/mol]
3	22.1	37.2	60.6	79.9
3^{Si}	22.5	38.5	53.1	70.1

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Compound	$\Delta G_{298}^{\text{NHC}}$ [kcal/mol]	$D^0(0)^{\text{NHC}}$ [kcal/mol]
3	26.0	41.9
3^{Si}	16.9	33.9

Molecular Orbitals

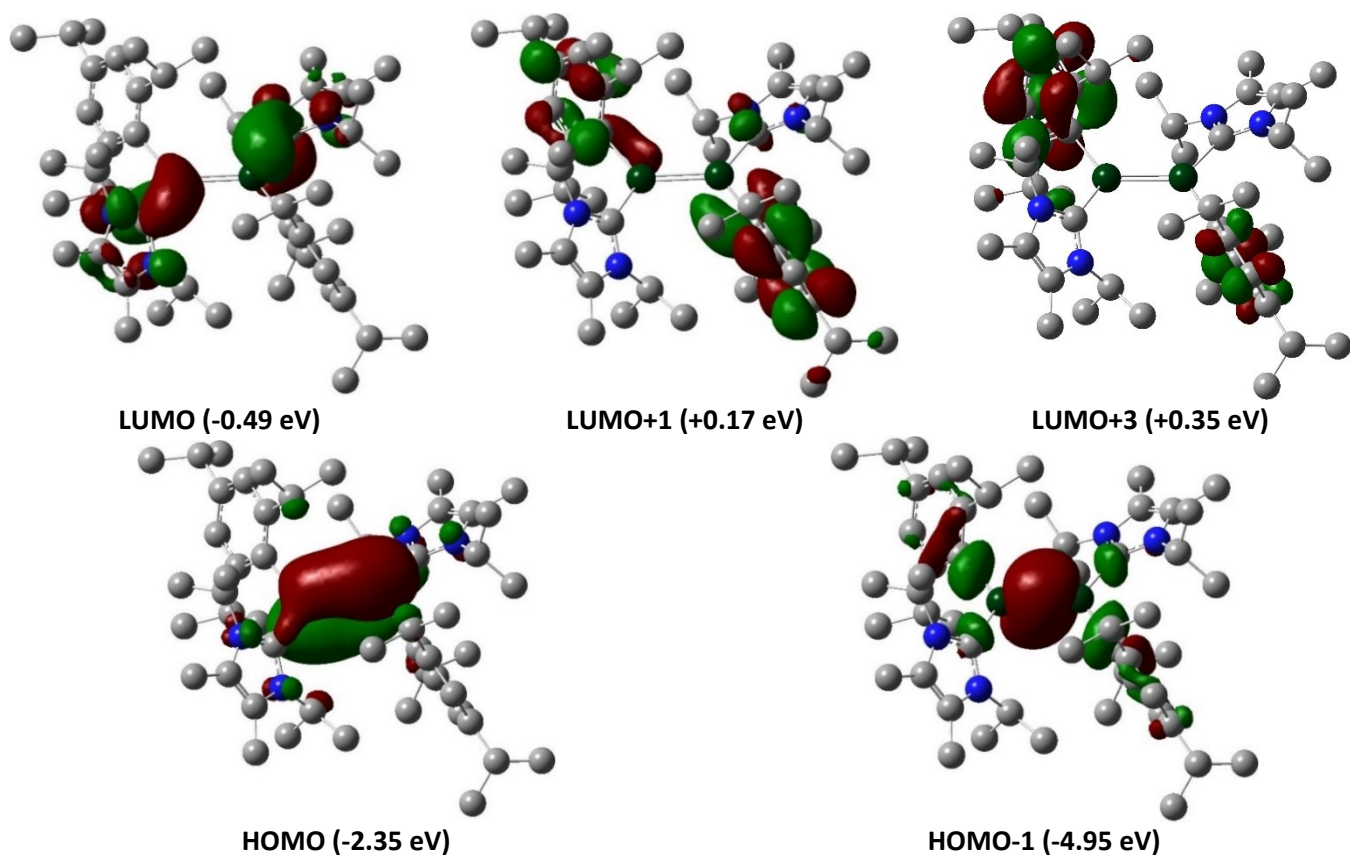


Figure S 56: Frontier orbitals of Tipp substituted dialumene, **3**.

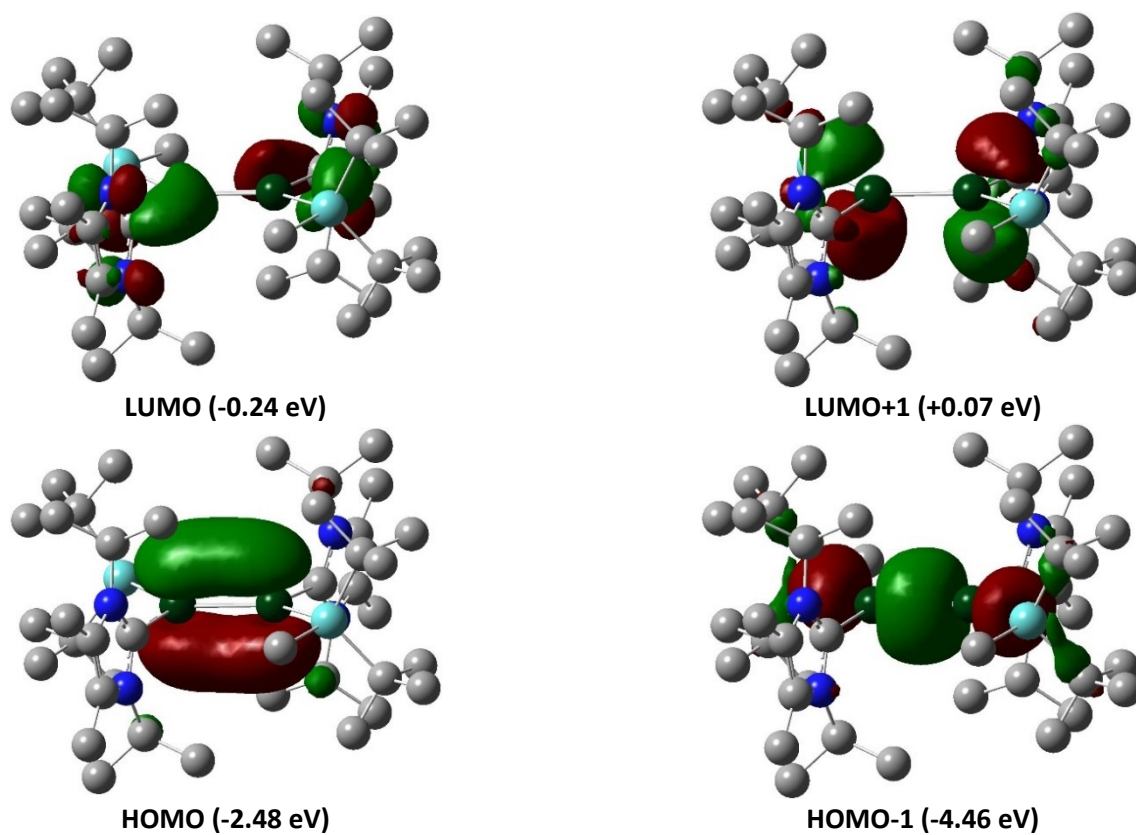


Figure S 57: Frontier orbitals of Silyl substituted dialumene, **3^{Si}**.

Steric effects: space filling diagrams of the dialumenes with %V_{bur} and steric maps of the ligands

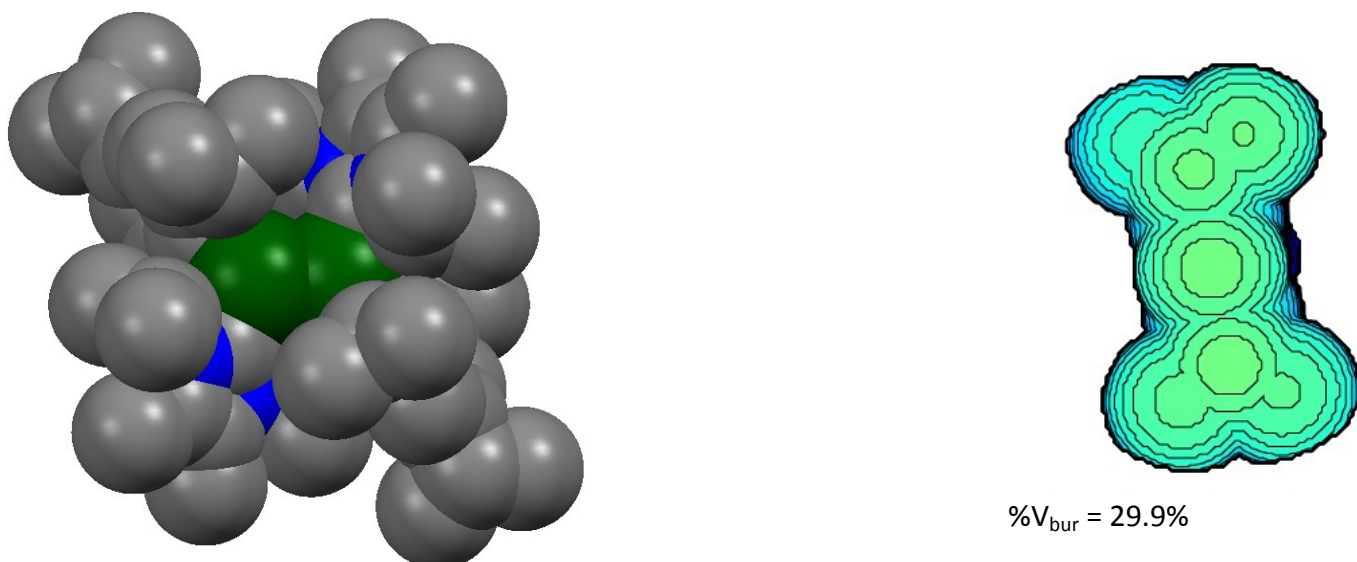


Figure S 58. Space filling diagram (left) for dialumene **3**, steric map of the Tipp ligand and %V_{bur} (right) calculated with the SambVca 2.1 web tool using default parameters with H atoms omitted from the calculation.^{S28-30}

