

Supporting information

Photophysical and electroluminescent properties of bis(2',6'-difluoro-2,3'-bipyridinato-N,C4')iridium(picolate) complexes: effect of electron-withdrawing and electron-donating group substituent at the 4' position on the pyridyl moiety of the cyclometalated ligand

K. S. Bejoymohandas,^{a, b} Arunandan Kumar,^c S. Varughese,^a E. Varathan,^d V. Subramanian^d and M. L. P. Reddy*,^{a, b}

^aMaterials Science and Technology Division, CSIR-Network of Institutes for Solar Energy, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science & Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram-695 019, India

^bAcademy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), New Delhi 110001, India

^cLaboratoire Interdisciplinaire Carnot de Bourgogne (ICB) UMR 6303 CNRS, Université de Bourgogne. 9, Av. Savary, BP 47870, 21078 Dijon Cedex, France.

^dChemical Laboratory, CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai – 600 020, India

*Corresponding author: E-mail: mlpreddy55@gmail.com

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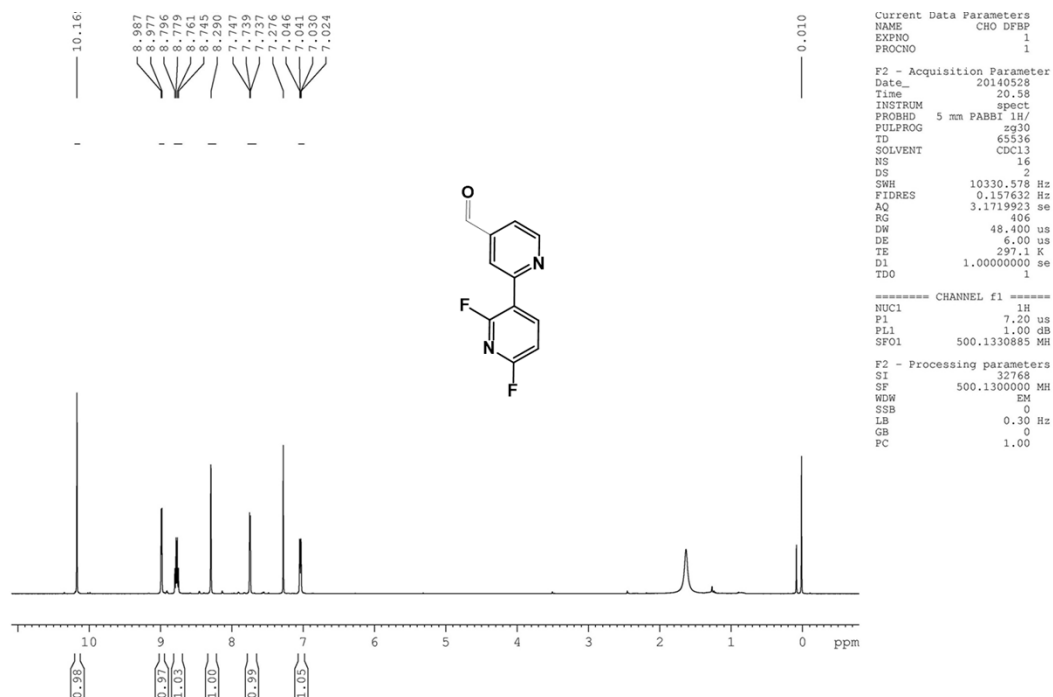


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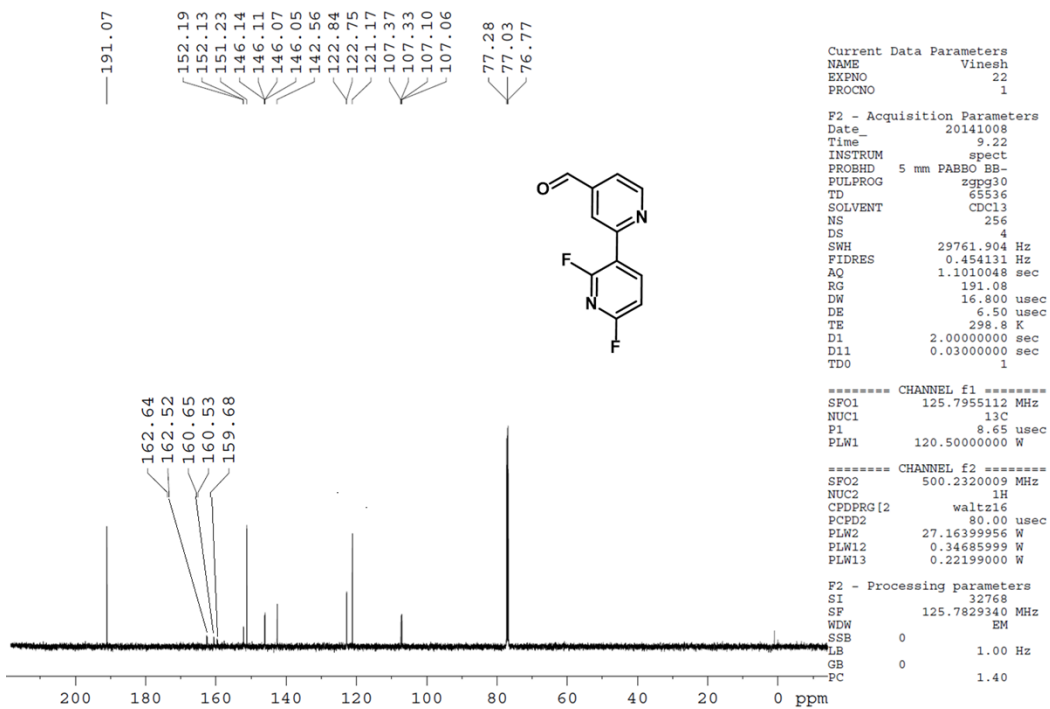


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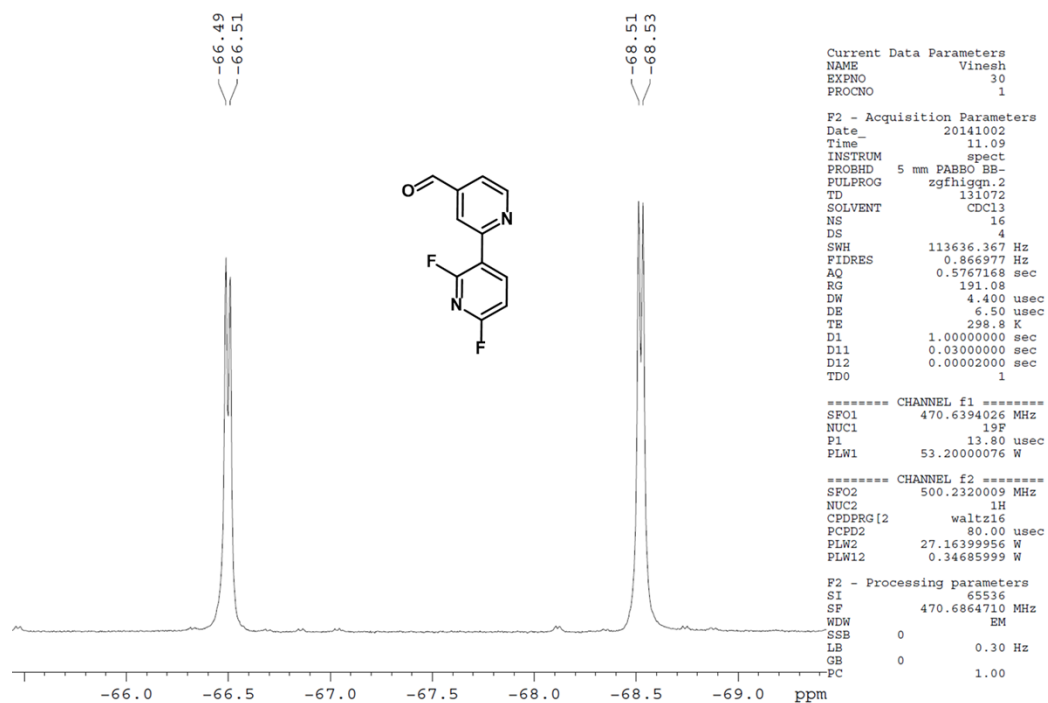


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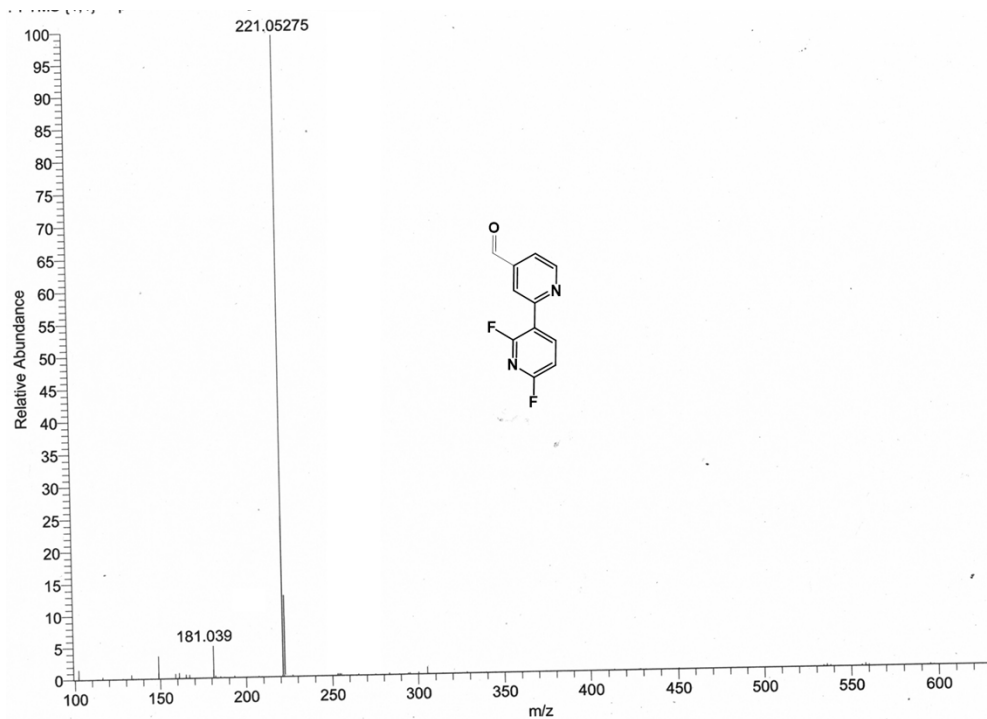


