## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## Generation, spectroscopic and chemical characterization of an octahedral iron (V) - nitrido species with a neutral ligand platform

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## 1. Synthesis of complexes

$\left[\mathbf{F e}^{\mathbf{I I I}}\left(\mathbf{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathbf{M e P}_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{t a c n}\right)\right]\left(\mathbf{P F}_{6}\right)_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{1}): 108 \mathrm{mg}(0.33 \mathrm{mmol})$ of $\mathrm{MePy}_{2}$ tacn was dissolved with minimum THF. To this solution was added, under vigorous stirring, 150 mg of $\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}(\mathrm{OTf})_{3}\left(\mathrm{OTf}=\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right)(0.32 \mathrm{mmol})$ suspended in minimum THF; the solution rapidly turned reddish and a dark oil precipitated. The stirring continued for 2 hours. The solution was then decanted and the oil was dried forming a solid. 1 ml of degassed water was added followed by $210 \mathrm{mg}(3.2 \mathrm{mmol})$ of solid $\mathrm{NaN}_{3}$. The solution readily turned reddish and was stirred, preserved from light, for 2 hours. Then, 1 ml of saturated $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ solved in degassed water was added and a purple solid precipitated. The mixture was stirred for 2 h protected from light. The precipitate was filtered and dried to afford 116 mg of a solid ( $0.16 \mathrm{mmol}, 56 \%$ of yield). The residue was dissolved in acetone, filtered through Celite and recrystallized by slow diethyl ether diffusion at low temperature to provide dark purple crystals.

Elemental Analysis (calculated $\left.\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{27} \mathrm{~N}_{5} \mathrm{FeN}_{3}\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{2}\right)$ : $\mathrm{C}, 32.41 ; \mathrm{N}, 15.34 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.72$ (C, 32.0; N, 15.71; H, 3.82).

ESI-MS (m/z experimental (calculated)): $\left[\mathrm{M}-\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)\right]^{+}=197.5817$ (197.5818), $\left[\mathrm{M}-\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)-\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)\right]^{+}=190.5803$ (190.5803), $\left[\mathrm{M}-\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)-\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)\right]^{2+}=211.5849$ (211.5849). FT-IR $\left(\mathrm{Fe}-\underline{\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{N}): 2019 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} . \text { FT-IR }\left(\mathrm{Fe}-{ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}=\right.}\right.$ $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{N} / \mathrm{Fe}-\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{N}=\mathrm{N}): 1998 / 2021 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.
 mmol) of $\mathrm{NaN}_{3}$ were dissolved in $\mathrm{MeOH}(3 \mathrm{~mL})$ under a $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere, and the resulting solution was stirred overnight protected from light. The resulting orange solution was dried and the obtained orange solid was dissolved in the minimum $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, filtered through Celite and the complex crystallized protected from light by slow diethyl ether diffusion to provide 32 mg ( $0.055 \mathrm{mmol}, 75 \%$ of yield) of highly hygroscopic orange needles.
Elemental Analysis (calculated $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{27} \mathrm{~N}_{5} \mathrm{FeN}_{3} \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3} \cdot 1 / 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ): C, 41.91; N, 18.81; H, $4.36(\mathrm{C}, 41.32 ; \mathrm{N}$, 19.27; H, 4.85).

ESI-MS (m/z experimental (calculated)): $\quad\left[\mathrm{M}-\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\right]^{+}=530.1 \quad(530.1), \quad\left[\mathrm{M}-\left(\mathrm{SO}_{3} \mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)\right]^{+}=423.1, \quad[\mathrm{M}-$ $\left.\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{SO}_{3} \mathrm{CF}_{3}\right)\right]^{2+}=190.5$ (190.6). IR ( $\mathrm{Fe}-\underline{\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{N}): 2055 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}}$
$\left[\mathbf{F e}^{\mathbf{I I}}\left(\mathbf{M e P y} \mathbf{y}_{2} \mathbf{t a n n}\right)(\mathbf{M e C N})\right]\left(\mathbf{C F}_{\mathbf{3}} \mathbf{S O}_{\mathbf{3}}\right)_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{3}$, was prepared as previously described. ${ }^{1}$