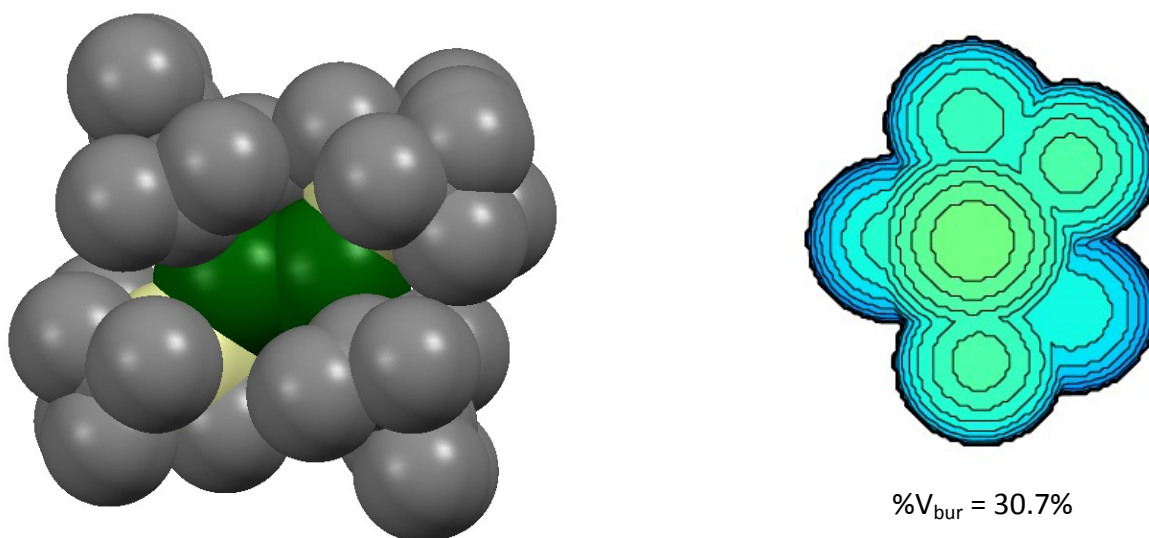
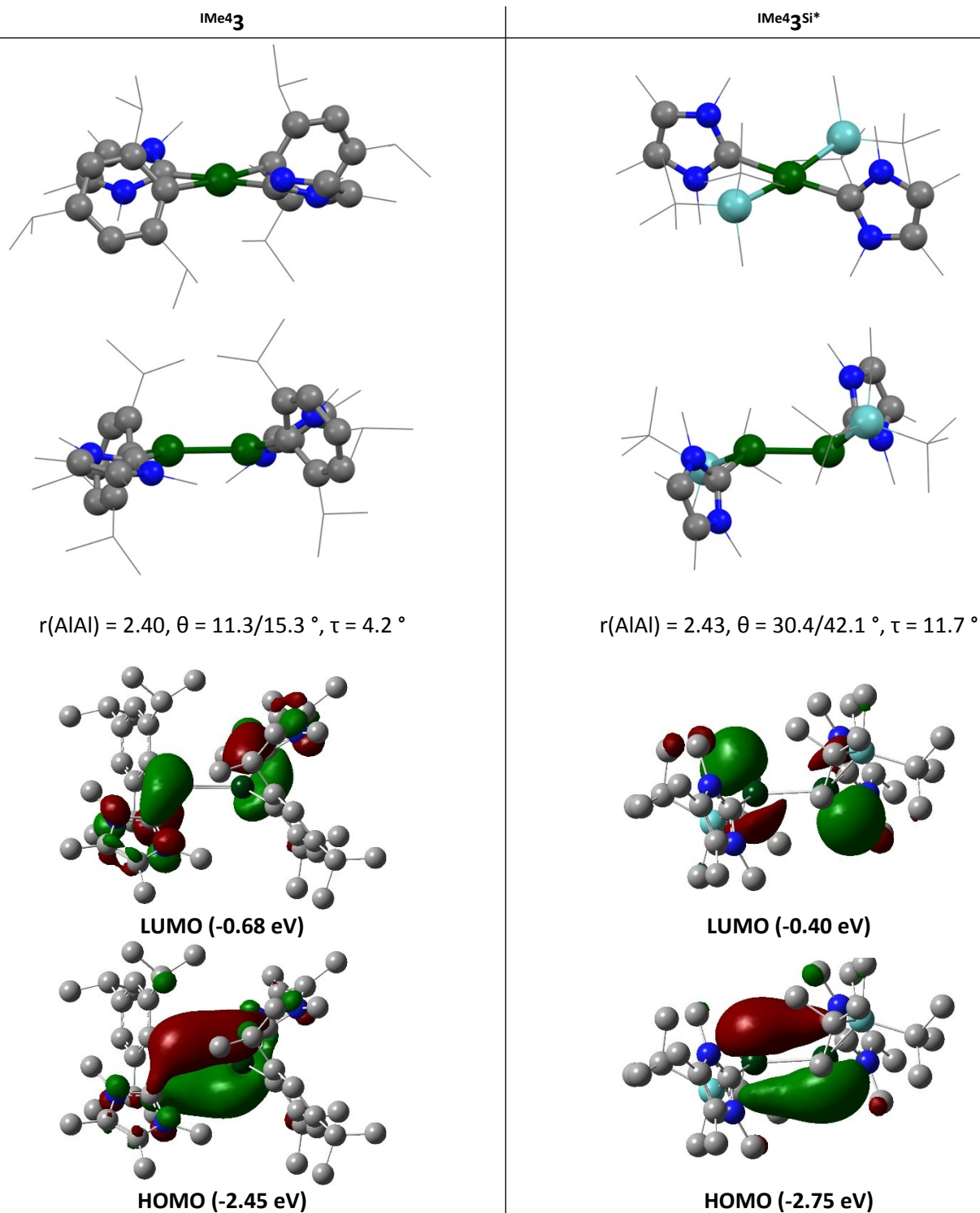


Figure S 59. Space filling diagram (left) for dialumene **3^{Si}**, steric map of the Tipp ligand and %V_{bur} (right) with the SambVca 2.1 web tool using default parameters with H atoms omitted from the calculation.^{S28-30}

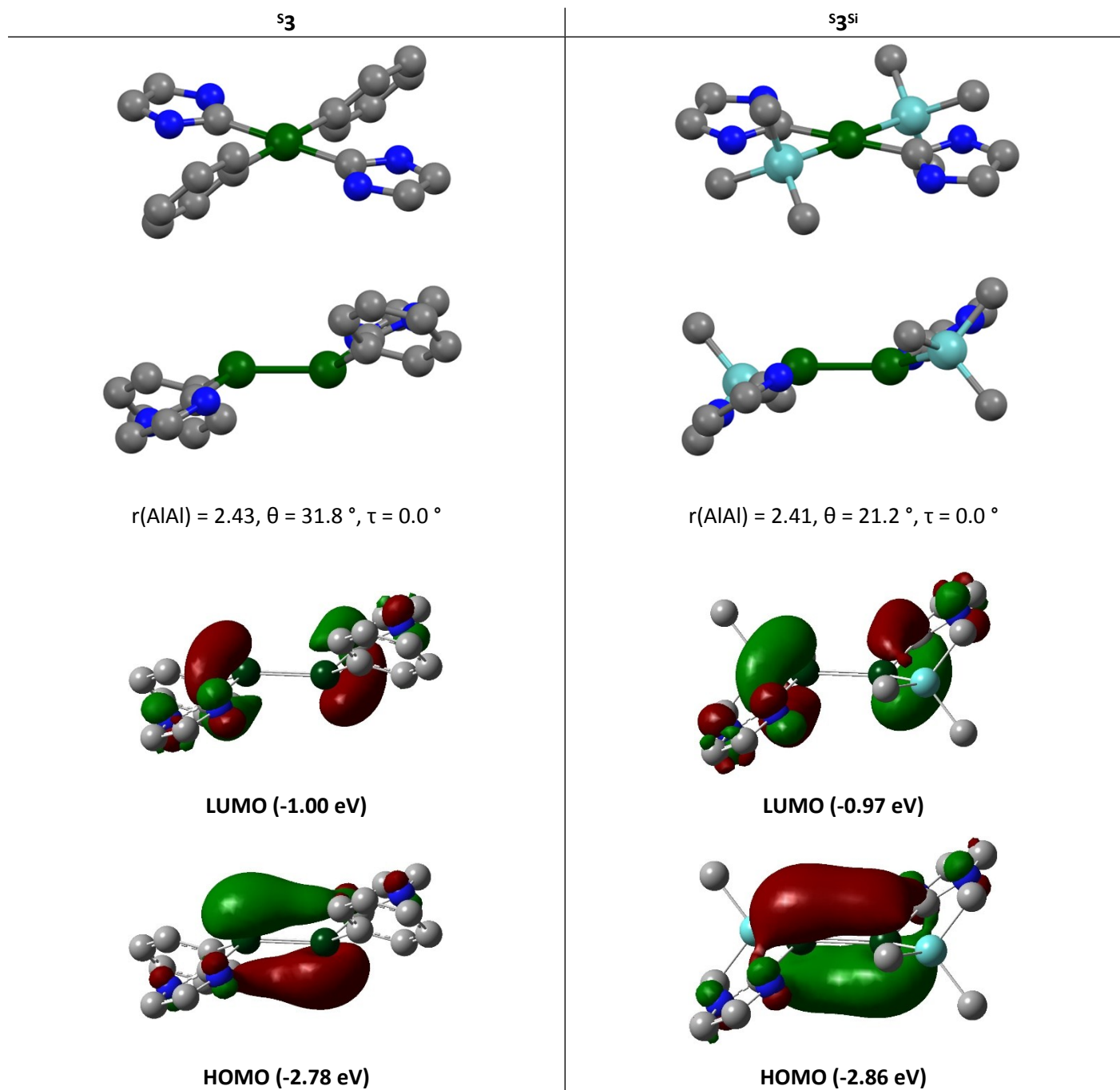
Steric effects: Replacement of the NHC by IMe₄



*a planar isomer located 4.4 kcal/mol higher in energy

Figure S 60: Calculated structures for IMe₄**3** and IMe₄**3**Si* in two different views (Me, ⁱPr and ^tBu groups shown as wireframe for clarity) and their frontier orbitals.