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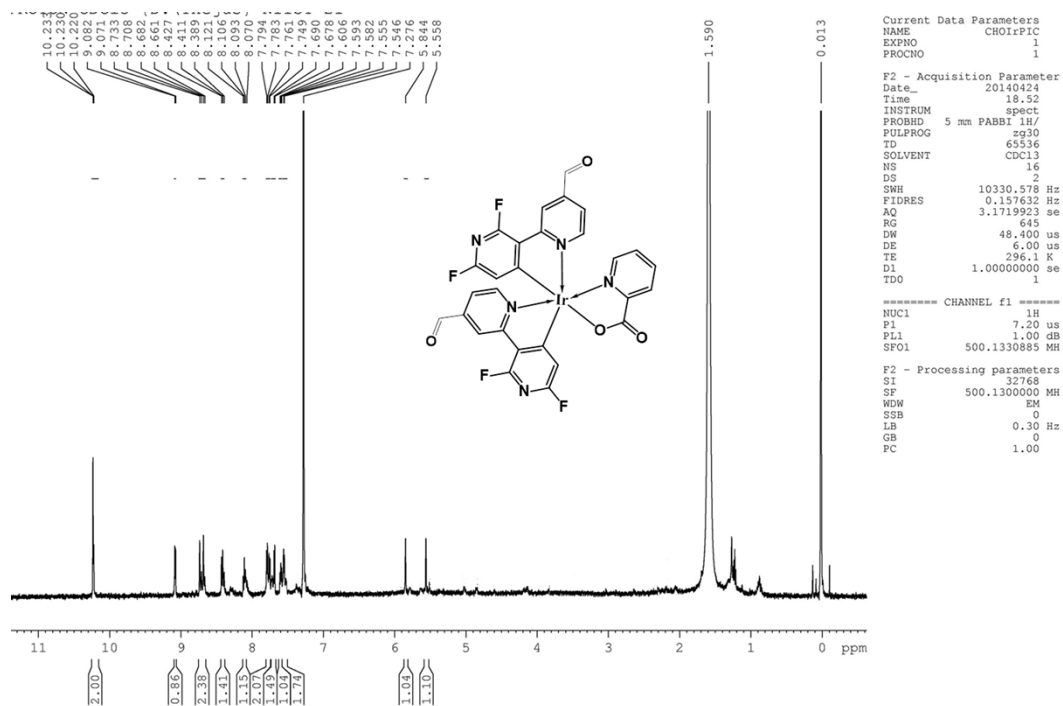


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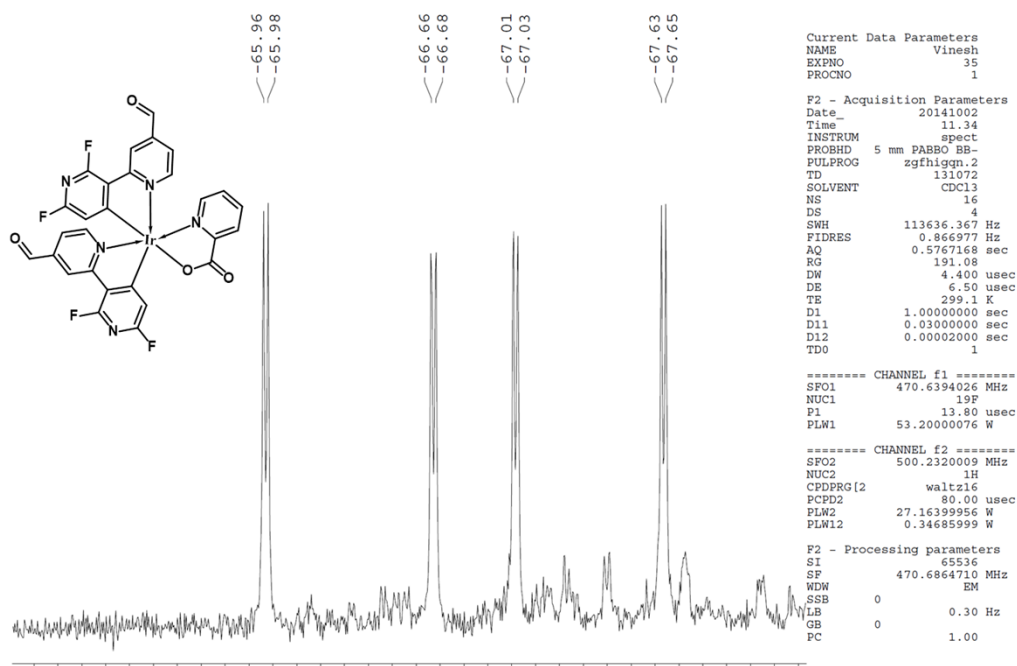


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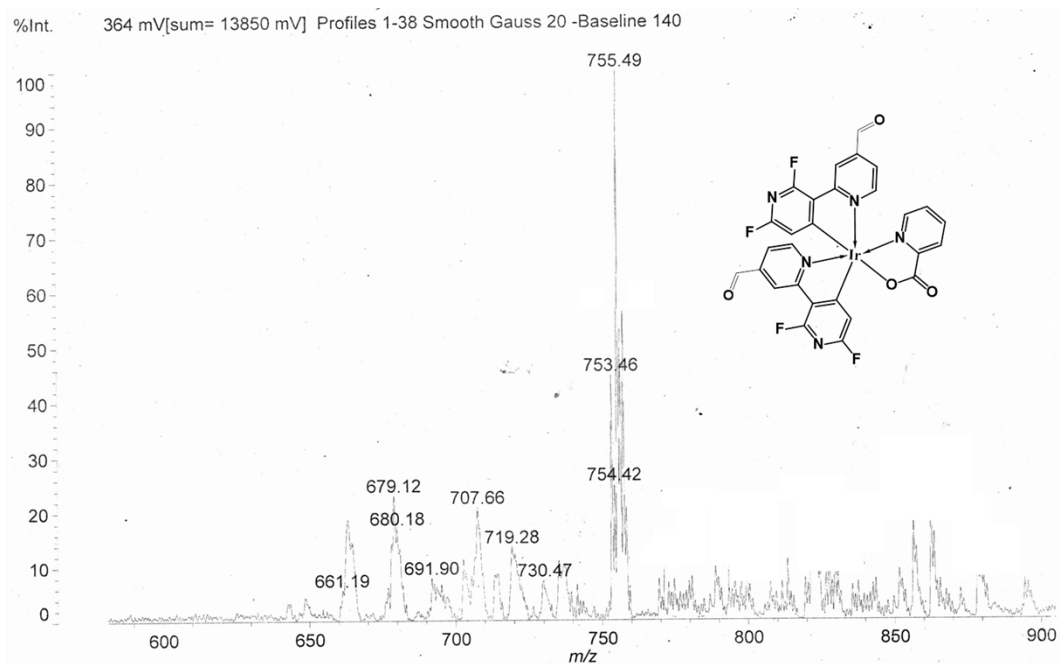


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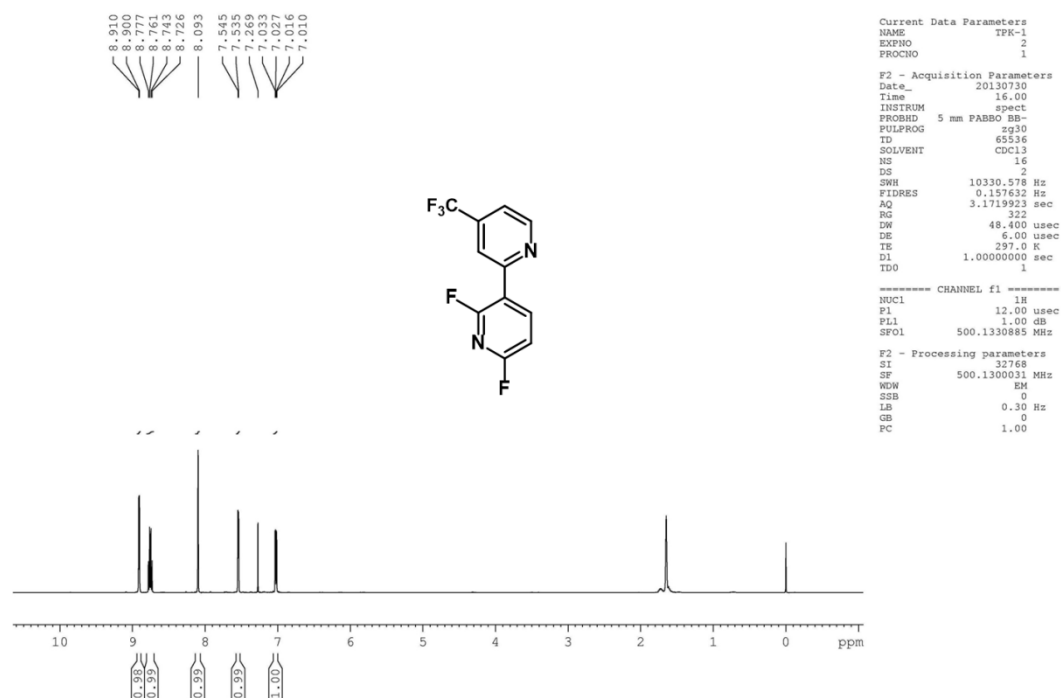


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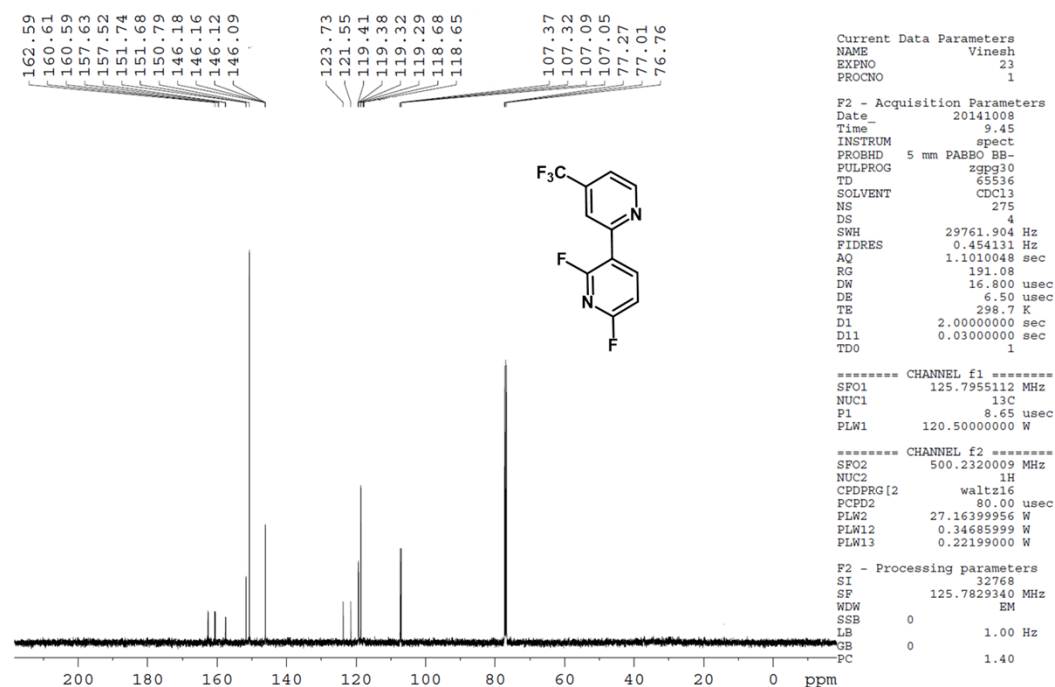