## Synthesis of ${ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}$ enriched samples.

$\left[{ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{II}}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{MePy}\right.\right.$ 2tacn)]OTf, ${ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}$-(4), was prepared as (4), starting with ${ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right)_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$.
$\left[{ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathbf{N}_{3}\right)(\mathbf{M e P y} 2 \operatorname{tacn})\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right) 2,{ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}-(\mathbf{1})$ was prepared using ${ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}-(4)$ as starting material: In a glass vial, protected from light by an aluminum foil, and under a $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere, 5 mg of ${ }^{57} \mathrm{Fe}$-(4) were solved in 1.5 ml of dichloromethane. Then 2.24 mg of $\mathrm{Ag}(\mathrm{OTf})(1.2 \mathrm{eq})$ were added as a solid and the mixture was stirred for 20 h . The solution was filtered with an Acrodisk® filter and solvent was removed under vacuum to obtain a reddish oil. The vial containing the reddish oil was again protected from light, and 2.9 mg ( 5 eq ) of $\mathrm{NaN}_{3}$ and 0.4 ml of water were
added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 2 h and then 0.15 ml of a saturated solution of $\left(\mathrm{NH}_{4}\right) \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ in water were added, causing the immediate formation of a precipitate. The mixture was stirred for 2 h . The supernatant was separated by decantation, and the purple precipitate was washed with water and dichloromethane. The solid was dried under vacuum and recrystallised protected from light in acetone with slow diffusion of diethyl ether, providing 4.4 mg of dark purple crystals of the compound ( $70 \%$ ), which purity was confirmed by UV-vis spectroscopy.

## 2. General procedures

## Photolysis experiments.

Photolysis of solid powder samples. Solid powder samples (ca. 50 mg ) of $\mathbf{1}$ were suspended in an open liquid nitrogen bath and photolysed under strong stirring at 77 K , using a 470 or a 530 nm LED lamp. After 5 h of illumination, product sample (2) was kept at 77 K and transferred to the appropriate holder for Mössbauer, EPR and SQUID measurements.

Photolysis of frozen solution samples for EPR and Mossbauer spectroscopy. Acetone solutions of $\mathbf{1}$ (2 mM ) were prepared in an anaerobic box, in a vial protected from light. EPR tubes were filled with 0.1 ml of this solution and the tubes capped with a rubber septum. Samples were frozen with liquid $\mathrm{N}_{2}$, and the tubes vacuum pumped. While maintaining samples frozen, the EPR tubes were flame-sealed while keeping the vacuum on them. In the case of Mössbauer samples, the solution was poured into a Mossbauer holder under air, and frozen immediately in a liquid nitrogen bath, trying to keep contact with air as minimum as possible. All the frozen samples were irradiated for 6 h in a liquid nitrogen bath with a 530 nm LED, both for EPR and Mössbauer samples. In the case of the EPR tubes, the samples were moved every 20 or 30 minutes to allow a more homogeneous irradiation.

Mössbauer Spectroscopy. Mössbauer spectra were recorded on a conventional spectrometer with alternating constant acceleration of the $\gamma-$ source ( ${ }^{57} \mathrm{Co} / \mathrm{Rh}, 1.8 \mathrm{GBq}$ ), which was kept at room temperature. The minimum experimental line width was $0.24 \mathrm{~mm} / \mathrm{s}$ (full width at half - height). The sample temperature was maintained constant in an Oxford Instruments Variox cryostat. Isomer shifts are quoted relative to iron metal at 300 K .

EPR Spectroscopy. X - band EPR derivative spectra were recorded on a Bruker ELEXSYS E500 spectrometer equipped with the Bruker dual - mode cavity (ER4116DM) and a helium flow cryostat (Oxford Instruments ESR 900). Microwave frequencies were calibrated with a Hewlett - Packard frequency counter (HP5352B), and the field control was calibrated with a Bruker NMR field probe (ER035M). The powder spectra were simulated with the program esimX_gfit (by E.B.) using effective $g$ values and anisotropic line widths (Lorentzian line shapes were used).

XAS data collection and processing: Samples for X - ray absorption measurements were prepared as 4 mM solutions in acetone loaded in sample holders and stored at liquid nitrogen temperatures until spectra adquisition. Compound $\mathbf{2}$ was generated by loading a solution of $\mathbf{1}$ in a sample holder and photolysing the sample in a liquid nitrogen bath using a 570 nm (green) light for 5 hours. XAS data on compounds $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ was collected at the SOLEIL synchrotron, SAMBA beamline, under anaerobic conditions at 25 K using a liquid helium cryostat. The SAMBA beamline is also equipped with a Si (220) double crystal monochromator and a Canberra 35 - element Ge detector. Compound 4, on the other hand was run at 80 K using a liquid helium cryostat from the DIAMOND beamline B18 equipped with a Si (111) double crystal monochromator and an 8 - element Ge detector.

Data processing was carried out with the Athena software package. ${ }^{2}$ A linear pre - edge followed by a quadratic post - edge function were used for baseline subtraction and normalization of the edge jump to 1 .