Smallest possible model systems: Reduction of the steric demand of the ligands (TMS instead of Si^tBu₂Me/Ph instead of Tipp) and replacement of the NHC by IH₄



*small imaginary frequency, which couldn't be removed maintaining symmetry

Figure S 61: Calculated structures for ^s3 and ^s3^{Si} in two different views and frontier orbitals.

Monomers $\mathbf{M3}$ and $\mathbf{M3}^{\text{Si}}$

Summary:

The Gibbs free energy to break the Al-Al bonds is similar in both cases (22.1 kcal/mol in $\mathbf{3}$ vs. 22.5 kcal/mol in $\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$) with corresponding singlet-triplet gaps of the monomers being slightly decreased for the electropositive silyl substituted $\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$ ($\Delta E_{\text{S-T}}(\mathbf{M3}) = 38.5$ kcal/mol, $\Delta E_{\text{S-T}}(\mathbf{M3}^{\text{Si}}) = 30.6$ kcal/mol). The structures of the monomers however differ, with the factors discussed above revisited: the LUMO of Tipp-substituted $\mathbf{M3}$ shows partial conjugation of the empty p -orbital at the Al center to the empty p -orbital of C^{NHC} . In contrast, $\mathbf{M3}^{\text{Si}}$ is not capable of this as the NHC plane is orientated nearly perpendicular to the C^{NHC} -Al-Si plane (84° vs. 48° for $\mathbf{M3}$), thus preventing effective π -interactions. As presumed, the HOMO-LUMO gap in the monomers is smaller for the silyl version ($\mathbf{M3} = 2.82$ eV; $\mathbf{M3}^{\text{Si}} = 2.50$ eV) yielding an increased overlap in its planar dimeric configuration and thus lowering the occupied orbitals in energy in $\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$. This also elucidates the reduced HOMO-LUMO gap in $\mathbf{3}$ of 1.86 eV vs. 2.24 eV in $\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$, respectively.

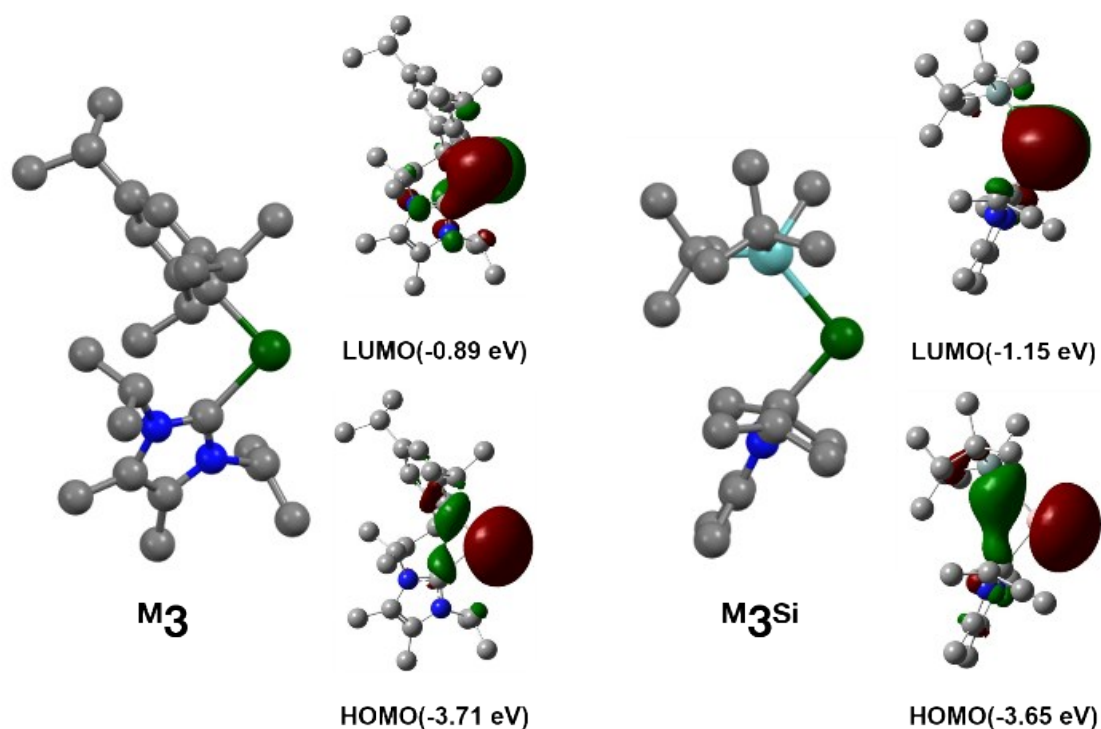


Figure S 62. Calculated molecular structure of monomers $\mathbf{M3}$ and $\mathbf{M3}^{\text{Si}}$ including their frontier orbitals

NBO Analysis for dialumenes **3**, **3^{Si}** and the corresponding monomers

Table S 7. Selected results of the NBO analysis of compound **3**.

Bond in 3	NPA charge	Occupancy	NBO analysis (NLMOs)		WBI
			pol.	hybr.	
Al ¹ -Al ²	0.49(Al ¹)	1.92	49% (Al ¹) 51% (Al ²)	sp ^{1.09} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.04} (Al ²)	1.53
Al ¹ -Al ²	0.48(Al ²)	1.61	51% (Al ¹) 49% (Al ²)	sp ^{23.15} (Al ¹) sp ^{52.27} (Al ²)	1.53
Al ¹ -C ¹	-0.55(C ¹)	1.93	17% (Al ¹) 83% (C ¹)	sp ^{2.58} (Al ¹) sp ^{2.31} (C ¹)	0.52
Al ² -C ²⁷	-0.56(C ²⁷)	1.92	17% (Al ²) 83% (C ²⁷)	sp ^{2.47} (Al ²) sp ^{2.34} (C ²⁷)	0.54
Al ¹ -C ¹⁶	0.01(C ¹⁶)	1.95	14% (Al ¹) 86% (C ¹⁶)	sp ^{3.93} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.24} (C ¹⁶)	0.55
Al ² -C ⁴²	0.01(C ⁴²)	1.94	15% (Al ²) 85% (C ⁴²)	sp ^{3.86} (Al ²) sp ^{1.25} (C ⁴²)	0.55

Table S 8. Selected results of the second order perturbation theory analysis of compound **3**.

Donor NBO (Occupancy)	Acceptor NBO (Occupancy)
π (Al ¹ -Al ²) (1.61)	π^* (C ¹⁶ -N ¹) (0.55)
π (Al ¹ -Al ²) (1.61)	π^* (C ²⁷ -N ³) (0.54)

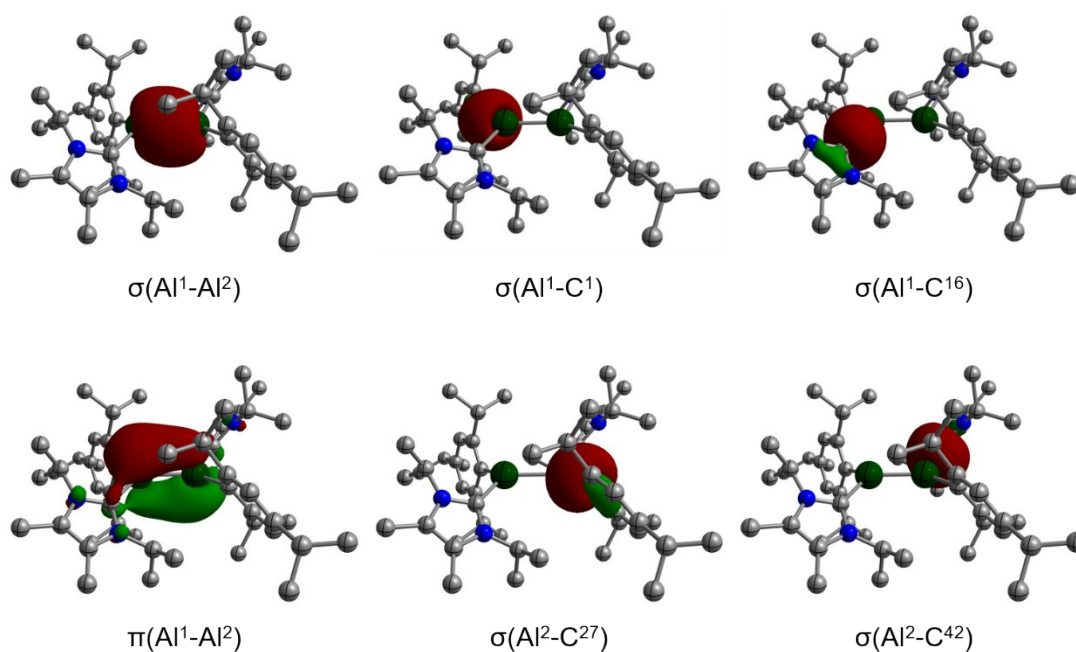


Figure S 63. Selected NLMOs of dialumene **3**.

Table S 9. Fragment charges obtained from NPA analysis for **3**, **3^{Si}** and the corresponding monomers **M3**/**M3^{Si}**.

Compound	NPA fragment charge		
	Al ¹ /Al ²	NHC	Tipp/Si ^t Bu ₂ Me
3	0.49/0.48	0.16/0.15	-0.64
3^{Si}	0.08	0.22	-0.30
M3	0.55	0.15	-0.70
M3^{Si}	0.40	0.05	-0.45

Table S 10. Selected results of the NBO analysis of the **3^{Si}**.