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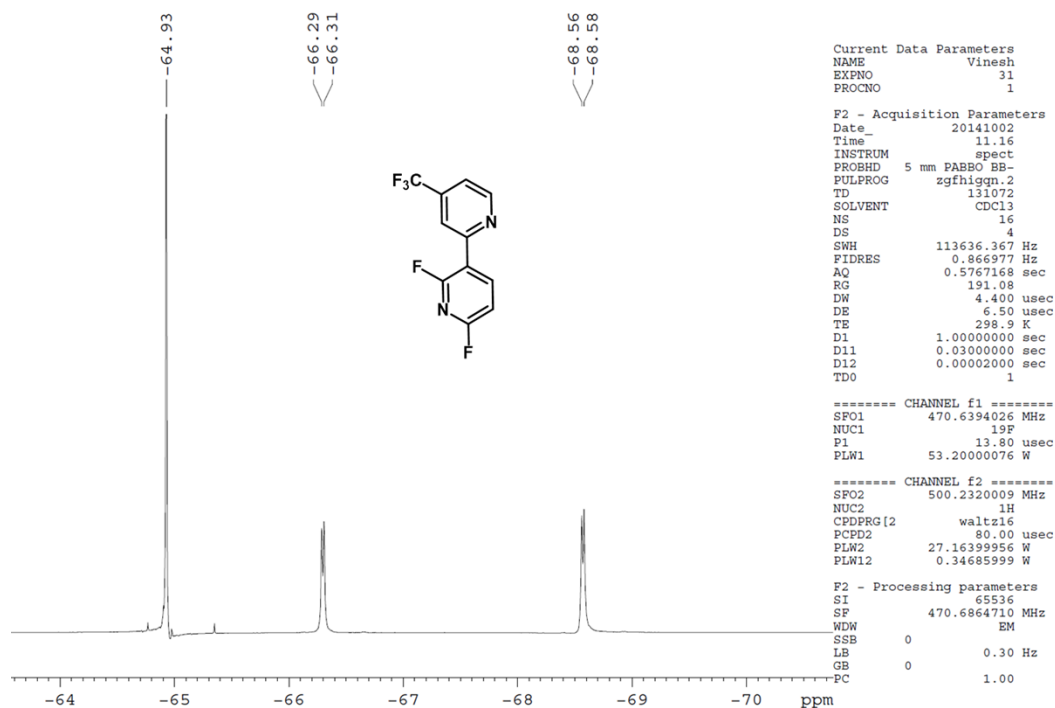


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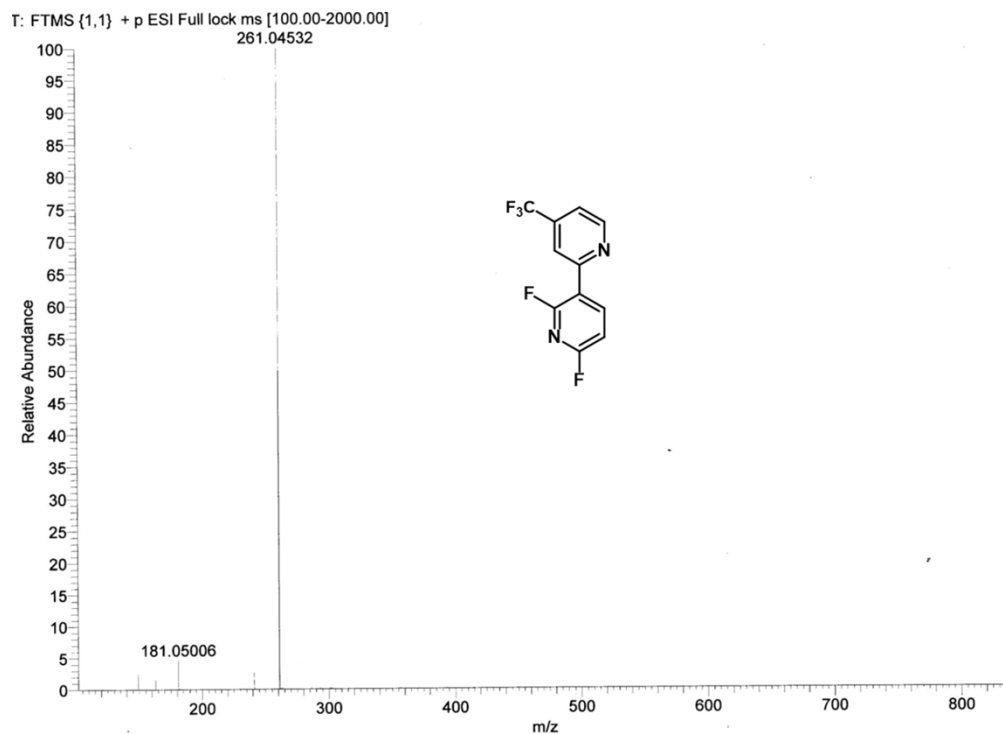


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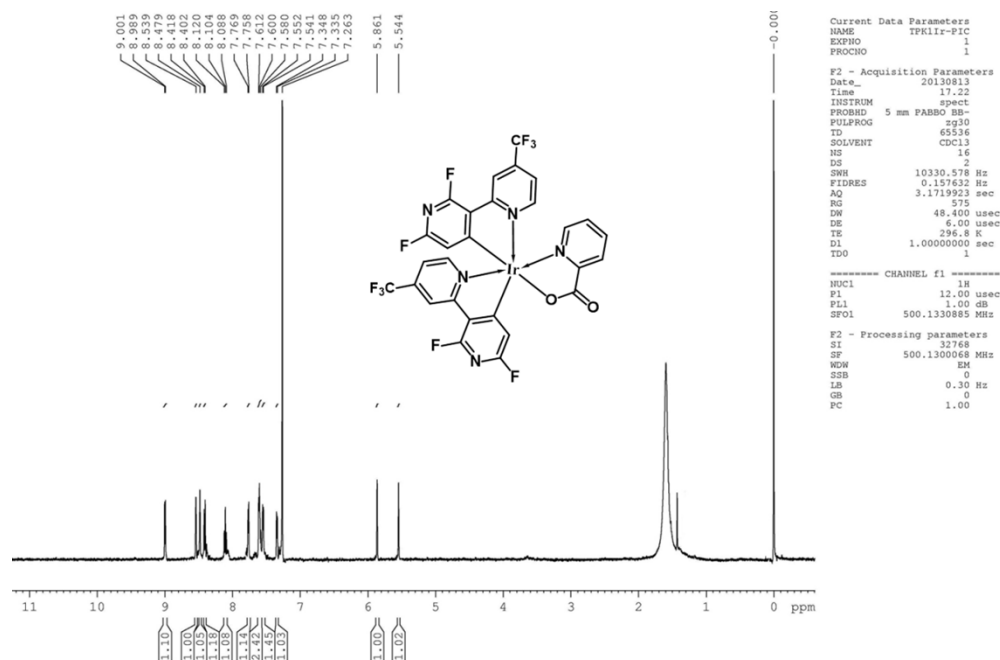


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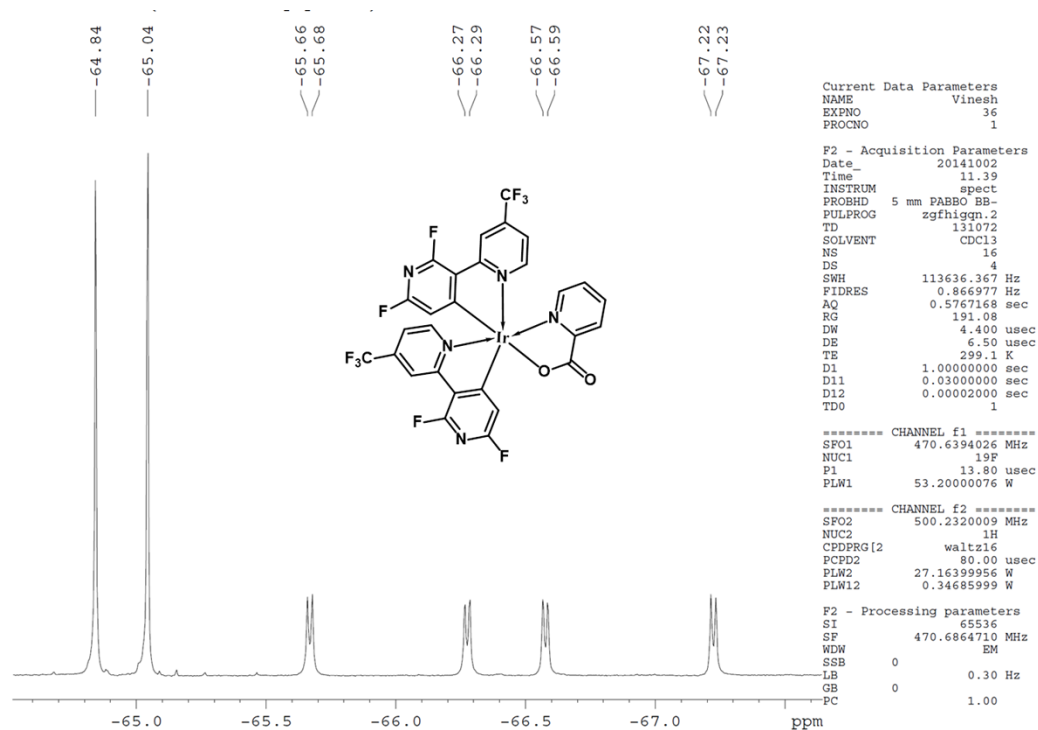


Fig. S13 ^{19}F -NMR spectrum of complex **Ir2**.

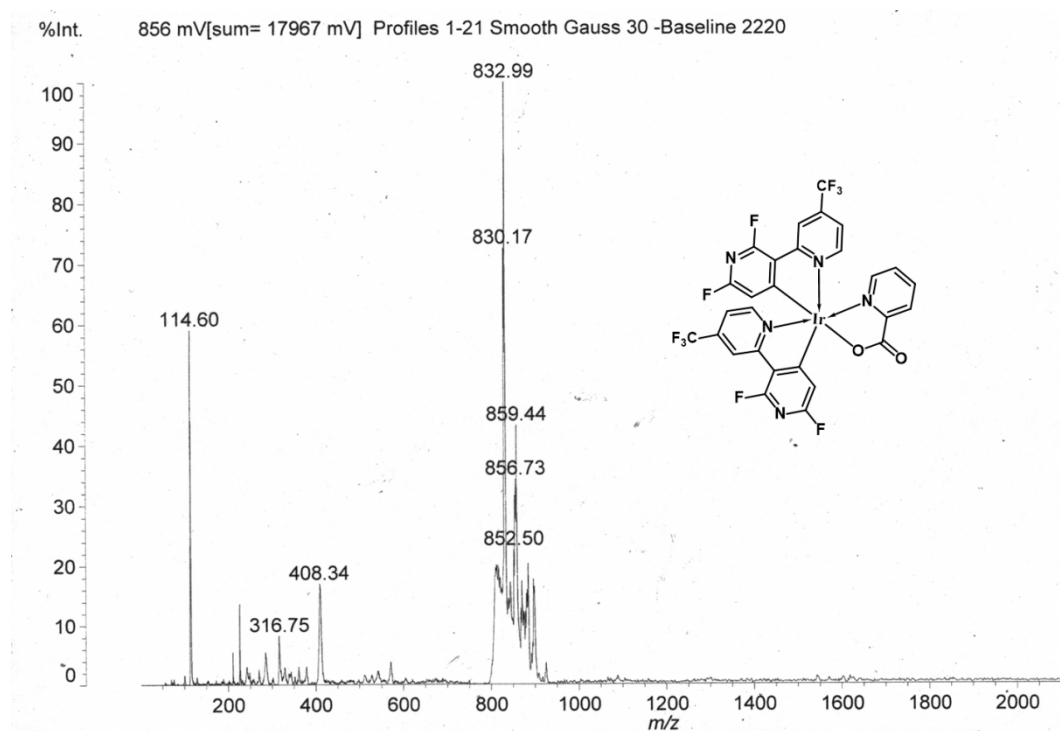


Fig. S14 MALDI-TOF spectrum of complex **Ir2**, 832.99 ($\text{M}+1$) $^{+}$.