Energy calibration was performed using the first inflection point of Fe foil taken as 7111.2 eV . EXAFS were extracted using the AUTOBK algorithm with E0 taken as the first inflection point of the rising edge, having an $R_{b k g}$ of 1 and a spline with a $k$ - range of 1 to $15 \AA^{-1}$. EXAFS analysis was carried out with Artemis, employing the Iffefit engine and FEFF6 code. ${ }^{3,4}$ The $\mathrm{k}^{3}$ - weighted data was fit in R - space between 1 and $3 \AA$, having a $k$ - range of $2-14 \AA$, and a Hannings window with a dk of 2. Fits were carried out with a global $S_{0}{ }^{2}$ of 0.9 as well as a global $\Delta E 0$. Scattering paths were fit in terms of $\Delta R_{\text {eff }}$ and $\Delta \sigma^{2}$, and the goodness of fit was the $\mathrm{R}_{\text {fator }}(\% \mathrm{R})$ and reduced $\chi^{2}\left(\chi^{2}\right.$ v) were minimized as previously described. ${ }^{5,6}$

Theoretical calculations: Theoretical calculations were carried out with the ORCA software package. ${ }^{7}$ Geometry optimizations were carried out using a TPSS functional with a def2 - TZVP as well as a def2TZVP/J auxiliary basis set on all atoms. ${ }^{8,9}$ Subsequent single point calculations to explore the electronic structure and calculate the XAS spectra employed the TPSSh functional with an expanded $\mathrm{CP}(\mathrm{PPP})$ basis set ${ }^{10}$ on the iron and a def 2 - TZVP basis set on the remaining atoms. The above calculations employed a dense integration grid (ORCA Grid $5=$ Lebedev 434 points) along with the Grimme and coworkers DFT D3BJ dispersion correction. ${ }^{11,12}$. In addition solvent effects were included using a conductor like screening model (COSMO) using acetone as solvent. ${ }^{13}$ XAS spectra was calculated using the TD - DFT method employing the Tamm - Dancoff approximation. ${ }^{14,15}$

Gas phase reactivity: Reactivity measurements were carried out using a TSQ 7000 mass spectrometer with quadrupole - octopole - quadrupole configuration equipped with an electrospray ion source. The first quadrupole selects the ion of interest, the octopole filled with a gas serves as a reaction/collision cell and the third quadrupole analyzes the products of the collisions. Ions were generated from $100 \mu \mathrm{M}$ solution of $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{MePy}_{2} \operatorname{tacn}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{2}(\mathbf{1})$ in acetone. Spraying conditions: 3.5 kV spray voltage, 60 psi sheath gas pressure, 0 V capillary voltage, 70 V tube lens voltage, $200 \mu \mathrm{l} /$ hour flow rate. Reaction rates were compared relatively at 0.1 mTorr pressure and nominally zero collision energy that was determined from retarding potential analysis. Typical full - width at half maximum of the kinetic energy distribution of the ions was 0.8 eV .
3. FT - IR and Raman Spectroscopy of 1 and 4




Figure S1. (A) FT - IR spectra of iron (II) azide 4 and (B) iron (III) azide 1. (C) Raman spectra of $\mathbf{4}$ and (D) $\mathbf{1}$; $\approx 2000$ $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ features are typical for asymmetric stretching of $\mathrm{Fe}-\mathrm{N}_{3}{ }^{16}$
4. Magnetic measurements of 1


Figure S2. Temperature dependence of the effective magnetic moment for complex 1.
5. UV - vis spectra of 1


Figure S3. UV - Vis spectra for complex 1 in acetone at different temperatures.
6. High - Resolution Mass - Spectrometry of 1


Figure S4. High resolution mass spectra of $\mathbf{1}$ in acetone, insets are ions for $\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{II}}(\mathrm{L}), \mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{III}}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{L})$ and $\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{V}}(\mathrm{N})(\mathrm{L})$, with simulated peaks ( $\mathrm{L}=\mathrm{MePy}$ 2tacn ).


Figure S5. High resolution mass spectra of $\mathbf{1}-{ }^{15} \mathbf{N}_{3}$ in acetone, below simulated ions of $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{II}}(\mathrm{L})\right]^{2+}$, $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}\left({ }^{14 / 15} \mathrm{~N}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{L})\right]^{2+}$ and $\left[\left(\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{V}}(\mathrm{N})(\mathrm{L})\right]^{2+} /\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{V}}\left({ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}\right)(\mathrm{L})\right]^{2+}\right.$ species. L $=$ MePy 2 tacn.

## 7. Photolysis of $\mathbf{1}$ in solution



Figure S6. Photolysis of complex $\mathbf{1}$ with 470 nm LED ( 0.2 mM acetonitrile at 233 K ).