Bond in 3^{Si}	NPA charge	Occupancy	NBO analysis (NLMOs)		WBI
			pol.	hybr.	
Al ¹ -Al ^{1'}	0.08(Al ¹)	1.92	50% (Al ¹) 50% (Al ^{1'})	sp ^{1.12} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.12} (Al ^{1'})	1.67
Al ¹ -Al ^{1'}	0.08(Al ^{1a})	1.76	50% (Al ¹) 50% (Al ^{1'})	sp ^{99.99} (Al ¹) sp ^{99.99} (Al ^{1'})	1.67
Al ¹ -Si ¹	1.15(Si ¹)	1.93	36% (Al ¹) 64% (Si ¹)	sp ^{1.78} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.97} (Si ¹)	0.88
Al ¹ -C ¹	0.06(C ¹)	1.94	14% (Al ¹) 86% (C ¹)	sp ^{4.87} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.24} (C ¹)	0.49

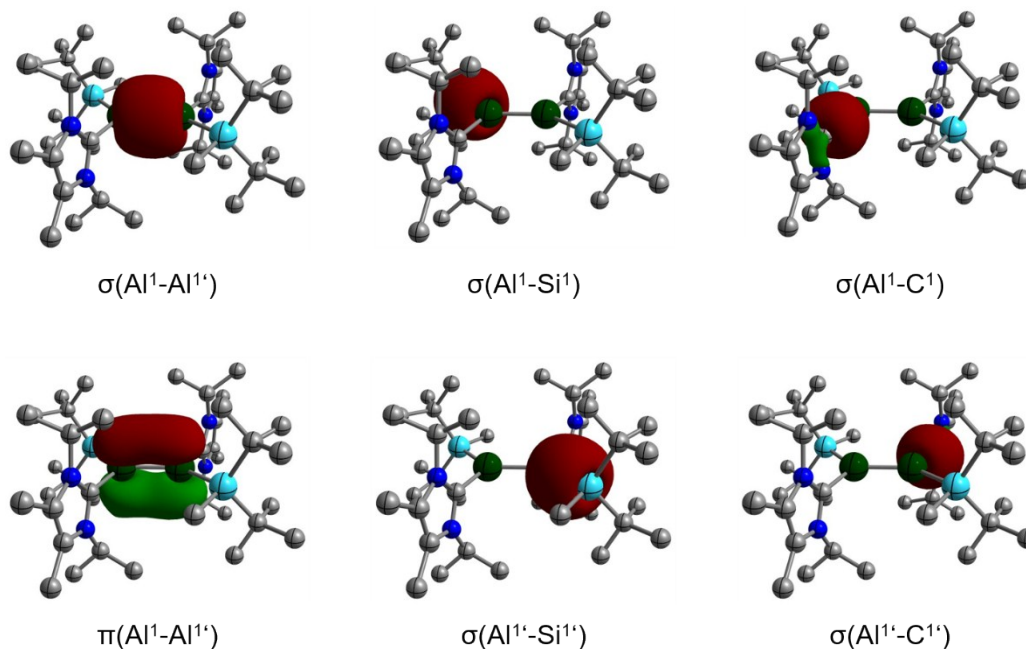
**Figure S 64.** Selected NLMOs of dialumene **3^{Si}**.

Table S 11. Selected results of the NBO analysis of the monomer $M3$.

Bond in $M3$	NPA charge	Occupancy	NBO analysis (NLMOs)		WBI
			pol.	hybr.	
LP Al ¹	0.55(Al ¹)	1.91	–	sp ^{0.19} (Al ¹)	–
Al ¹ –C ¹ _{Tipp}	-0.58(C ¹)	1.92	13% (Al ¹) 87% (C ¹)	sp ^{8.11} (Al ¹) sp ^{2.63} (C ¹)	0.45
Al ¹ –C ² _{NHC}	0.04(C ²)	1.94	10% (Al ¹) 90% (C ²)	sp ^{15.87} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.37} (C ²)	0.40

Table S 12. Selected results of the NBO analysis of the monomer $M3^{Si}$.

Bond in $M3^{Si}$	NPA charge	Occupancy	NBO analysis (NLMOs)		WBI
			pol.	hybr.	
LP Al ¹	0.40 (Al ¹)	1.86	–	sp ^{0.18} (Al ¹)	–
Al ¹ –Si ¹	1.02(Si ¹)	1.86	26% (Al ¹) 74% (Si ¹)	sp ^{8.76} (Al ¹) sp ^{2.01} (Si ¹)	0.72
Al ¹ –C ¹	-0.04(C ¹)	1.94	10% (Al ¹) 90% (C ¹)	sp ^{15.72} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.35} (C ¹)	0.46

NBO Analysis for the small model dialumenes ⁵³ and ⁵³Si

Table S 13. Selected results of the NBO analysis of compound ⁵³.

Bond in ⁵³	NPA charge	NBO analysis (NLMOs)			
		Occupancy	pol.	hybr.	WBI
Al ¹ -Al ²	0.52(Al ¹)	1.93	50% (Al ¹) 50% (Al ²)	sp ^{1.18} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.18} (Al ²)	1.47
Al ¹ -Al ²	0.52(Al ²)	1.55	50% (Al ¹) 50% (Al ²)	sp ^{16.6} (Al ¹) sp ^{16.6} (Al ²)	1.47
Al ¹ -C ¹ _{Tipp}	-0.52(C ¹)	1.81	18% (Al ¹) 82% (C ¹)	sp ^{2.64} (Al ¹) sp ^{2.83} (C ¹)	0.58
Al ¹ -C ² _{NHC}	0.01(C ²)	1.95	15% (Al ¹) 85% (C ²)	sp ^{4.03} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.24} (C ²)	0.61

Table S 14. Selected results of the second order perturbation theory analysis of compound ⁵³.

Donor NBO (Occupancy)	Acceptor NBO (Occupancy)
π (Al ¹ -Al ²) (1.55)	π^* (C ² -N ¹) (0.54)
π (Al ¹ -Al ²) (1.55)	π^* (C ⁴ -N ³) (0.54)

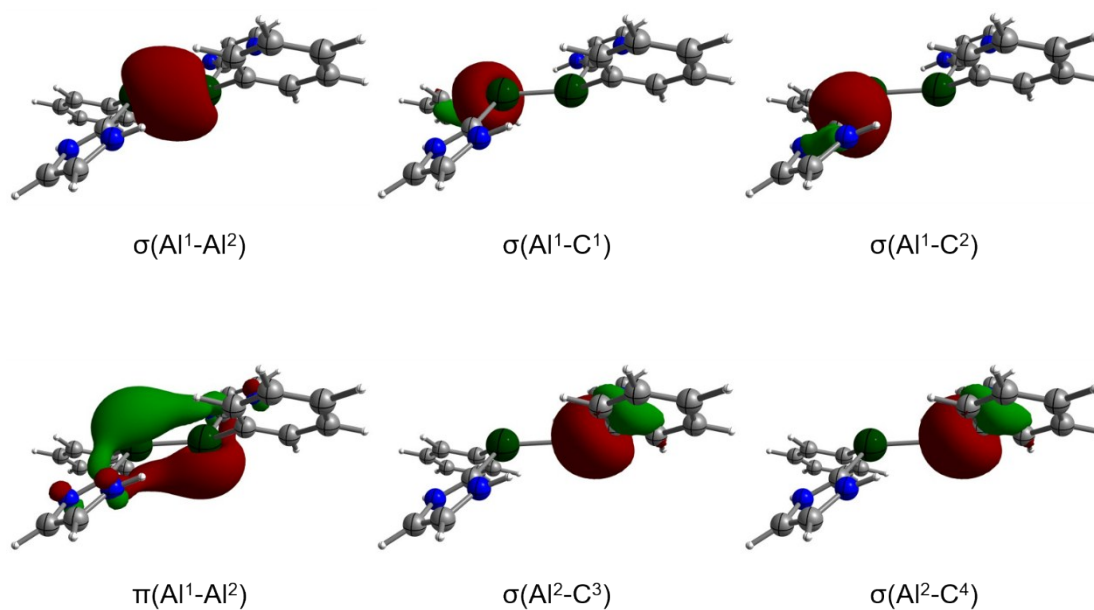


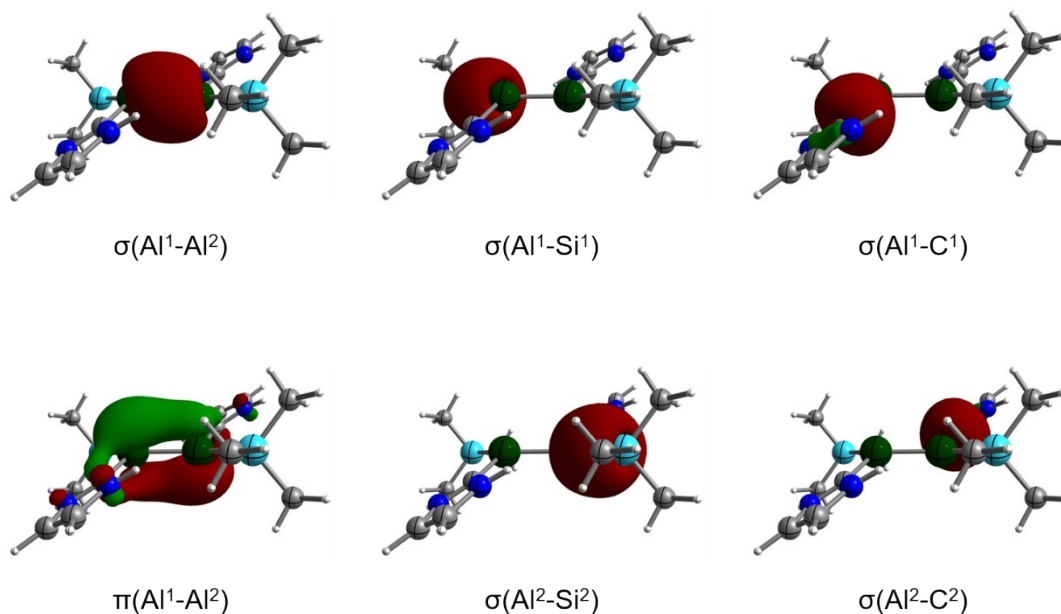
Figure S 65. Selected NLMOs of dialumene ⁵³.