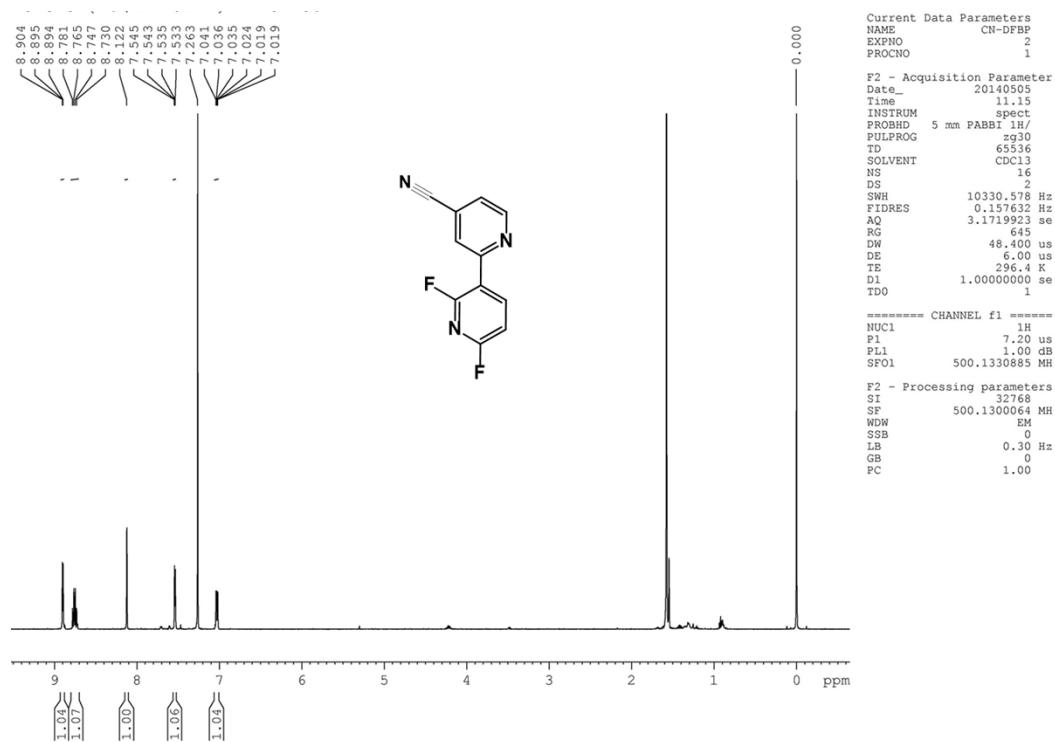


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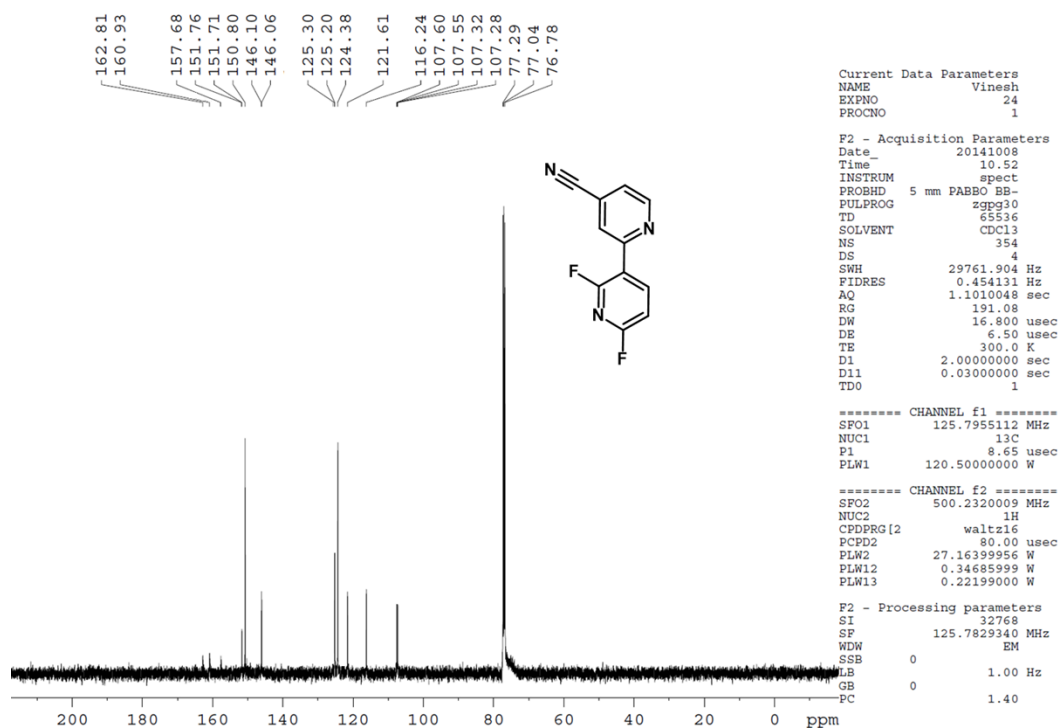


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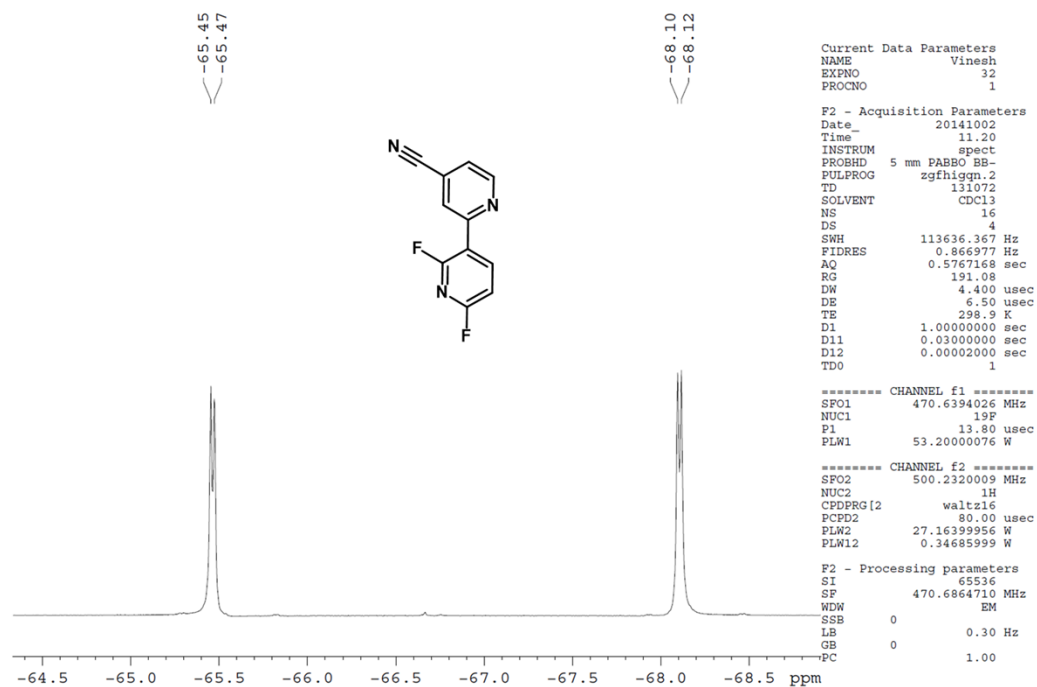


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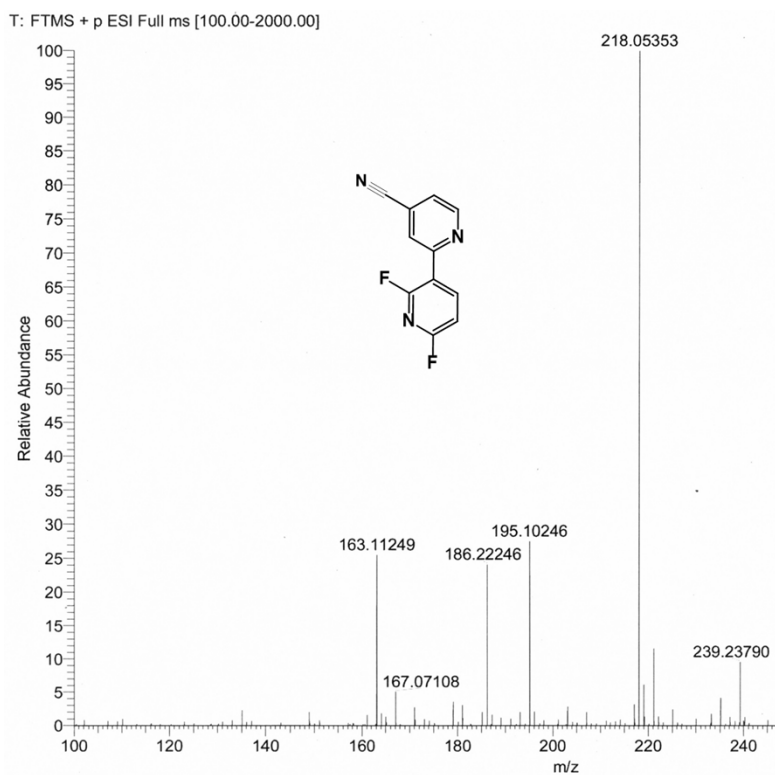


Fig. S18 ESI-MS spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4- cyano-2,3'-bipyridine (L3). 218.05(M+1)⁺.