## 8. Magnetic field dependent Mössbauer spectrum of $\mathbf{2}$ in frozen acetone



Figure S7. Magnetic Mössbauer spectrum of the photoproduct recorded after photolysis of 57-Fe-enriched compound 1 recorded at 1.7 K in order to slow down spin relaxation, and with a field of 3 T applied perpendicular to the gamma ray.
9. Mössbauer measurements of $\mathbf{2}$ in solid samples


Figure S8. (A) Zero-field Mössbauer spectrum of solid complex $\mathbf{1}$ after 4.5 h photolysis at 77 K with a 470 nm (blue) LED. The green and blue lines in (A) are Lorentzian doublets accounting for a new low-spin iron(II) species ( Fe (II) LS) and the high-valent photo-product (2); the red is the superposition of the subspectra. The extended asymmetry of the subspectrum from $\mathbf{2}$ presumably results from intermediate spin relaxation. (B) Zero-field Mössbauer spectrum of solid complex 1 after 5 h photolysis at 77 K with a 530 nm (green) LED. The Mössbauer spectrum (B) was fitted with four Lorentzian doublets accounting for i.) Iron(III) starting material ( $\mathbf{1}, 1 \%$, in pink), ii.) ferrous impurity, iron(II) HS ( $3 \%$, in dark blue), and the photoproducts iii.) Iron(II) LS ( $6 \%$, in blue), and iv.) the high-valent photo-product (2, 89\%, in green).
10. Magnetic measurements of 2


Figure S9. SQUID measurement of solid complex $\mathbf{2}$ after photolysis at 77 K with a 470 nm LED in a beaker. Red line is the simulation of a mixture of $75 \%$ of an $\mathrm{S}=1 / 2$ and a $25 \%$ of $\mathrm{S}=2$ species.

## 11. XANES Analysis



Figure S10. Fe K pre - edge XANES region for compounds 1, 2 and $\mathbf{4}$ highlighting the 1s $\rightarrow$ 3d feature fit with a cumulative Gaussian lorentzian sum function having $0.75 \%$ Gaussian character.

Table S1 Selected EXAFS fits for 2. Fits carried out in $r-\operatorname{space}\left(\Delta k=2-14 \AA^{-1} ; \Delta r=1-3 \AA\right)$ with a Hanning window ( dk 2 ), a $k$ - weight $=3$ and $\mathrm{S}_{0}=0.9$. Bond distances and disorder parameters ( $\Delta \mathrm{r}$ eff and $\sigma^{2}$ ) were allowed to float having initial values of $0.0 \AA$ and $0.003 \AA^{2}$ respectively, with a universal $E_{0}$ initially set to first inflection point of the rising edge and $\Delta \mathrm{E}_{0}=0 \mathrm{eV}$. (Fits highlighted in blue are the best models; values highlighted in red are either statistically or physically erroneous; $\sigma^{2}$ reported as $\times 10^{3} \AA^{2}$ ).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Fe-N/O* |  |  | Fe-N/O* |  |  | Fe-N/O* |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FIT | $\Delta k$ | $\Delta r$ | Var. | $\mathbf{R}_{\text {factor }}$ | $\chi_{v}^{2}$ | $\Delta \mathrm{E}_{0}$ | N | r(Å) | $\sigma^{2}$ | N | r(Å) | $\sigma^{2}$ | N | r(Å) | $\sigma^{2}$ |
| 1 | 2.0-14.0 | 1.0-3.0 | 8 | 0.044 | 12.5 | 2.38 | 1 | 1.64(1) | 2(2) | 3 | 1.98(1) | 2(1) | 2 | $2.05(4)$ | 9(6) |
| 2 | 2.0-14.0 | 1.0-3.0 | 6 | 0.137 | 30.0 | -1.97 | - | - | - | 4 | 1.99(2) | 3(2) | 2 | 2.03(6) | 9(9) |
| 3 | 2.0-14.0 | 1.0-3.0 | 6 | 0.068 | 15.0 | -0.73 | 1 | 1.65(2) | 2(2) | - | - | - | 5 | 1.99(1) | 5(1) |
| 4 | 2.0-14.0 | 1.0-3.0 | 8 | 0.036 | 10.2 | 3.81 | 1 | 1.64(1) | 2(1) | 2 | 1.98(1) | O(1) | 2 | 2.05(2) | 5(2) |
| 5 | 2.0-14.0 | 1.0-3.0 | 8 | 0.029 | 8.1 | 2.57 | 1 | 1.64(1) | 3(1) | 3 | 1.98(1) | 2(1) | 2 | 2.05(2) | $7(3)$ |