Table S 15. Selected results of the NBO analysis of the $^5\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$.

Bond in $^5\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$	NPA charge	Occupancy	NBO analysis (NLMOs)		WBI
			pol.	hybr.	
Al ¹ –Al ²	0.09(Al ¹)	1.95	50% (Al ¹) 50% (Al ²)	sp ^{1.23} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.23} (Al ²)	1.56
Al ¹ –Al ²	0.09(Al ²)	1.61	50% (Al ¹) 50% (Al ²)	sp ^{46.22} (Al ¹) sp ^{46.22} (Al ²)	1.56
Al ¹ –Si ¹	1.02(Si ¹)	1.94	39% (Al ¹) 61% (Si ¹)	sp ^{1.92} (Al ¹) sp ^{2.09} (Si ¹)	0.90
Al ¹ –C ¹	0.03(C ¹)	1.95	16% (Al ¹) 84% (C ¹)	sp ^{4.27} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.21} (C ¹)	0.62

Table S 16. Selected results of the second order perturbation theory analysis of compound $^5\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$.

Donor NBO (Occupancy)	Acceptor NBO (Occupancy)
π (Al ¹ –Al ²) (1.61)	π^* (C ¹ –N ¹) (0.53)
π (Al ¹ –Al ²) (1.61)	π^* (C ² –N ³) (0.53)

**Figure S 66.** Selected NLMOs of $^5\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$.**Table S 17.** Fragment charges obtained from NPA analysis for $^5\mathbf{3}$ and $^5\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$.

Compound	NPA fragment charge		
	Al ¹ /Al ²	NHC	Tipp/Si ^t Bu ₂ Me
$^5\mathbf{3}$	0.52	0.13	-0.65
$^5\mathbf{3}^{\text{Si}}$	0.09	0.15	-0.24

Compound 7 –AlAl^(Tipp) + XylNC

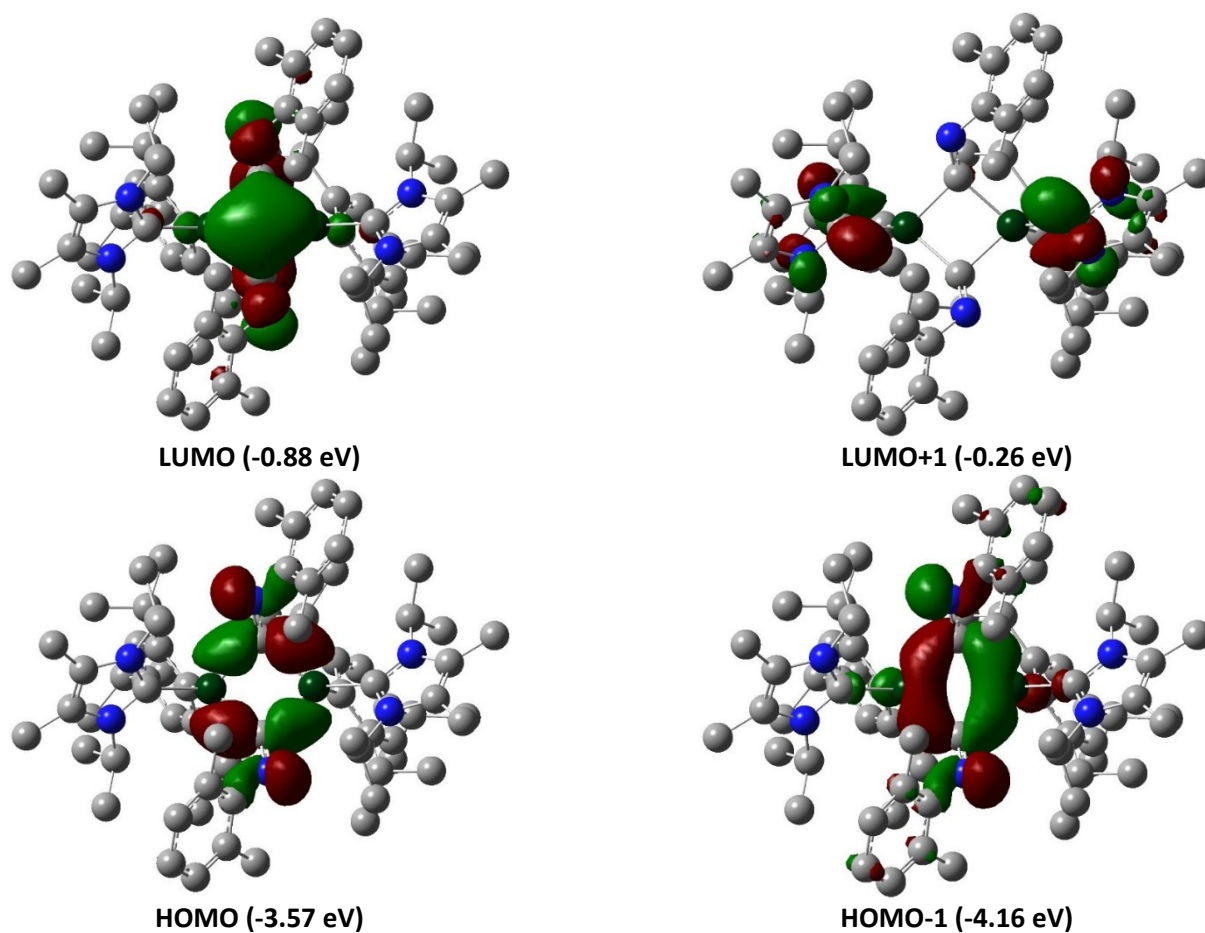


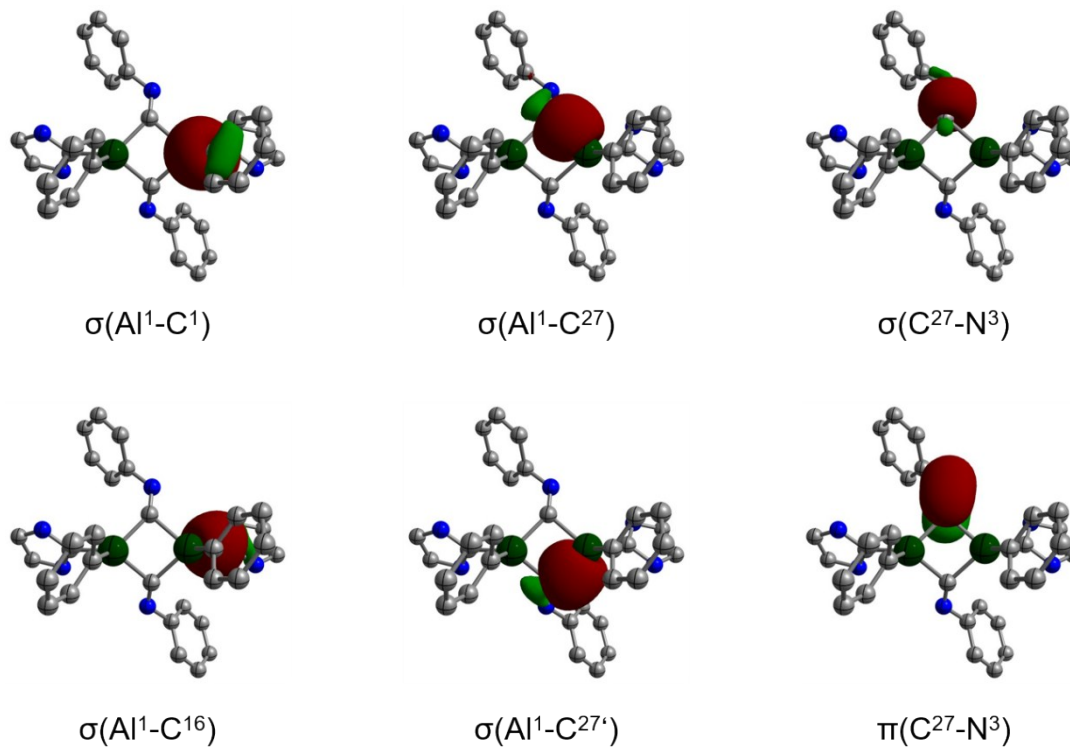
Figure S 67. Frontier orbitals of 7.

Table S 18. Selected results of the NBO analysis of 7.

Bond in 7	NPA charge	Occupancy	NBO analysis (NLMOs)		WBI
			pol.	hybr.	
Al ¹ –Al ^{1'}	-1.60(Al ^{1/1'})	–	–	–	0.04
Al ¹ –C ¹ _{Tipp}	-0.59(C ¹)	1.91	15% (Al ¹) 85% (C ¹)	sp ^{2.57} (Al ¹) sp ^{2.39} (C ¹)	0.46
Al ¹ –C ¹⁶ _{NHC}	-0.59(C ¹⁶)	1.94	13% (Al ¹) 87% (C ¹⁶)	sp ^{3.77} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.32} (C ¹⁶)	0.43
Al ¹ –C ²⁷ _{CNXyl}	-0.73(C ²⁷)	1.91	17% (Al ¹) 83% (C ²⁷)	sp ^{2.79} (Al ¹) sp ^{1.96} (C ²⁷)	0.52
Al ¹ –C ^{27'} _{CNXyl}	-0.73(C ^{27'})	1.89	15% (Al ¹) 85% (C ^{27'})	sp ^{2.94} (Al ¹) sp ^{2.08} (C ^{27'})	0.48
C ²⁷ –N ³	-0.55(N ³)	1.98	37% (C ²⁷) 63% (N ³)	sp ^{1.29} (C ²⁷) sp ^{2.07} (N ³)	1.82
C ²⁷ –N ³	–	1.95	36% (C ²⁷) 64% (N ³)	sp ^{99.99} (C ²⁷) sp ^{99.99} (N ³)	1.82
LP N ³	–	1.82	–	sp ^{3.22} (N ³)	–
C ²⁷ –C ^{27'}	–	–	–	–	0.06

Table S 19. Fragment charges obtained from NPA analysis for **7**.