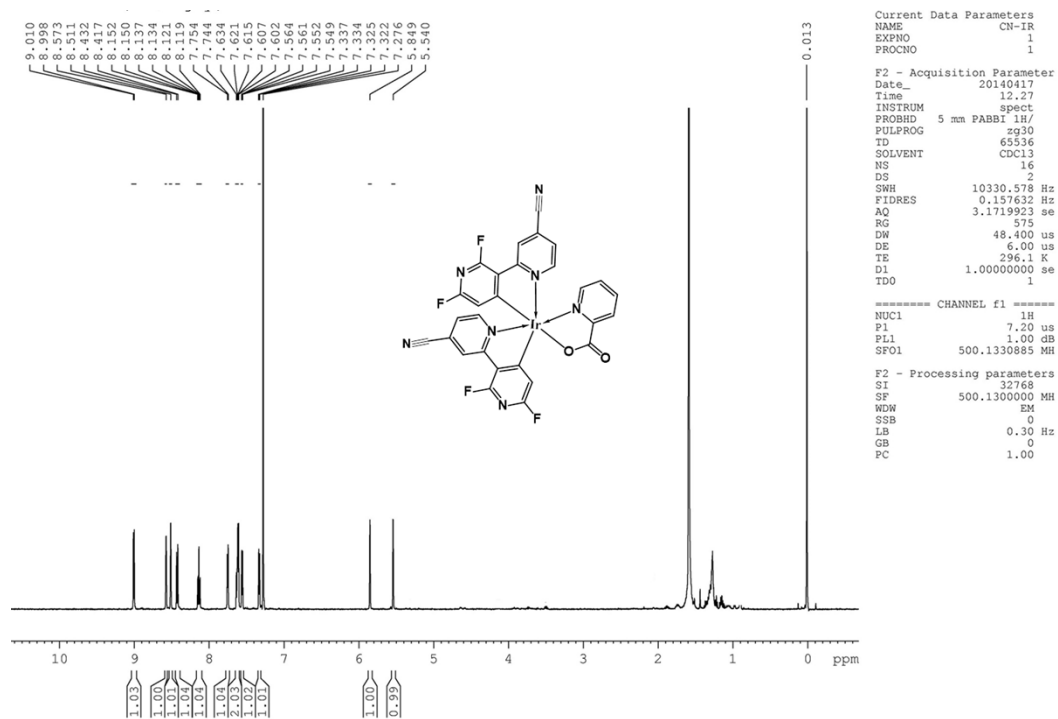


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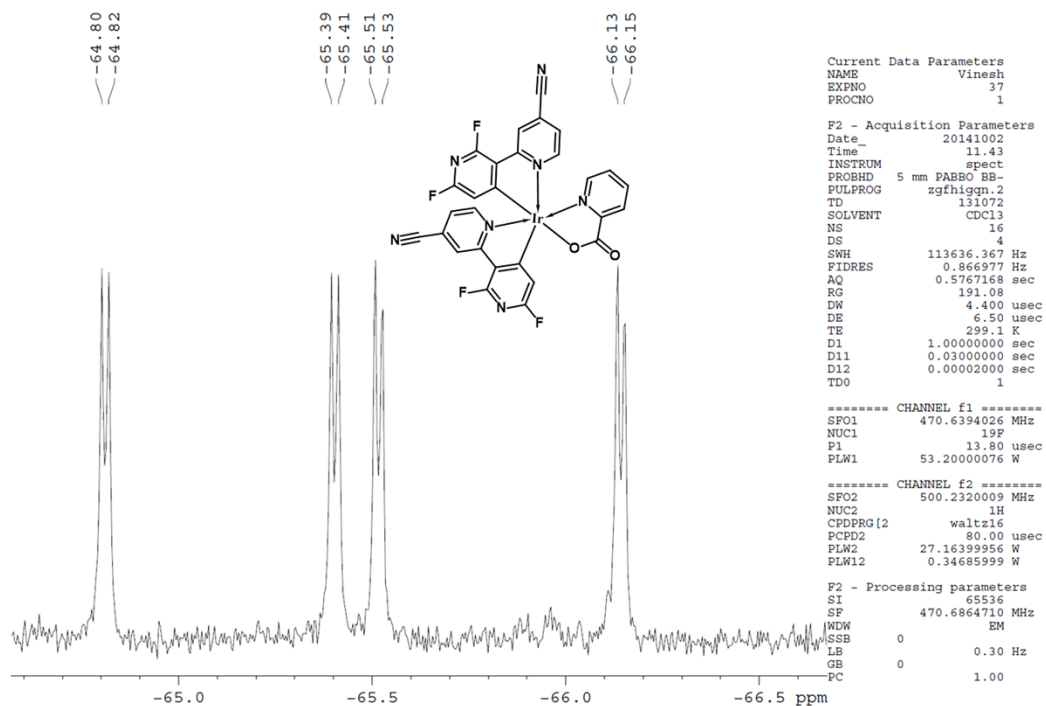


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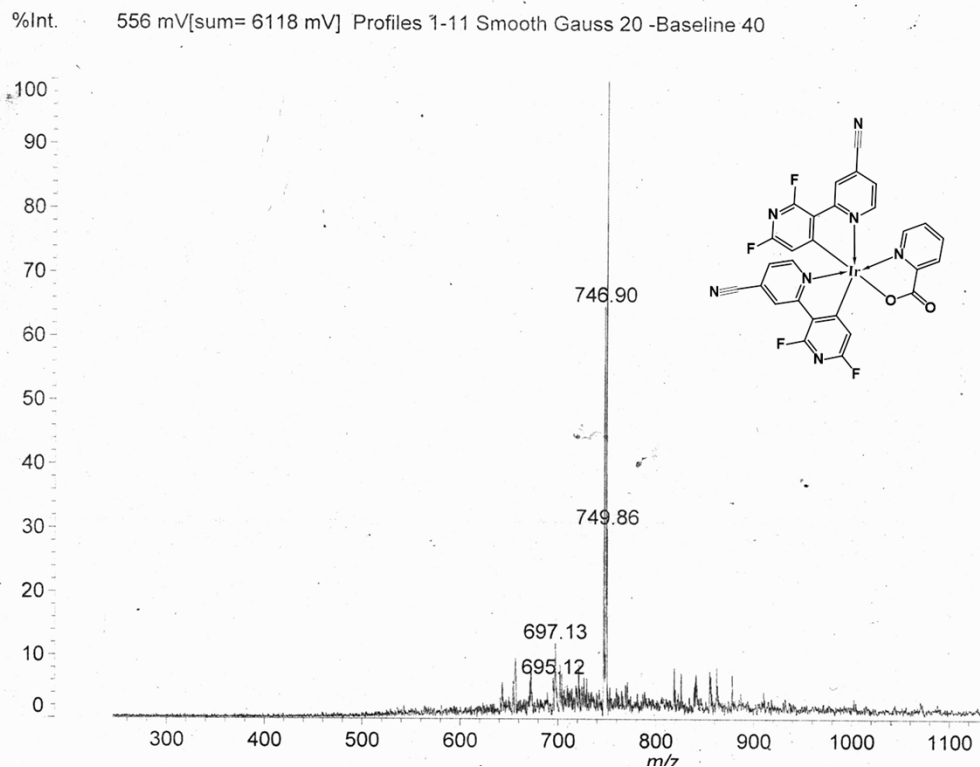


Fig. S21 MALDI-TOF spectrum of complex **Ir3**. 746.90 (M)⁺.

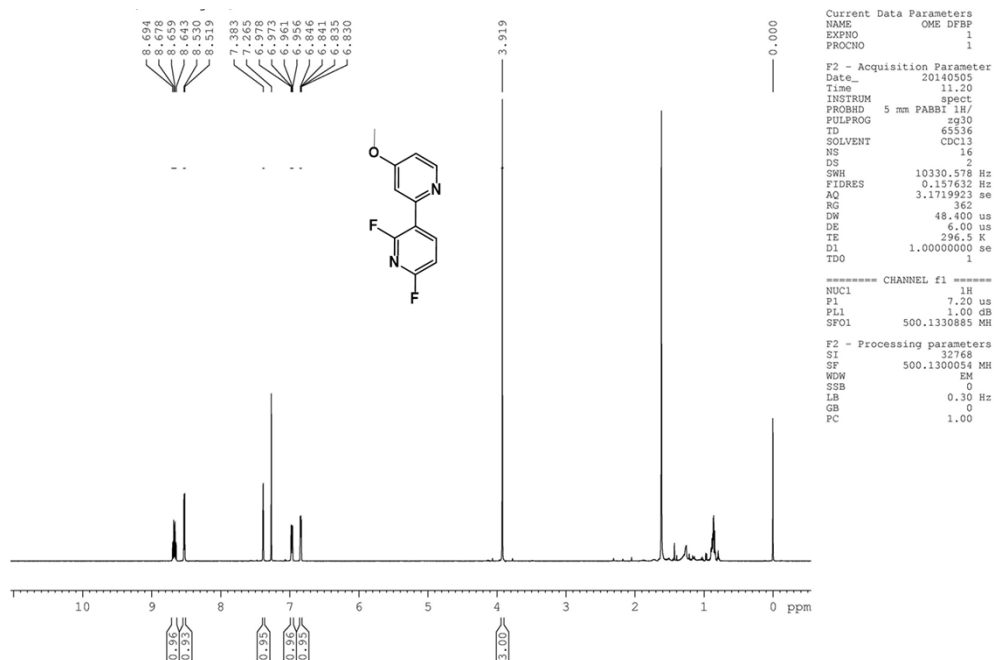


Fig. S22 ¹H-NMR spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4-methoxy-2,3'-bipyridine (**L4**).

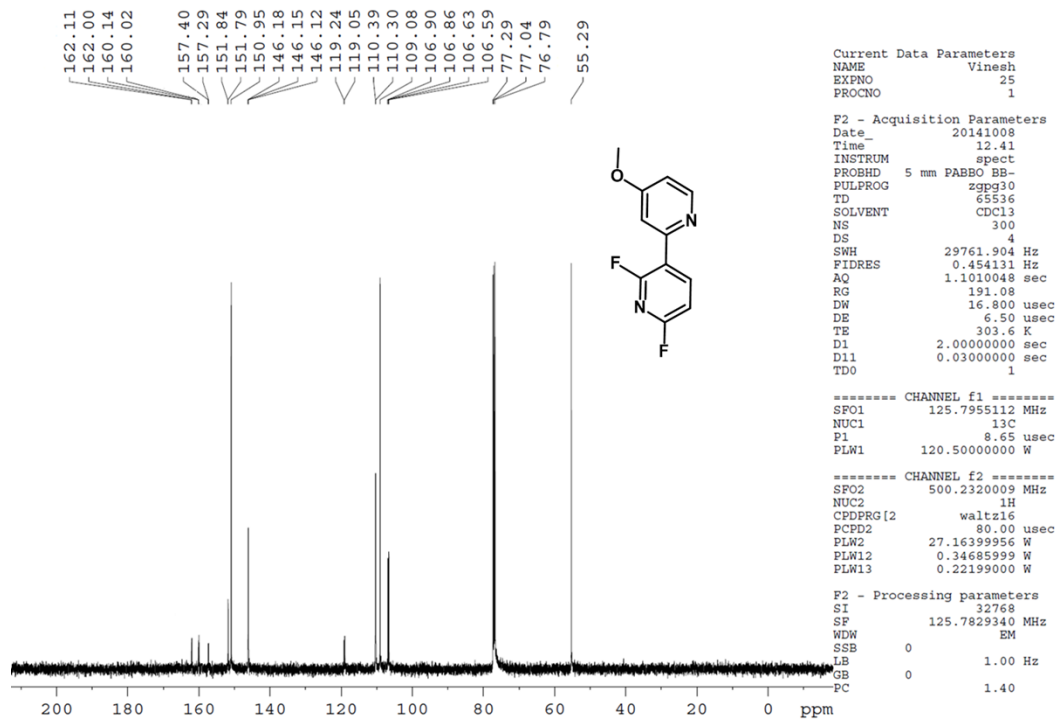


Fig. S23 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4-methoxy-2,3'-bipyridine (L4).

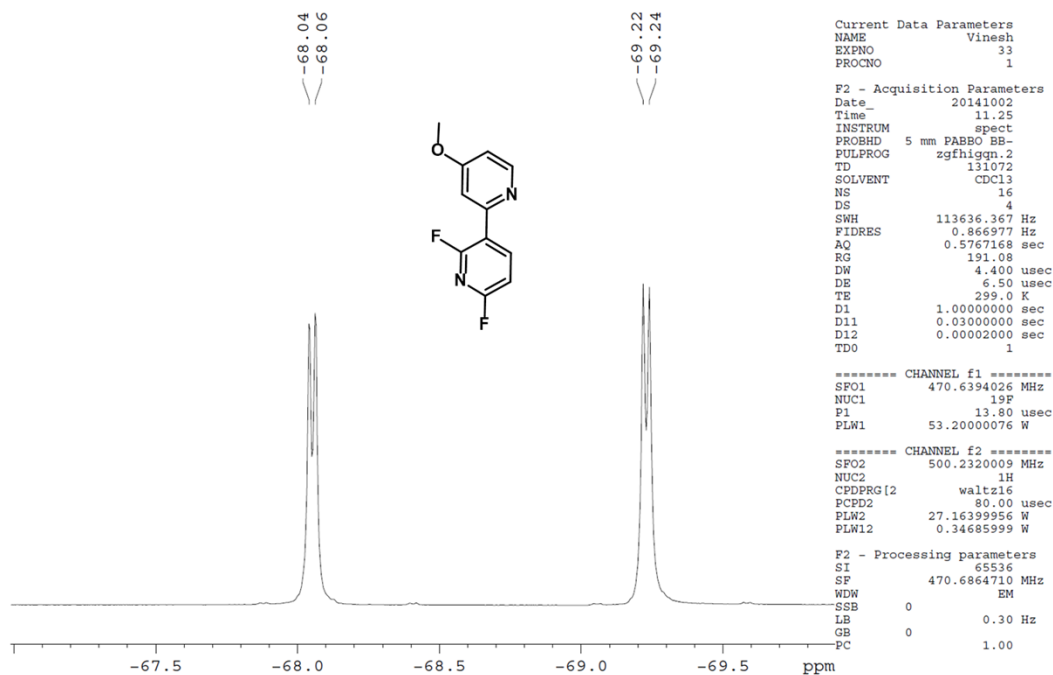


Fig. S24 ¹⁹F-NMR spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4-methoxy-2,3'-bipyridine (L4).

