

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Mechanochemistry of lithium nitride under hydrogen gas

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Figure S1 shows the XRD patterns of  $\text{Li}_3\text{N}$  after milling for 15 and 30 min under hydrogen gas. The patterns are compared to a simulated diffraction pattern of  $\text{Li}_4\text{NH}$  according to its reported crystal structure.<sup>27</sup> The milled samples do not contain the intermediary  $\text{Li}_4\text{NH}$  phase. Note that the main peak of  $\text{Li}_4\text{NH}$  phase (located at  $\sim 20^\circ$ ) is not present in milled samples.

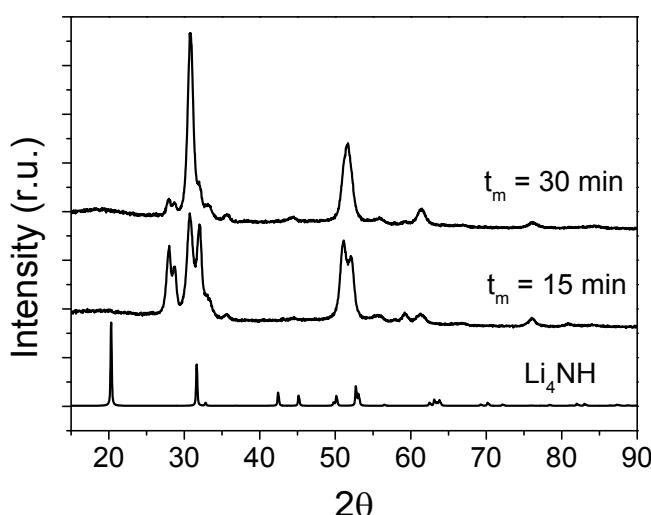


Fig S1. XRD patterns of samples milled for 15 and 30 min under hydrogen gas compared with a simulated pattern for the  $\text{Li}_4\text{NH}$  compound.<sup>27</sup>

Figure S2 shows the recorded IR spectrum of  $\text{Li}_3\text{N}$  after milling for 180 min under hydrogen gas. The characteristic bands lines of  $\text{Li}_2\text{NH}$  compound are observed.

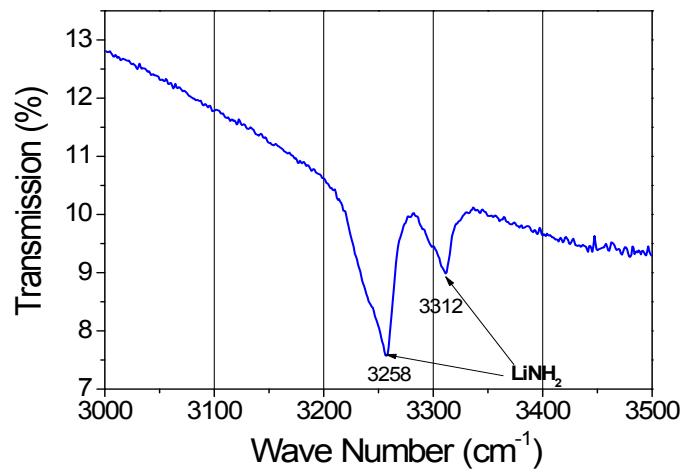


Figure S2: infrared absorption spectrum after milling of  $\text{Li}_3\text{N}$  under hydrogen gas for  $t = 180$  min.

Table S1 : Crystallographic data of Li<sub>3</sub>N samples milled at different times, *t*, under 9 MPa of hydrogen pressure. Phase identification, space group (S.G.), cell parameters, crystallite size (*D<sub>v</sub>*), strain and content are given for each detected phase. Standard deviations referred to the last digit are given in parenthesis for refined parameters. Rietveld agreement factors (R<sub>b</sub>, R<sub>wp</sub> and  $\chi^2$ ) are also given.

Sample, <i>t</i> (min)	Phase	S.G.	Cell parameters			<i>D<sub>v</sub></i> (nm)	Strain (%)	Content (wt.%)	R <sub>b</sub> (%)	R <sub>wp</sub> (%)	$\chi^2$
			<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>b</i> (Å)	<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )						
0	$\alpha$ -Li <sub>3</sub> N	<i>P</i> 6/mmm	3.651(1)	3.879(1)	44.79(1)	42(9)	0.5(1)	51(3)	2.7		
	$\beta$ -Li <sub>3</sub> N	<i>P</i> 6 <sub>3</sub> /mmc	3.573(1)	6.352(2)	70.24(2)	23(2)	0.5	44(3)	7.1	10.3	1.99
	Li <sub>2</sub> O	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.650		100.5	6	0.5	5(1)	6.0		
15	$\beta$ -Li <sub>3</sub> N	<i>P</i> 6 <sub>3</sub> /mmc	3.566(1)	6.345(3)	69.90(2)	14(1)	0.5(1)	58(3)	3.2		
	Li <sub>2</sub> NH	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.999(2)		125.0(1)	8(1)	0.8	34(2)	1.8	5.5	2.4
	LiH	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.084		68.12	10	0.1	2(2)	23.5		
	Li <sub>2</sub> O	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.650		100.5	6	0.5	6(2)	3.7		
30	$\beta$ -Li <sub>3</sub> N	<i>P</i> 6 <sub>3</sub> /mmc	3.570(1)	6.343(3)	70.01(2)	16(2)	0.5	18(2)	3.5		
	Li <sub>2</sub> NH	<i>F</i> $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.993(1)		124.4(1)	11(1)	0.8	71(2)	1.9	4.6	1.7
	LiH	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.084		68.12	10	0.1	5(2)	12.6		
	Li <sub>2</sub> O	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.650		100.5	6	0.5	6(2)	2.6		
60	Li <sub>2</sub> NH	<i>F</i> $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.986(1)		124.0(1)	10(2)	0.8(1)	77(3)	2.3		
	LiH	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.084		68.12	10	0.1	19(2)	8.0	6.6	1.5
	Li <sub>2</sub> O	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.650		100.5	6	0.5	4(2)	3.8		
90	Li <sub>2</sub> NH	<i>F</i> $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.996(2)		124.7(2)	14(2)	0.8	33(3)	1.5		
	LiNH <sub>2</sub>	<i>I</i> $\bar{3}$	5.013(6)	10.08(3)	253.0(6)	6(1)	0.8	29(2)	2.1	5.1	1.8
	LiH	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.086(1)		68.20(3)	9(2)	0.1	33(2)	3.7		
	Li <sub>2</sub> O	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.650		100.5	6	0.5	5(2)	0.9		
120	Li <sub>2</sub> NH	<i>F</i> $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	5.016(6)		126.2(2)	8	0.2	4(3)	0.3		
	LiNH <sub>2</sub>	<i>I</i> $\bar{3}$	5.060(3)	10.05(1)	257.3(3)	10(1)	0.8	48(3)	1.2	4.9	1.9
	LiH	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.086(1)		68.24(3)	10(2)	0.1	41(3)	3.6		
	Li <sub>2</sub> O	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.649(2)		100.5(1)	6	0.5	7(2)	1.1		
180	LiNH <sub>2</sub>	<i>I</i> $\bar{3}$	5.061(2)	10.08(1)	258.3(3)	12(2)	0.8(1)	50(2)	1.7		
	LiH	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.084(1)		68.12(3)	10(2)	0.1(1)	46(3)	2.8	4.5	3.0
	Li <sub>2</sub> O	<i>F</i> m $\bar{3}$ <i>m</i>	4.650		100.5	6	0.5	4(2)	2.9		