Compound	NPA fragment charge			
	Al ¹ /Al ²	NHC	Tipp	CNXyl
7	1.60/1.60	0.24/0.24	-0.63	-1.21

**Figure S 68.** Selected NLMOs of **7** (symmetric NLMOs only shown once), Me and ⁱPr groups removed for clarity.**Table S 20.** Selected experimental and calculated IR frequencies for **7**.

Compound	Mode	Exp. $\tilde{\nu}$ [cm ⁻¹]	Calc. $\tilde{\nu}$ [cm ⁻¹]*
7	C=N asymm	1544	1568

* calculated wavenumbers for the CN stretching mode are scaled by a factor 0.969, being the ratio of the calculated stretching mode of free CNXyl (2187 cm⁻¹) to the experimental value (2119 cm⁻¹)

Compound 10 –AlAl^(Tipp) + O₂

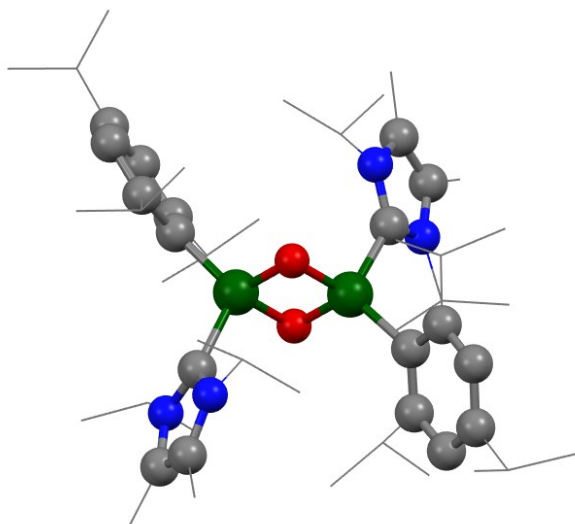


Table S 21. Calculated bond radii for 10.

Bond	Calc. value
r(Al ¹ Al ²)	2.47
r(Al ¹ O ¹)	1.79
r(Al ² O ¹)	1.79
r(Al ¹ O ²)	1.79
r(Al ² O ²)	1.79
r(Al ¹ C ^{NHC})	2.07
r(Al ¹ C ^{Tipp})	1.99
r(Al ² C ^{NHC})	2.07
r(Al ² C ^{Tipp})	1.99
r(O ¹ O ²)	2.58

Figure S 69. Calculated structure of 10.

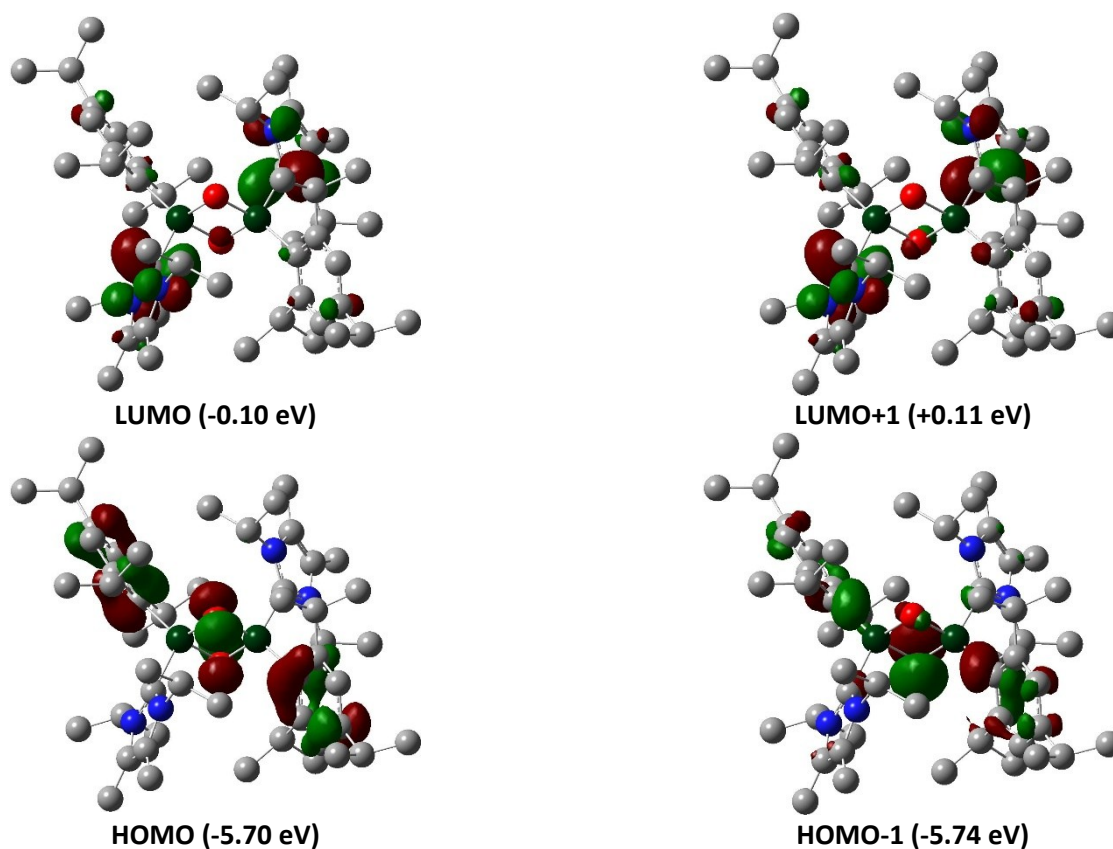


Figure S 70. Frontier orbitals of 10.

Table S 23. Calculated transitions and UV-Vis absorption bands using TD-DFT (time-dependent-DFT) for 10.

Wavelength [nm]	MO contributions	f	Contribution
259	HOMO-1→LUMO	0.0259	54.2%
	HOMO→LUMO		41.0%

Compound 11 –AlAl^(Tipp) + N₂O/*N*-methylmorpholine-*N*-oxide

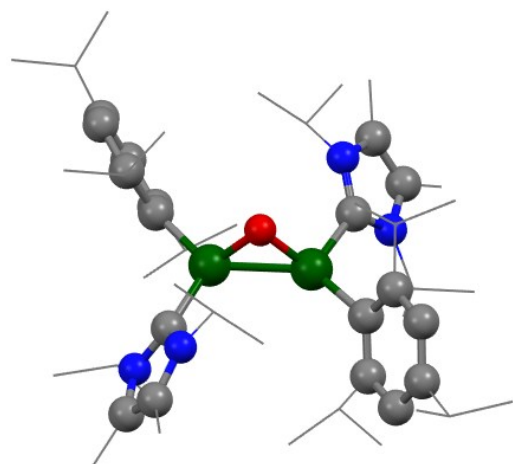


Table S 22. Calculated bond radii for 11.

Bond	Calc. value
r(Al ¹ Al ²)	2.40
r(Al ¹ O ¹)	1.80
r(Al ² O ¹)	1.79
r(Al ¹ C ^{NHC})	2.06
r(Al ¹ C ^{Tipp})	2.00
r(Al ² C ^{NHC})	2.06
r(Al ² C ^{Tipp})	2.01

Figure S 71. Calculated structure of 11.

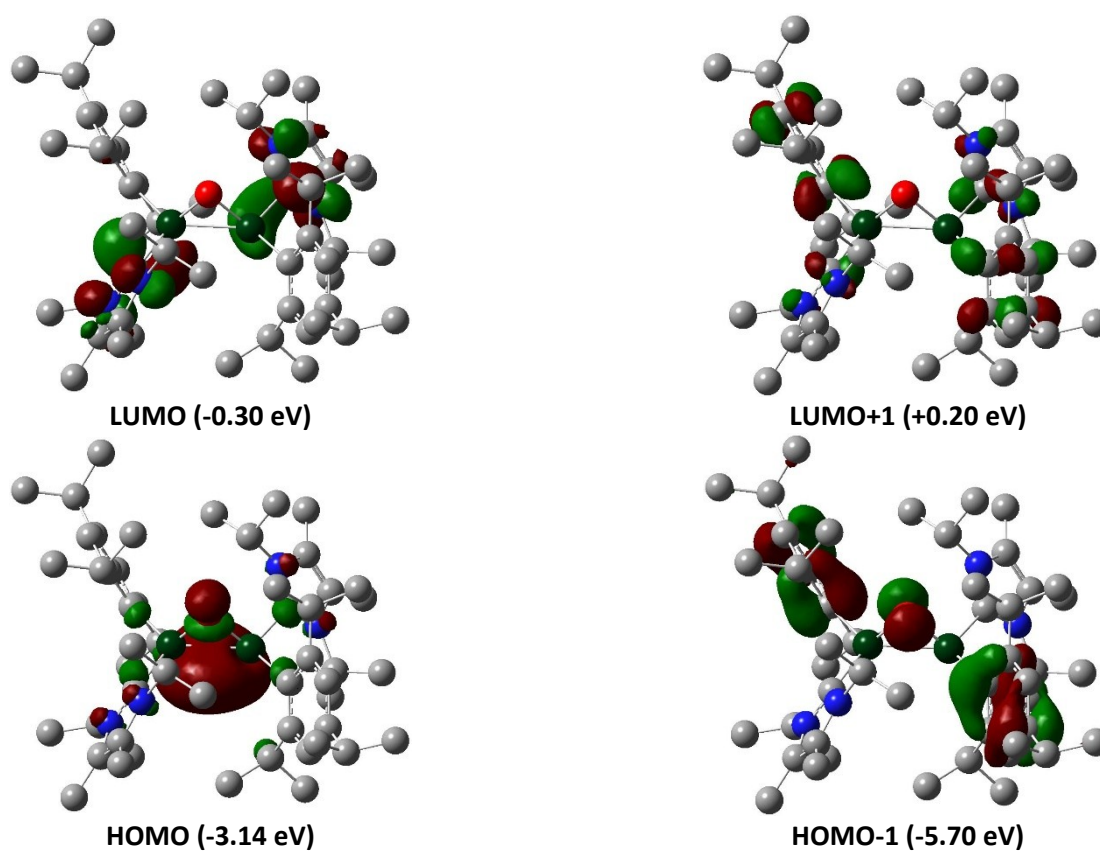


Figure S 72. Frontier orbitals of 11.