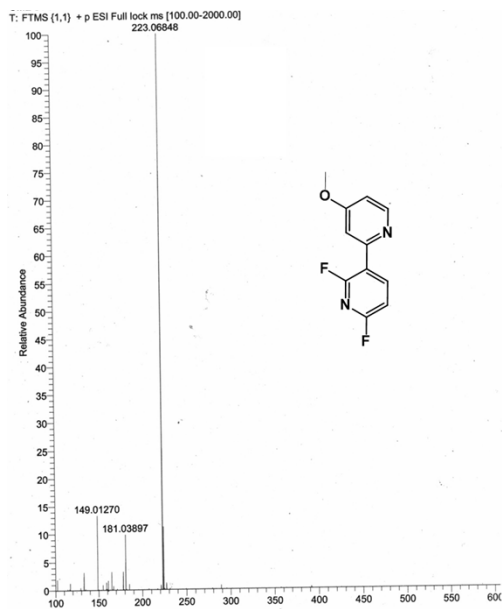


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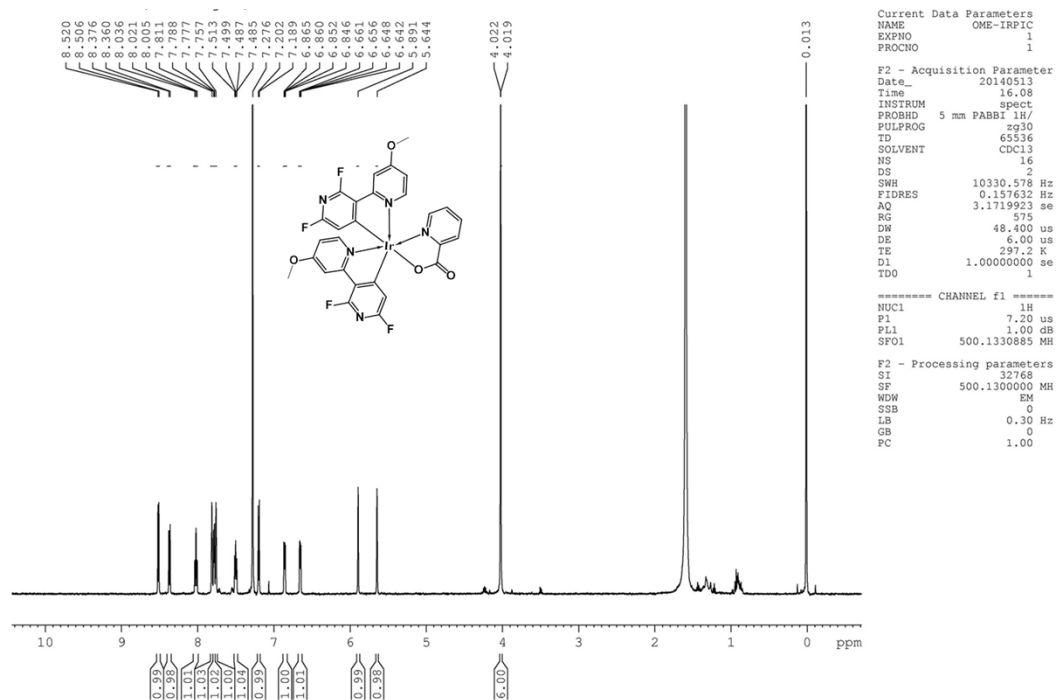


Fig. S26 ¹H-NMR spectrum of complex **Ir4**.

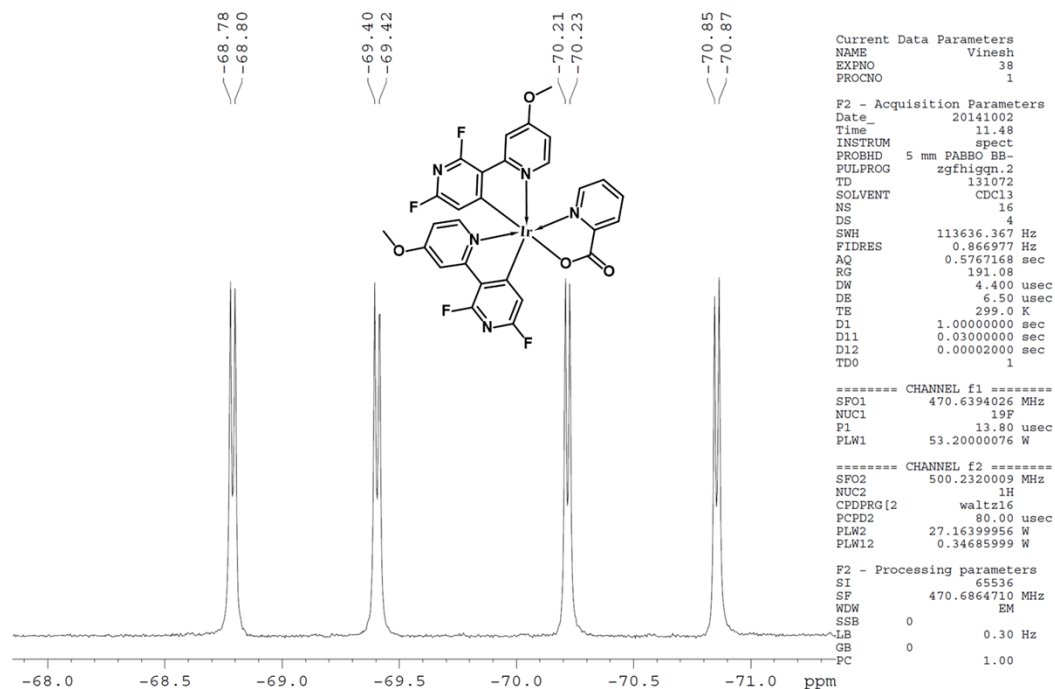


Fig. S27 ^{19}F -NMR spectrum of complex **Ir4**.

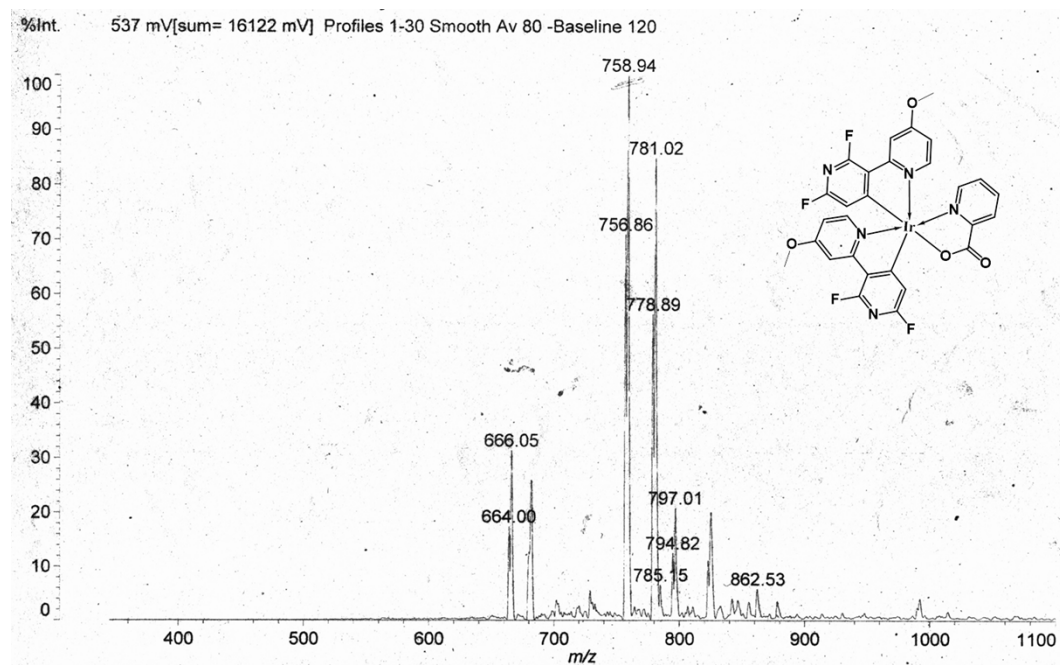


Fig. S28 MALDI-TOF spectrum of complex **Ir4**. 758.94 ($\text{M}+1$) $^{+}$.