|  | Fe--C |  |  | Fe--C |  |  | Fe--C-N--Fe |  |  | Fe--C-N--Fe |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FIT | N | r(Å) | $\sigma^{2}$ | N | r(Å) | $\sigma^{2}$ | N | r(Å) | $\sigma^{2}$ | N | r(Å) | $\sigma^{2}$ |
| 1 | 8 | 2.86(4) | 9(6) | 5 | 2.96(8) | 9(6) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | 8 | 2.84(6) | 9(9) | 5 | 2.95(12) | 9(9) | 4 | 3.05(12) | 9(9) | 4 | 3.12(12) | 9(9) |
| 3 | 8 | 2.79(1) | 5(1) | 5 | 2.94(3) | 5(1) | 4 | 3.05(3) | 5(1) | 4 | 3.12(3) | 5(1) |
| 4 | 8 | 2.86(2) | 5(2) | 6 | 3.00(4) | 5(2) | 4 | 3.10(4) | 5(2) | 4 | 3.17(4) | 5(2) |
| 5 | 8 | 2.86(2) | 7(3) | 5 | 2.99(3) | 7(3) | 4 | 3.08(3) | 7(3) | 4 | 3.16(3) | 7(3) |

*Although EXAFS can not differentiate between $\mathrm{O} / \mathrm{N} / \mathrm{C}$ scattering paths, chemical intuition was used for description to facilitate comparison with theoretically derived structure


Figure S11. Correlation between calculated and experimental Fe K pre - edge intensity averaged energies (left) and total intensities (right) for 1, 2 and $\mathbf{4}$.


Figure S12. Correlation between experimental Fe K pre - edges and calculated transitions including the difference density maps for: $\mathbf{1 , 2}$ and $\mathbf{4}$. Transitions were shifted by 155.0 eV to match experiment.

## 12. Decomposition of 2



Figure S13. (Top) Mössbauer spectra after decomposition of solid $\mathbf{2}$ at room temperature under anaerobic conditions. (Below) HR - MS analysis of melted sample after photolysis of $\mathbf{1}$ to $\mathbf{2}$ during online mass spectrometry studies; insets show the experimental and simulated ions 248.12 and 424.17, tentatively assigned to species $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{II}}\left(\mathrm{COCH}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{MePy} 2 \mathrm{tacn})\right]^{+}$and $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{III}}\left(\mathrm{COCH}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COCH}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{MePy} \text { 2tacn })\right]^{2+}$ suggesting that $\mathbf{2}$ could be reacting with acetone.
13. Gas phase reactivity of 2


Figure S14. (a) Dependence of the relative cross section of the loss of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{N}_{3}$ from $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{IIII}}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{MePy}_{2} \operatorname{tacn}\right)\right]^{2+}$ on the collision energy. Collision gas was xenon ( $p=0.1 \mathrm{mTorr}$ ). Total intensity is normalized to 1 at each energy. (b) CID spectrum of mass - selected $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{MePy} 2 \mathrm{tacn})\right]^{2+}$ at $E_{\mathrm{cm}}=18.3 \mathrm{eV}$.


Figure S15. Collision induced dissociation (CID) spectrum of (a) $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{V}}\left({ }^{14} \mathrm{~N}\right)\left(\mathrm{MePy} \mathrm{y}_{2} \mathrm{tacn}\right)\right]^{2+}$ and (b) $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{V}}\left({ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}\right)(\text { MePy2tacn })\right]^{2+}$ with 0.1 mTorr of Xenon at 5 eV collision energy (center of mass).


Figure S16. Reactions of (xa) $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{V}}(\mathrm{N})(\mathrm{MePy} 2 \mathrm{tacn})\right]^{2+}(m / z=197.5),(\mathrm{xb})\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{MePy} 2 \mathrm{tacn})\right]^{2+}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}=211.5)$ and (Xc) $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\text {III }}(\mathrm{OH})\left(\mathrm{MePy} \mathrm{M}_{2} \text { tacn }\right)\right]^{2+}$ dications with $\sim 0.1 \mathrm{mTorr}$ of (aX) 1,4-cyclohexadiene, (bX) 1, 3 - cyclohexadiene, (cX) cis - cyclooctene and (dX) dimethyl sulfide in the collision cell at nominally zero collision energy. Collisions of $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{II}}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{MePy}_{2} \mathrm{tacn}\right)\right]^{2+}$ with the reagent gas are accompanied by partial fragmentation to the nitride , which explains the small observed reactivity analogous to that of the nitride.


Figure S17. Reactions of $\left[\mathrm{Fe}^{\mathrm{V}}\left({ }^{15} \mathrm{~N}\right)\left(\mathrm{MePy} \mathrm{y}_{2} \mathrm{tacn}\right)\right]^{2+}(\mathrm{m} / z=198)$ with (a) $1,4-$ cyclohexadiene, (b) $1,3-$ cyclohexadiene ( 0.1 mTorr ) at nominally zero collision energy.