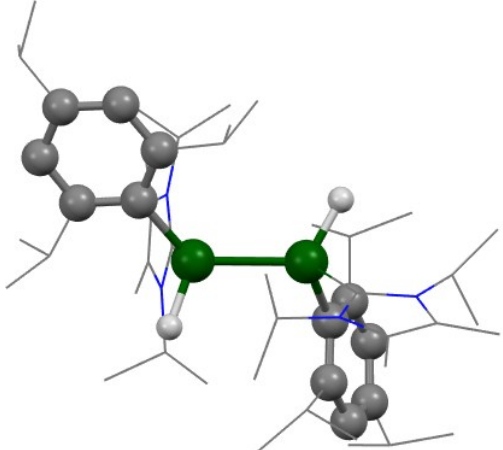
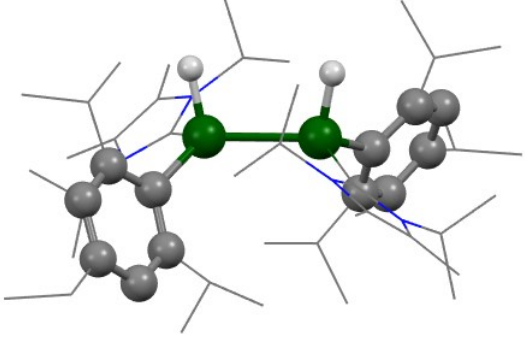
Table S 23. Calculated transitions and UV-Vis absorption bands using TD-DFT (time-dependent-DFT) for 11.

Wavelength [nm]	MO contributions	f	Contribution
519	HOMO→LUMO	0.2696	99.0%
343	HOMO→LUMO+10	0.0249	97.9%
337	HOMO→LUMO+10	0.0228	97.5%
316	HOMO→LUMO+12	0.0246	75.4%
	HOMO→LUMO+13		16.8%
	HOMO→LUMO+15		2.7%

Compound **12** - AlAl^(Tipp) + H₂

Since no molecular structure of the reaction of **3** and H₂ could be obtained (Compound **12**), we calculated several possible isomeric products of this reaction (terminal or bridging hydrides, orientation H: cis or trans; orientation NHC and Tipp ligands cis or trans). The two isomers **12**^{trans} and **12**^{cis}, given in Table S 19, are most preferred in energy. Each of them possesses two Al-H stretching frequencies, separated only a few cm⁻¹. The measured IR spectrum of **12** bears two distinct peaks at 1593 and 1634 cm⁻¹ with a determined full-width at half-height (FWHH) of 14 cm⁻¹. Thus the experimental band width is too big to detect the two calculated peaks separately for each isomer, which gives rise to a mixture of **12**^{trans}/**12**^{cis} nicely reproducing the experimentally observed shifts (Figure S 72). Calculations concerning the mechanism of this reaction are concern of a follow up publication, as the increased temperature of 50°C needed to run the reaction, might also enable reaction pathways via the monomeric **M3** to proceed. Thus, a ratio of **12**^{trans}/**12**^{cis} cannot be determined and is presumed 1:1 for the convoluted IR spectrum in Figure S 72.

Table S 24. Calculated structures, IR shifts and energies for the two products **12**^{trans} and **12**^{cis}.

	12 ^{trans}	12 ^{cis}
Molecular structure		
Calc. Al-H $\tilde{\nu}$ [cm ⁻¹] ^a	1634 cm ⁻¹ (s) 1648 cm ⁻¹ (w)	1660 cm ⁻¹ (w) 1676 cm ⁻¹ (s)
ΔG_{298} ^b	-35.3 kcal/mol	-27.5 kcal/mol

^a calculated wavenumbers for the Al-H stretching mode are scaled by a factor of 0.944 being the ratio of the calculated Al-H stretching mode of **1** (¹Pr₂Me₂Al(Tipp)H₂, 1812 cm⁻¹) to the experimental value (1711 cm⁻¹); ^b referenced to dialumene **3** and H₂

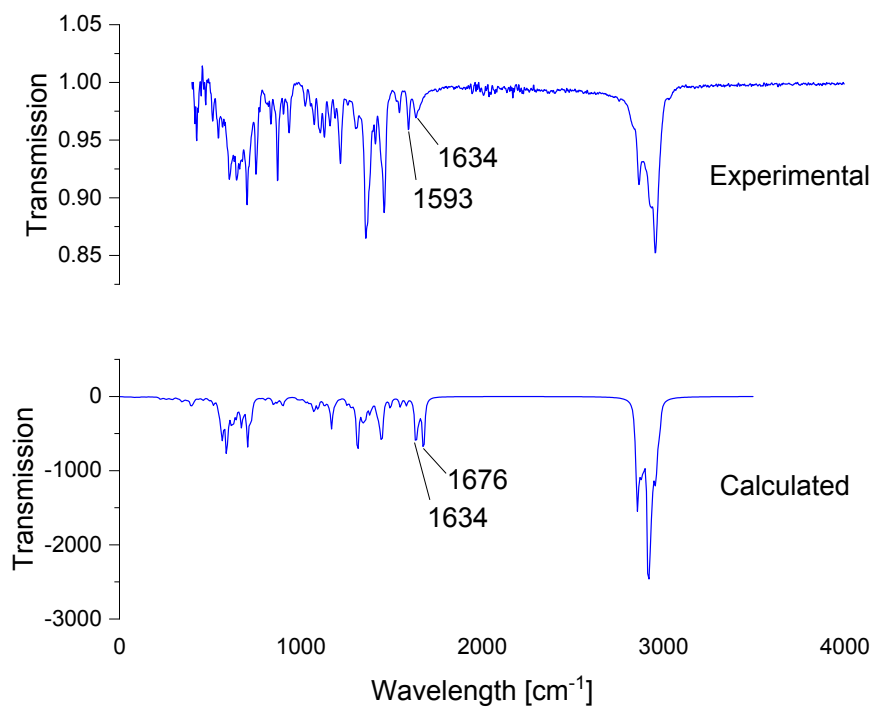


Figure S 73. Comparison of the experimental (top) and calculated (bottom) convoluted IR spectrum for a 1:1 mixture of **12^{trans}** and **12^{cis}**.

3.3 Calculated energies at the B3LYP/6-311G(2d,2p)(SMD: benzene) level of theory

Structure	E(SCF) [H/particle]
3	-2738.2007396
3^{Si}	-2857.4146216
IMe⁴3	-2423.5503567
IMe⁴3^{Si}	-2542.7708198
^S3	-1400.9566339
^S3^{Si}	-1756.2003937
M³	-1369.0695033
M³^{O3}	-1369.0349828
M³^{Si}	-1428.6747634
M³^{SiO3}	-1428.6499494
7	-3544.8086660
10	-2888.9970507
11	-2813.5855938
12^{trans}	-2739.4575284
12^{cis}	-2739.4484768
H₂	-1.1796179
3-ⁱPr₂Me₂	-2197.2268815
3^{Si}-ⁱPr₂Me₂	-2316.4528321
ⁱPr₂Me₂	-540.9035241
IMe₄	-383.5808291

3.4 Cartesian Coordinates (x,y,z) for the Optimized Structures

3

Al 0.85053 0.64423 0.41628
C 2.79757 0.19642 0.09759
Al -0.99855 -0.78368 -0.05961
C 3.58009 -0.44982 1.08412
N -0.25009 3.45278 -0.32494
C 4.90320 -0.81973 0.81590
H 5.48395 -1.33403 1.57830
N 1.46889 3.56616 0.99436
C 5.50869 -0.55049 -0.40899
N 0.36987 -3.50308 -0.45674
C 4.74634 0.10143 -1.37979
H 5.19956 0.32355 -2.34231
C 3.41638 0.46273 -1.15069
N -1.28829 -3.68725 0.92782
C 2.62936 -2.26873 2.57098
H 3.50224 -2.90861 2.40311
H 1.86302 -2.53235 1.83799
H 2.22945 -2.49735 3.56478
C 2.99732 -0.78177 2.45641
H 2.05113 -0.22941 2.54500
C 3.89715 -0.33765 3.61905
H 4.18321 0.71364 3.51851
H 4.81946 -0.92333 3.67657
H 3.37642 -0.45677 4.57438
C -2.69344 3.25821 -0.90999
H -2.95568 4.26291 -1.24889
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H -3.37047 2.55193 -1.39453
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H 0.11818 2.78796 -2.93084
H -0.91710 4.22415 -2.95016
H -1.58822 2.64945 -3.36984
C -0.86768 5.92434 -0.58666
H -1.06445 5.85264 -1.65696
H -0.37657 6.88158 -0.40916
H -1.83514 5.95470 -0.07786
C 1.71224 6.09823 1.31968
H 1.44597 6.97739 0.73186
H 2.80035 6.02596 1.31544
H 1.39823 6.28821 2.35035
C 2.53517 3.11038 1.91460
H 2.37074 2.03445 1.98292
C 3.93520 3.31709 1.33891
H 4.17069 4.37324 1.18708
H 4.04230 2.78934 0.39198
H 4.67574 2.90501 2.02909
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H -5.57974 -0.02999 -2.18003
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H -1.68271 2.29545 1.98099
H -1.93193 2.03689 3.70557

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3^{Si}

Al 1.17016 0.23531 0.00345
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Si -2.51948 -2.30137 -0.13011
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H 1.02642 -3.53677 3.21045
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C 4.61026 1.16271 1.52443
H 5.29331 1.02497 0.68383
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H 5.22148 1.20036 2.43729