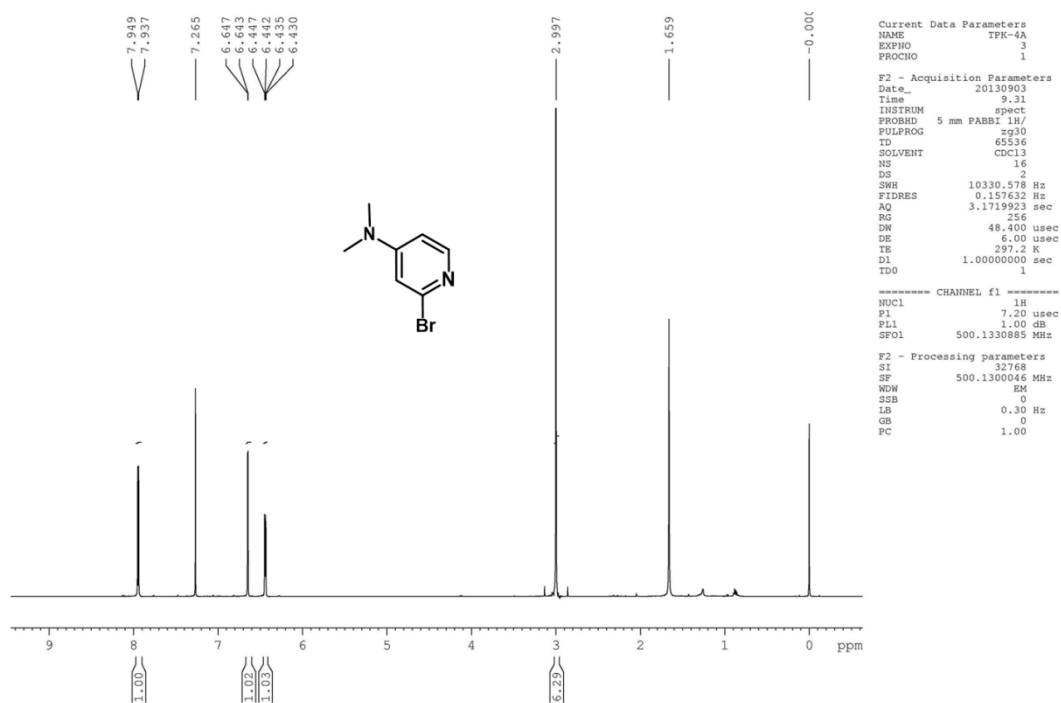


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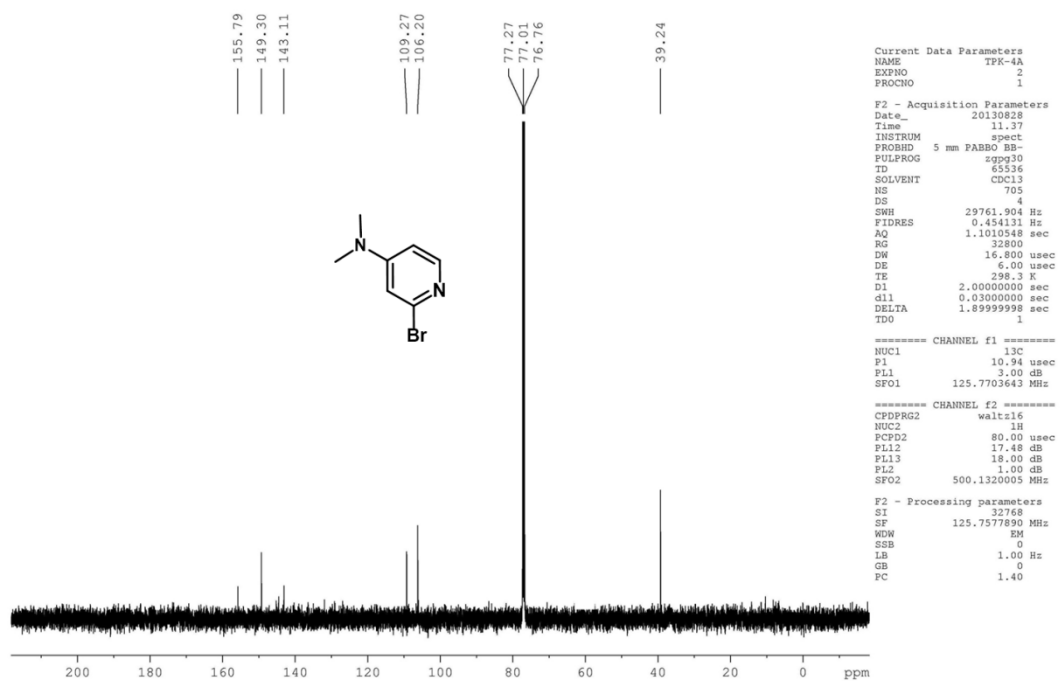


Fig. S30 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of 2-bromo-4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine (L5a).

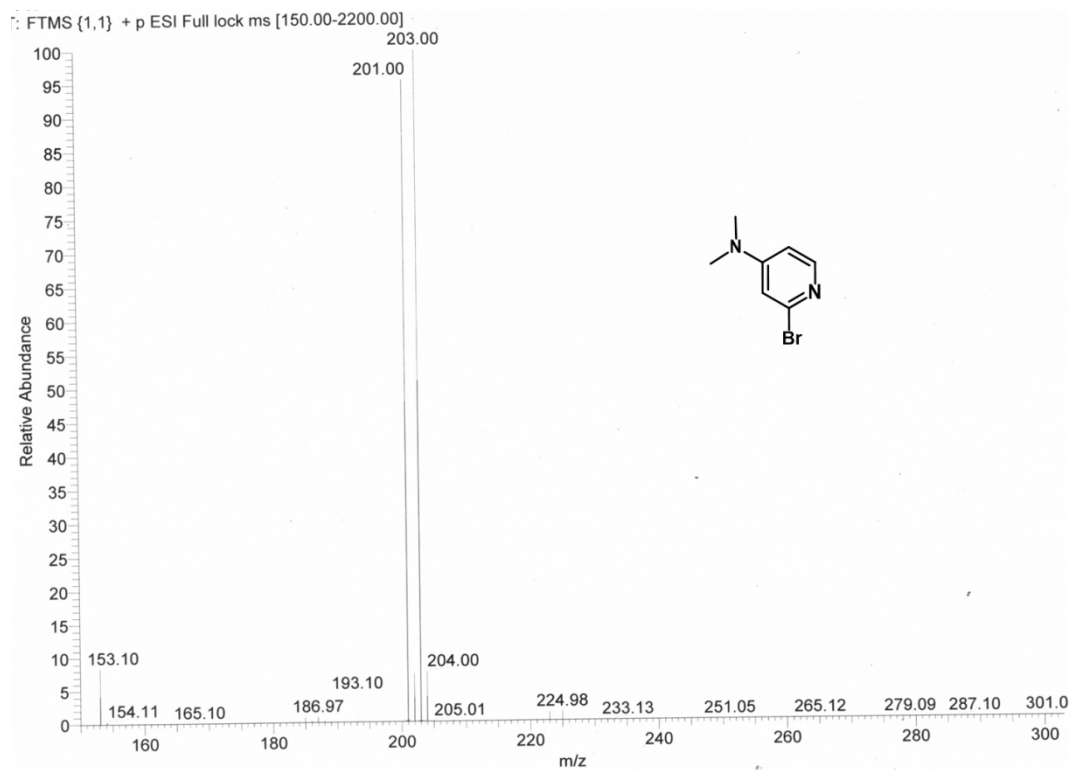


Fig. S31 ESI-MS spectrum of 2-bromo-4-N,N-dimethylaminopyridine (**L5a**) 203.00 (M+2)⁺.

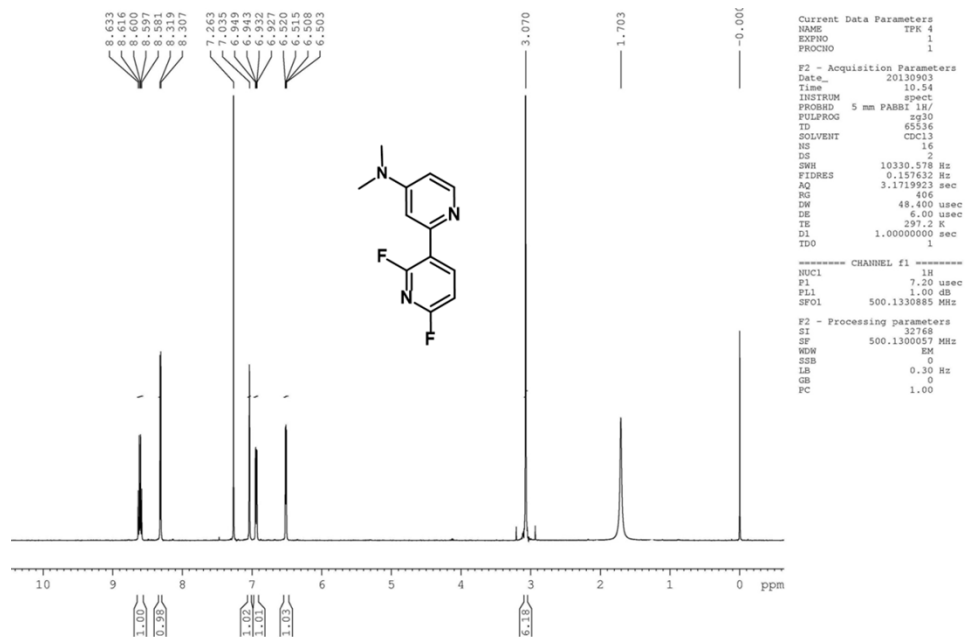


Fig. S32 ¹H-NMR spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4-(N,N-dimethylamine)-2,3'-bipyridine (**L5**).

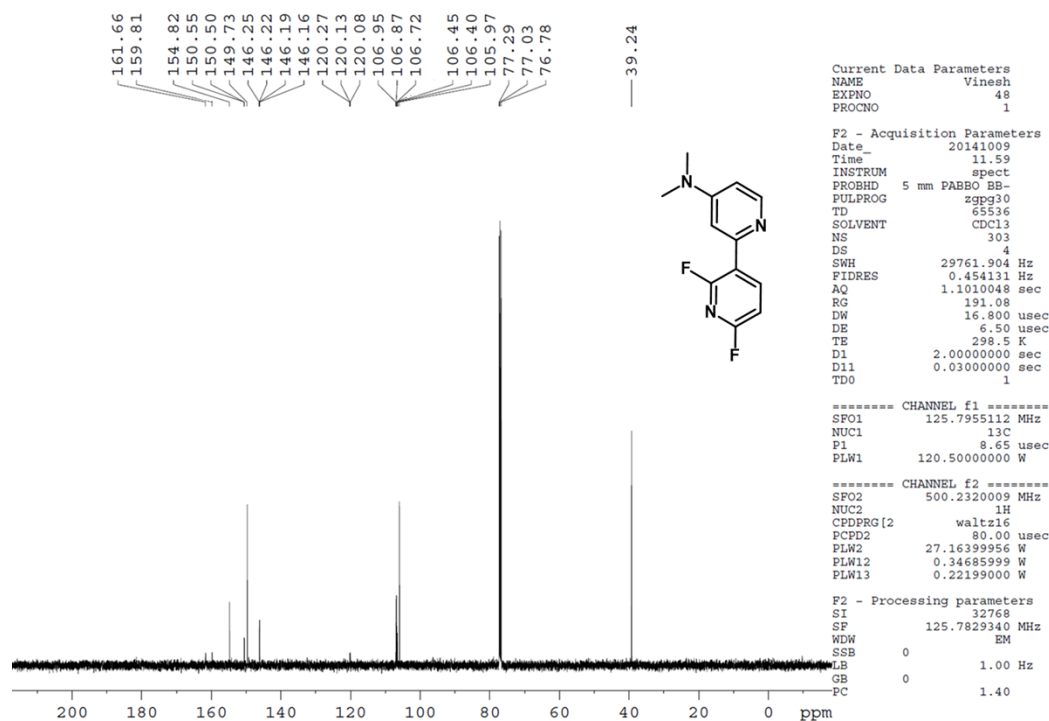


Fig. S33 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4-(N,N-dimethylamine)-2,3'-bipyridine (L5).