## 14. XYZ files of geometry optimized structures

| Compound 1 S=1/2 E = -2442.591 Eh |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1.976183 | 0.378658 | 13.560691 |
| N | 3.227752 | -1.1533 | 13.514145 |
| C | 4.574691 | . 140139 | 3.6 |
| H | 05 | -0.171563 | 13.710756 |
|  | . 602760 | 1.03067 |  |
| C | 329048 | -2.302713 |  |
|  | 6.408395 | -2. |  |
| N | 2.018942 | 0.5 | 5.5 |
| C | 677928 | -3.526267 |  |
| H | 5.241576 | -4. |  |
| N | 0.439146 | 1.712738 | 3. |
| C | . 289093 | -3.543030 |  |
| H | 45640 | -4.473497 | 13.172768 |
| N | 409850 | 1.717370 | 13.660981 |
|  | 2.590195 | -2.343895 |  |
| N | 1.824117 | 0.298066 | 11.670091 |
|  | 105476 | -2.245558 | 13.143950 |
|  | 586033 | -3.144100 |  |
|  | 0.893916 | -2.109953 | 12.078674 |
| C | 0.438719 | 1.292095 | 15.335021 |
|  | 283259 | -2.360173 |  |
|  | -0.463718 | -0.776644 | 15.662655 |
|  | 690360 | 0.117413 | 10.922143 |
| N | 3.454886 | -0.495443 |  |
| C | 1.655280 | -0.798464 | 6.0 |
|  | 446275 | 0.746913 | 17.172794 |
|  | 514616 | -1.451473 |  |
|  | 021606 | 1.598127 | 16.021748 |
|  | 135159 | . 074668 | 16.380356 |
|  | 1.435005 | . 155427 | 16.865075 |
|  | 678050 | . 525523 | 14.874022 |
|  | -0.208488 | 3.122526 | 15.114460 |
|  | 1.499708 | 3.209275 | 14.654227 |
|  | 0.347108 | 2.636428 | 12.471989 |
|  | -0.455064 | 3.359940 |  |
|  | 0.139728 | . 057718 | 33 |
| H | 1.293946 | 3.164436 | 2.357129 |
|  | -0.852062 | . 926623 | 56419 |
|  | -1.159988 | . 925437 | 2792 |
|  | -1.637427 | 1.431630 | 13.189472 |
|  | -0.653708 | -0.486852 | 13.242416 |
|  | -1.510817 | -1.120376 | 493167 |
|  | -0.503688 | -0.492255 | 12.161808 |
|  | 413129 | . 944055 | 15.938097 |
|  | 020683 | 0.033305 | 5.937861 |
|  | 3.450416 | 1.369411 | 16.944366 |
|  | 3.936768 | 1.894103 | 14.903254 |
| C | 4.916126 | 2.846157 | 5.148976 |
|  | 304423 | 2.965940 | 16.154486 |
|  | . 382682 | . 629950 | 4.095010 |
|  | 6.147942 | 4.379335 | 14.266307 |
|  | 4.847026 | 3.438613 | 12.822906 |
|  | 5.178631 | 4.025101 | 11.973883 |
| C | 3.859739 | 2.480832 | 12.641435 |
|  | 3.40 | 2.309108 |  |