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IMe43

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Al 0.82846 0.73149 -0.17533
C -3.40666 0.05250 1.24977
N 0.91570 -3.45874 -0.28179
C -4.70992 0.54706 1.11280
H -5.15620 1.11722 1.92476
N -0.99810 -4.02526 0.54944
C -5.45901 0.33821 -0.04251
N -1.02914 3.13788 -0.51192
C -4.87840 -0.41649 -1.06373
H -5.45138 -0.60632 -1.96761
C -3.58189 -0.92539 -0.95681
N 0.80816 3.76060 0.43015
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H -2.75748 -3.00308 1.00025
C 2.83843 0.60206 -0.03000
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H 1.70366 0.39574 2.29748
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H 4.32722 0.48506 3.88841
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C 3.37747 0.47693 -3.70527

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H -8.91994 0.28511 -0.47059
H -7.90323 -0.90952 0.35307
H -7.75077 -0.66724 -1.38834
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H -3.96677 -0.64733 -3.75841
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H -2.35155 -0.07703 -3.31387
C -3.83234 -3.06528 -2.29248
H -3.38396 -3.69026 -3.07169
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C -0.25571 -5.19609 0.42183
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H 2.68340 4.60731 0.83264
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H -2.94828 -4.75228 0.80378
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H 2.62883 -3.30457 -1.47335

IMe43Si

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C 1.22605 2.44599 -2.66824
H 1.03135 1.38101 -2.55203
C 1.60138 3.03006 2.20726
H 1.34057 1.98500 2.37925
Si 3.27297 -0.76784 -0.40417
C 4.07846 -0.17622 -2.04154
H 5.10068 -0.54925 -2.17237

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H 1.62875 -2.85554 0.50306
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H -2.01462 -2.43252 3.01802

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H 0.90335 3.66137 2.75732
C -1.12843 -5.32698 2.11763
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H -2.45801 -5.91891 -1.72379
H -0.69748 -5.97438 -1.82640
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H 2.15302 5.22790 -2.97518
H 0.41178 5.38483 -2.73844
C 1.63640 5.80624 1.06265
H 0.75332 5.93627 1.69666
H 2.51106 5.78080 1.71964
H 1.72160 6.69208 0.43273

S3

Al -0.09047 -0.39977 1.14149
Al 0.09047 0.39977 -1.14149
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C -0.51100 3.34351 -1.08566
C -0.71634 3.68367 -3.83297
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C 0.30993 -2.21087 1.90315
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C 0.81123 -4.60003 1.61125
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S3Si

Al 0.08769 -0.51263 1.08831
Al -0.08769 0.51263 -1.08831
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C 3.59456 -2.77409 1.99292
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H -2.39833 1.48517 -3.20291
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H 0.51098 0.83535 5.52275
C -1.81923 -1.03727 4.21873
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H -2.09725 -0.67868 5.21718
H -2.73971 -1.15745 3.63930
C -1.51432 1.84476 3.32339
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H -1.25540 0.61881 -4.88903
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C 1.81923 1.03727 -4.21873
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H 1.38304 2.03477 -4.33451
H 2.73971 1.15745 -3.63930
C 1.51432 -1.84476 -3.32339
H 2.45459 -1.76395 -2.76445
H 0.89848 -2.62634 -2.86584
H 1.77650 -2.18197 -4.33249

M3

Al -0.60191 0.29595 2.23734
N -3.09228 -0.20009 0.30117
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M₃O₃

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H 1.89953 3.50071 1.76461
H 0.30325 3.58553 2.51259

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H 1.09969 2.07446 4.42690
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M₃Si

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H -4.18836 -2.39273 1.60675
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H -1.94656 -4.17204 0.01737
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H 3.74680 2.96624 1.15594
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H 2.25618 -3.51091 -0.12353
H 0.59714 -2.92440 -0.01605
H 1.19129 -3.61448 -1.52693
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H 0.62321 -1.66191 -2.89500
H -0.10866 -0.87116 -1.49039
H 1.09779 -0.02420 -2.44935
H 3.01372 -2.49075 -2.81981

M₃SiO₃

Al 0.01606 -1.29156 0.71984
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C -3.80660 0.27377 -0.18324
C -0.62964 2.05526 0.00951
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H -1.18317 3.80475 -1.19549

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H -2.16926 -2.60539 0.44266
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H -3.82966 -3.35539 2.09488
H -3.11295 -1.80973 2.57035
H -4.75685 -1.86397 1.90892
C -3.96904 -2.85588 -0.65651
H -3.55181 -2.64877 -1.64452
H -3.91614 -3.93444 -0.48921
H -5.02414 -2.57961 -0.65763
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H 3.24531 1.29767 3.30127
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12trans

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H -4.55300 -1.12738 -2.46152
C -1.94092 -1.78411 -3.24765
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H -1.88460 1.01344 -2.66164
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H -0.76698 0.08956 2.33435

12^{cis}

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H -2.29026 -2.64415 1.03913
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H₂

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H 0.00000 0.00000 -0.37095

3-ⁱPr₂Me₂

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Al -1.21624 -2.20270 -0.17617
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H 5.60078 -1.62224 1.88102

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H 5.08374 -0.83968 -2.28037
C 3.28409 -0.80822 -1.10560
C 3.05524 -2.94326 3.04558
H 4.08241 -3.32000 3.07526
H 2.50372 -3.54195 2.31673
H 2.60797 -3.10676 4.03142
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H 1.96969 -1.14959 2.65699
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H 3.72894 0.45914 3.45991
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H 3.23708 -0.70399 4.69903
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H -3.48779 0.75139 -1.73782
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H -0.08520 0.89214 -3.45609
H -1.30681 2.15184 -3.68310
H -1.77517 0.45634 -3.72756
C -1.11891 4.29793 -1.74421
H -1.31965 3.97124 -2.76398
H -0.64393 5.27753 -1.80601
H -2.08293 4.43528 -1.24635
C 1.34146 4.99074 0.18879
H 1.06090 5.71842 -0.57338
H 2.42990 4.99040 0.24793
H 0.95712 5.35700 1.14512
C 2.33599 2.22787 1.34338
H 2.25050 1.17661 1.61433
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H -1.50181 -1.16015 2.45375
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H -2.25928 -1.14905 4.79975
H -3.28431 -2.23227 3.84370
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H 1.81907 -1.47537 -4.20079
H 2.22789 -2.61500 -2.91096
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H 2.14695 1.02085 -3.85720
H 3.80539 0.88256 -3.27974
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C 0.54824 1.38592 -0.16842
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C -1.37670 1.15677 -1.73094
H -1.19435 0.13434 -1.39095
C 0.79612 3.64451 -0.16185

³⁵i-^lPr₂Me₂

Al -0.30519 0.21147 -0.19867
Al 1.81641 -0.33959 -1.45518
Si -1.67681 2.26428 -0.63384
Si 3.76700 -0.17661 0.13771
N -1.94335 -2.40999 -0.63753
N -2.04332 -1.73043 1.41239
C -1.56540 -1.39397 0.18376
C -2.64632 -3.38572 0.07424
C -2.70288 -2.95996 1.36980
C -1.58657 -2.42357 -2.07526
H -1.13122 -1.44380 -2.24056
C -0.50772 -3.46179 -2.37848
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H 3.36691 3.63498 0.41037
H 2.48259 2.51406 -0.62193
C 5.18105 -1.42130 -0.38596
C 4.64415 -2.84374 -0.11913
H 4.45830 -3.02450 0.94312
H 3.70945 -3.03589 -0.65999
H 5.36904 -3.59689 -0.45601
C 5.51775 -1.31950 -1.88540
H 6.25964 -2.08139 -2.16208
H 4.63548 -1.47807 -2.51265
H 5.93749 -0.34850 -2.15550
H 7.20036 -2.01968 0.18677

^lPr₂Me₂

N -1.06770 -0.40263 0.12941
N 1.06768 -0.40267 0.12934
C -0.00002 -1.24197 0.25867
C -0.68169 0.92757 -0.08941
C 0.68171 0.92754 -0.08943

C -2.42998 -0.95968 0.15760
H -2.25440 -1.99636 0.44979
C -3.06991 -0.96432 -1.23416
H -3.27367 0.04528 -1.59880
H -2.41074 -1.45919 -1.95039
H -4.02013 -1.50535 -1.21110
C -3.32068 -0.31036 1.22055
H -2.80485 -0.26966 2.18264
H -3.62616 0.70199 0.94991
H -4.23099 -0.90226 1.34833
C 2.42992 -0.95972 0.15762
H 2.25434 -1.99643 0.44968
C 3.07004 -0.96418 -1.23406
H 4.02032 -1.50510 -1.21090
H 2.41105 -1.45906 -1.95043
H 3.27374 0.04548 -1.59859
C 3.32055 -0.31045 1.22069
H 2.80456 -0.26954 2.18268

H 4.23074 -0.90248 1.34870
H 3.62624 0.70181 0.94995
C -1.61077 2.09019 -0.22903
H -2.06070 2.37763 0.72664
H -1.07429 2.96211 -0.60659
H -2.42765 1.89025 -0.92545
C 1.61083 2.09011 -0.22923
H 2.06130 2.37726 0.72626
H 2.42731 1.89026 -0.92615
H 1.07421 2.96218 -0.60624

IMe₄

N 1.05937 -0.70993 0.00006
N -1.05932 -0.70998 -0.00011
C 0.00005 -1.57090 0.00000
C 0.67998 0.63709 -0.00002
C -0.67999 0.63703 -0.00014

C 2.43666 -1.16534 0.00011
H 2.42029 -2.25270 -0.00009
C -2.43662 -1.16534 -0.00005
H -2.42029 -2.25270 -0.00029
H 2.96950 -0.81287 -0.88779
H 2.96935 -0.81316 0.88821
H -2.96925 -0.81321 0.88812
H -2.96950 -0.81276 -0.88788
C 1.66324 1.75793 -0.00012
H 1.15296 2.72247 0.00016
H 2.31403 1.73060 0.88068
H 2.31355 1.73088 -0.88129
C -1.66333 1.75778 0.00017
H -2.31412 1.73065 -0.88064
H -2.31367 1.73038 0.88132
H -1.15316 2.72238 0.00017

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