| Compound 2 S $=1 / 2 \mathrm{E}=--2332.981 \mathrm{Eh}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fe | 1.976242 | 0.373452 | 13.451529 |
| N | 3.224483 | -1.173234 | 13.461304 |
| C | 4.567241 | -1.157360 | 13.560306 |
| H | 5.039887 | -0.186720 | 13.643585 |
| N | 0.615134 | -1.024975 | 13.828059 |
| C | 5.317102 | -2.325571 | 13.549899 |
| H | 6.395955 | -2.265649 | 13.634870 |
| N | 2.024859 | 0.546570 | 15.599464 |
| C | 4.661131 | -3.549218 | 13.433186 |
| H | 5.220969 | -4.478426 | 13.431716 |
| N | 0.437074 | 1.728520 | 13.634655 |
| C | 3.272627 | -3.564694 | 13.315287 |
| H | 2.726388 | -4.496321 | 13.216610 |
| N | 3.389705 | 1.723271 | 13.642836 |
| C | 2.581121 | -2.360702 | 13.320402 |
| N | 1.881237 | 0.346116 | 11.852566 |
| C | 1.100700 | -2.245952 | 13.113305 |
| H | 0.563859 | -3.135350 | 13.453265 |
| H | 0.900521 | -2.097220 | 12.047011 |
| C | 0.461442 | -1.296178 | 15.314116 |
| H | 0.303845 | -2.366467 | 15.463262 |
| H | -0.442208 | -0.784449 | 15.644383 |
| C | 1.672284 | -0.810320 | 16.095532 |
| H | 1.447691 | -0.805112 | 17.168051 |
| H | 2.534532 | -1.457840 | 15.931320 |
| C | 1.026419 | 1.578610 | 16.031317 |
| H | 0.133827 | 1.058771 | 16.381567 |
| H | 1.418174 | 2.148148 | 16.878742 |
| C | 0.687499 | 2.514521 | 14.883255 |
| H | -0.195537 | 3.114725 | 15.129914 |
| H | 1.511171 | 3.197845 | 14.670278 |
| C | 0.331934 | 2.671521 | 12.485469 |
| H | -0.482386 | 3.379303 | 12.673228 |
| H | 0.138790 | 2.102802 | 11.576680 |
| H | 1.271111 | 3.215591 | 12.382023 |
| C | -0.849152 | 0.933369 | 13.752072 |
| H | -1.154585 | 0.930349 | 14.799102 |
| H | -1.638148 | 1.434690 | 13.187055 |
| C | -0.655147 | -0.481911 | 13.239825 |
| H | -1.505326 | -1.115532 | 13.512708 |
| H | -0.528269 | -0.494546 | 12.155604 |
| C | 3.408666 | 0.952676 | 15.937330 |
| H | 4.034755 | 0.053638 | 15.936162 |
| H | 3.471481 | 1.396521 | 16.935826 |
| C | 3.913069 | 1.899954 | 14.885567 |
| C | 4.889404 | 2.858618 | 15.125409 |
| H | 5.274994 | 2.982234 | 16.131530 |
| C | 5.355947 | 3.640706 | 14.071680 |
| H | 6.117412 | 4.394013 | 14.243013 |
| C | 4.828985 | 3.439094 | 12.797067 |
| H | 5.164979 | 4.019175 | 11.945320 |
| C | 3.847743 | 2.477125 | 12.616456 |
| H | 3.403849 | 2.280967 | 11.647849 |
|  |  |  |  |


| Compound 2 S $=3 / 2 \mathrm{E}=-2332.943 \mathrm{Eh}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fe | 1.983198 | 0.391195 | 13.536031 |
| N | 3.200559 | -1.178944 | 13.477052 |
| C | 4.545340 | -1.159475 | 13.576302 |
| H | 5.016988 | -0.191358 | 13.682442 |
| N | 0.616677 | -1.026537 | 13.830579 |
| C | 5.296875 | -2.325236 | 13.538799 |
| H | 6.375372 | -2.261287 | 13.625155 |
| N | 2.020635 | 0.564968 | 15.633816 |
| C | 4.646664 | -3.549067 | 13.396515 |
| H | 5.210055 | -4.475720 | 13.375328 |
| N | 0.435569 | 1.716576 | 13.660612 |
| C | 3.258469 | -3.565765 | 13.278278 |
| H | 2.713831 | -4.495781 | 13.158423 |
| N | 3.411275 | 1.721650 | 13.642432 |
| C | 2.561877 | -2.365962 | 13.309075 |
| N | 1.916970 | 0.345590 | 11.782126 |
| C | 1.088291 | -2.237029 | 13.093258 |
| H | 0.533924 | -3.124561 | 13.408910 |
| H | 0.904173 | -2.057274 | 12.029166 |
| C | 0.470678 | -1.303994 | 15.318148 |
| H | 0.335967 | -2.377458 | 15.467331 |
| H | -0.443763 | -0.813203 | 15.651081 |
| C | 1.672844 | -0.801608 | 16.112457 |
| H | 1.435366 | -0.808551 | 17.182121 |
| H | 2.543918 | -1.438301 | 15.952968 |
| C | 1.009082 | 1.585629 | 16.061502 |
| H | 0.119303 | 1.055363 | 16.403096 |
| H | 1.387418 | 2.159420 | 16.911873 |
| C | 0.672183 | 2.516388 | 14.908301 |
| H | -0.218304 | 3.110849 | 15.138810 |
| H | 1.492987 | 3.203626 | 14.695823 |
| C | 0.353937 | 2.636654 | 12.489533 |
| H | -0.473153 | 3.336966 | 12.645780 |
| H | 0.193211 | 2.045100 | 11.588812 |
| H | 1.289863 | 3.188316 | 12.402081 |
| C | -0.852105 | 0.921470 | 13.770636 |
| H | -1.151125 | 0.902209 | 14.818854 |
| H | -1.638353 | 1.437132 | 13.215244 |
| C | -0.643399 | -0.476448 | 13.229148 |
| H | -1.493267 | -1.126023 | 13.462296 |
| H | -0.484648 | -0.455502 | 12.149251 |
| C | 3.402991 | 0.991069 | 15.963335 |
| H | 4.036040 | 0.097012 | 15.982774 |
| H | 3.462764 | 1.457728 | 16.951332 |
| C | 3.914039 | 1.921995 | 14.893736 |
| C | 4.886285 | 2.886201 | 15.119501 |
| H | 5.267814 | 3.037135 | 16.123275 |
| C | 5.355422 | 3.645205 | 14.047662 |
| H | 6.112385 | 4.405320 | 14.209996 |
| C | 4.845168 | 3.417965 | 12.769038 |
| H | 5.191076 | 3.984575 | 11.912438 |
| C | 3.872986 | 2.445650 | 12.598946 |
| H | 3.433130 | 2.205280 | 11.637092 |
|  |  |  |  |

[^0]| H | 8.050302 | 3.509905 | -0.555307 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 6.927217 | 5.229812 | 0.127624 |
| H | 7.855953 | 5.808920 | 0.197575 |
| H | 6.139436 | 5.885399 | -0.245309 |
| N | 6.493582 | 4.732558 | 1.466618 |
| C | 7.640099 | 4.087097 | 2.200855 |
| H | 8.050598 | 4.784365 | 2.936823 |
| H | 8.428386 | 3.882082 | 1.474850 |
| C | 7.180697 | 2.804939 | 2.870915 |
| H | 8.045968 | 2.216112 | 3.201695 |
| H | 6.560998 | 3.018947 | 3.743892 |
| N | 6.337655 | 2.024118 | 1.918310 |
| C | 7.182201 | 1.461463 | 0.798171 |
| H | 7.387468 | 0.403382 | 0.985157 |
| H | 8.144065 | 1.977840 | 0.796861 |
| C | 6.473739 | 1.634454 | -0.534412 |
| H | 7.143342 | 1.381795 | -1.366302 |
| H | 5.585651 | 1.000967 | -0.577890 |
| C | 4.961947 | 3.215803 | -1.692316 |
| H | 4.352453 | 2.306458 | -1.698471 |
| H | 5.417252 | 3.336609 | -2.681581 |
| C | 4.090538 | 4.381646 | -1.328396 |
| C | 3.408982 | 5.151421 | -2.260821 |
| H | 3.553488 | 4.956315 | -3.318630 |
| C | 2.543833 | 6.154616 | -1.824436 |
| H | 2.001145 | 6.766231 | -2.537485 |
| C | 2.390124 | 6.345991 | -0.451879 |
| H | 1.720743 | 7.102877 | -0.057517 |
| C | 3.111727 | 5.554035 | 0.429639 |
| H | 3.010279 | 5.676002 | 1.501198 |
| N | 3.969311 | 4.590940 | 0.015997 |
| C | 5.852836 | 5.790321 | 2.298410 |
| H | 5.291823 | 6.439356 | 1.617326 |
| H | 6.595748 | 6.407567 | 2.814916 |
| C | 4.899449 | 5.137468 | 3.259173 |
| C | 4.560839 | 5.669568 | 4.494915 |
| H | 5.044494 | 6.579895 | 4.834640 |
| C | 3.598902 | 5.028238 | 5.277768 |
| H | 3.318184 | 5.429221 | 6.245975 |
| C | 3.009955 | 3.863021 | 4.786201 |
| H | 2.254515 | 3.330759 | 5.354372 |
| C | 3.402619 | 3.369602 | 3.549594 |
| H | 2.982585 | 2.463559 | 3.129192 |
| N | 4.338157 | 3.983698 | 2.785222 |
| C | 5.693020 | 0.905430 | 2.654579 |
| H | 6.461640 | 0.264782 | 3.104609 |
| H | 5.079704 | 0.332867 | 1.960603 |
| H | 5.056340 | 1.316620 | 3.438777 |
| N | 3.703995 | 1.945988 | 0.795873 |
| N | 2.562334 | 2.104688 | 0.457819 |
| N | 1.443954 | 2.199800 | 0.132609 |
|  |  |  |  |

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[^0]:    Compound 4 S=0 E=-2442.758 Eh
    Fe $5.047414 \quad 3.398126 \quad 1.098482$ $\begin{array}{lllll}\mathrm{N} & 5.986802 & 3.041049 & -0.628195\end{array}$ C $\quad 7.118874 \quad 4.026934 \quad-0.790940$
    $\begin{array}{lllll}\mathrm{H} & 7.184711 & 4.351439 & -1.833472\end{array}$