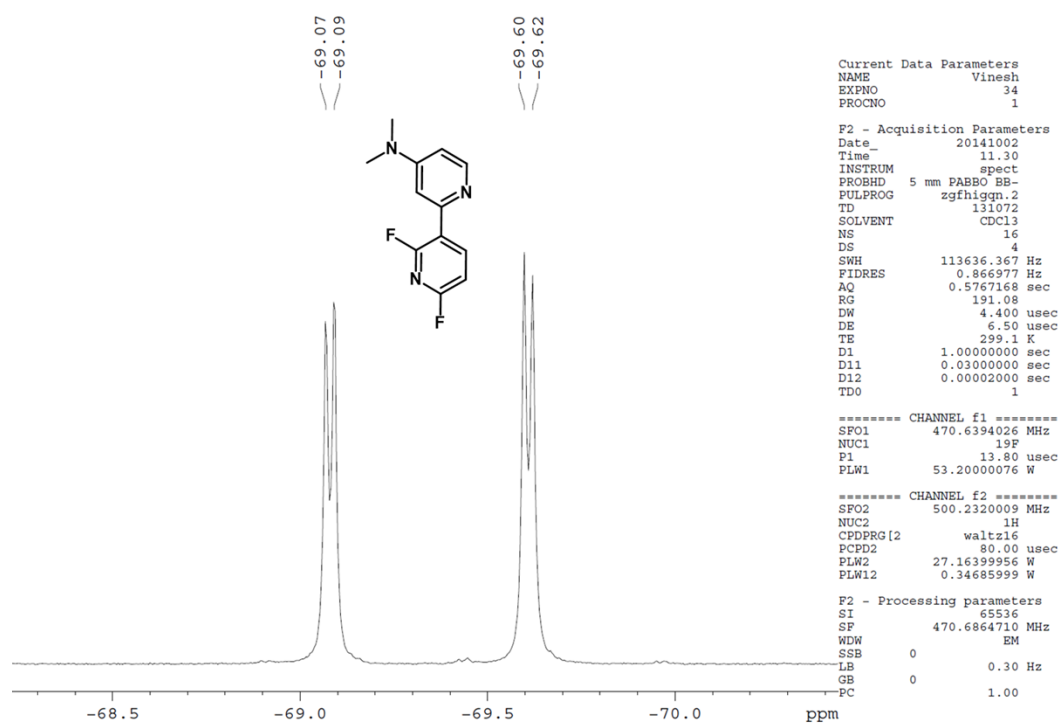


Fig. S34 ¹⁹F-NMR spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4-(N,N-dimethylamine)-2,3'-bipyridine (L5).

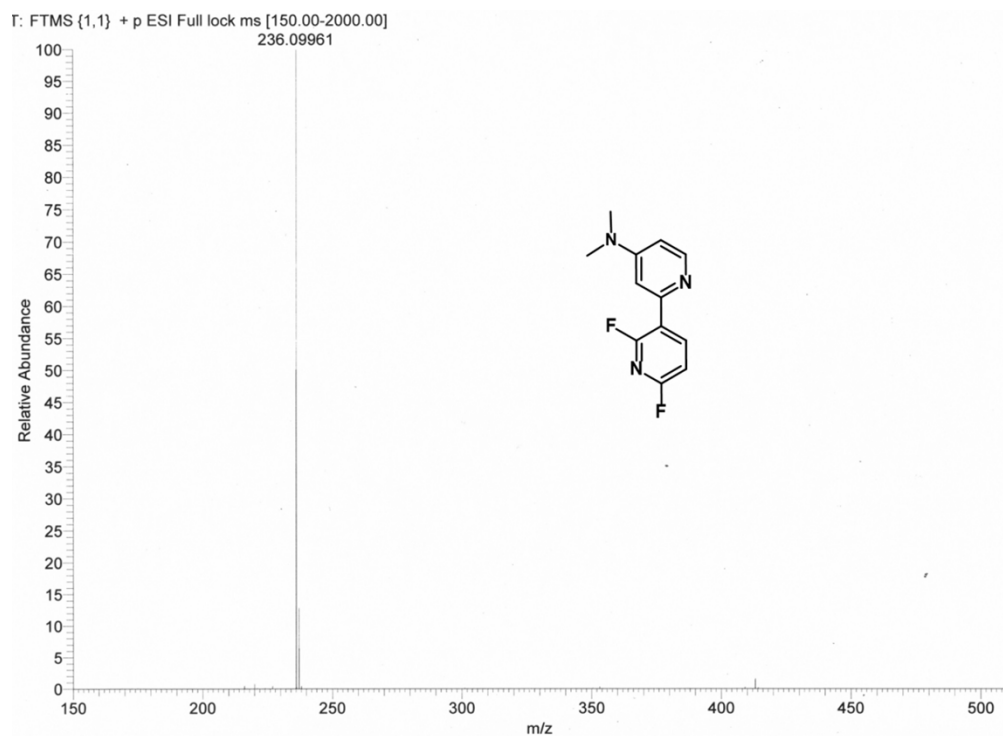


Fig. S35 ESI-MS spectrum of 2',6'-difluoro-4-(N,N-dimethylamine)-2,3'-bipyridine (**L5**) 236.09 ($M+1$)⁺.

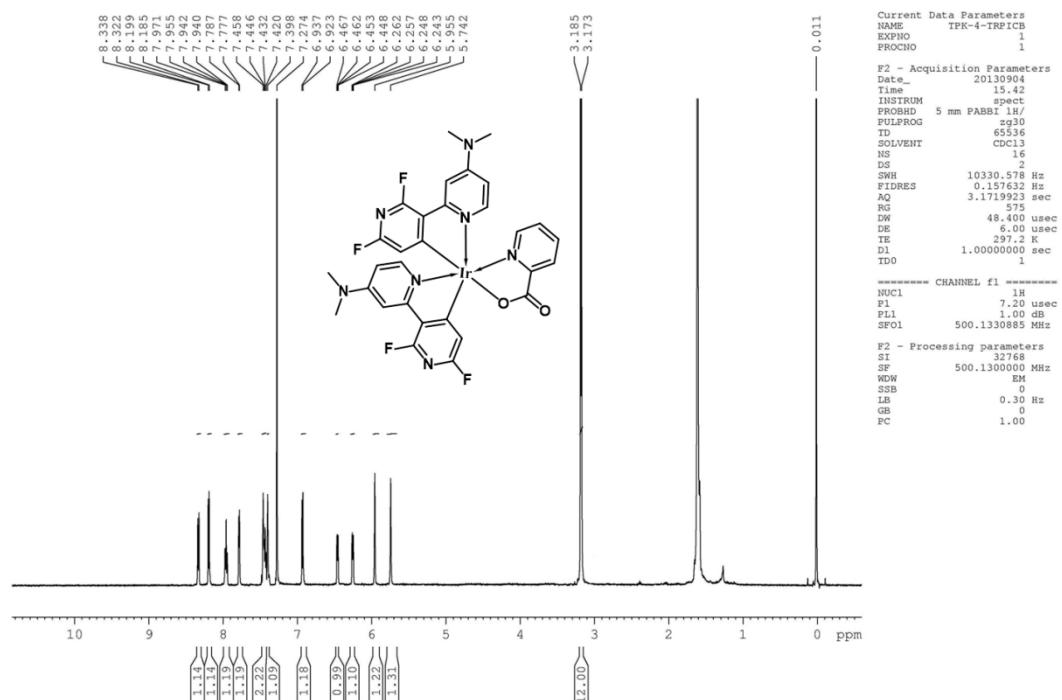


Fig. S36 ¹H-NMR spectrum of complex **Ir5**.

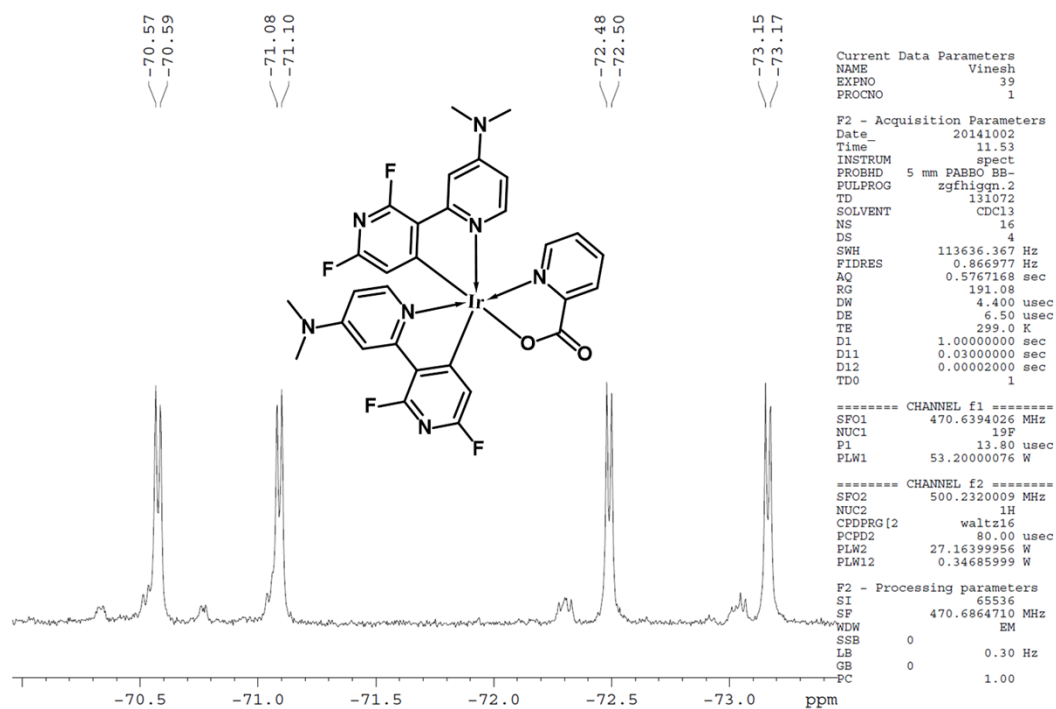


Fig. S37 ^{19}F -NMR spectrum of complex **Ir5**.

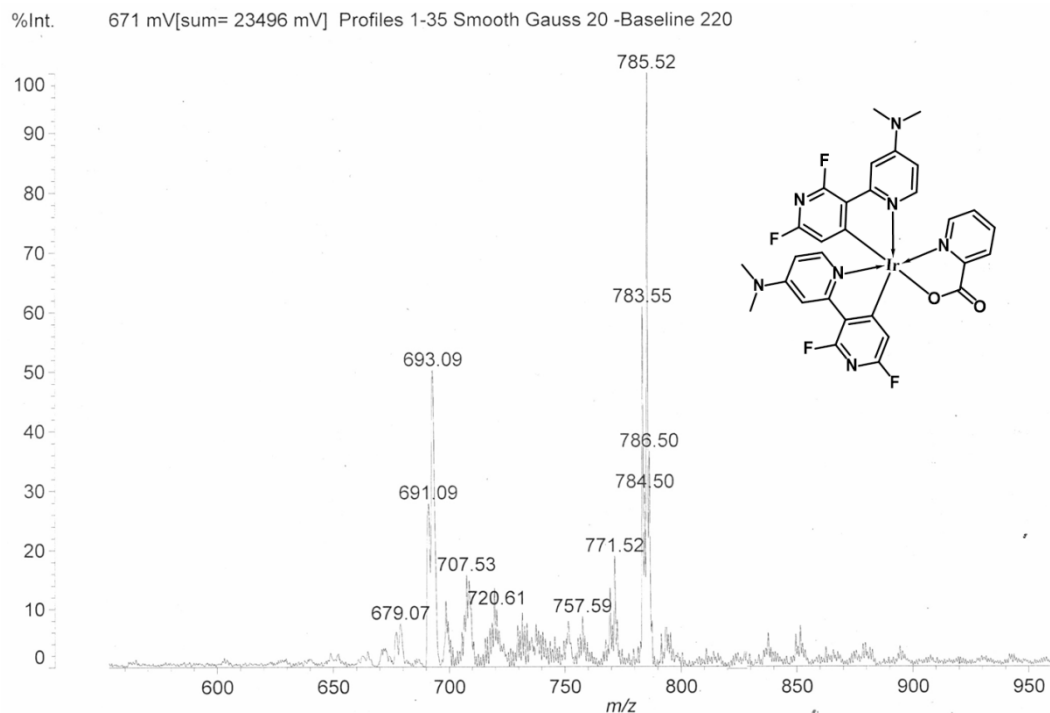


Fig. S38 MALDI-TOF spectrum of complex **Ir5**, 785.52 ($\text{M}+1$) $^+$.

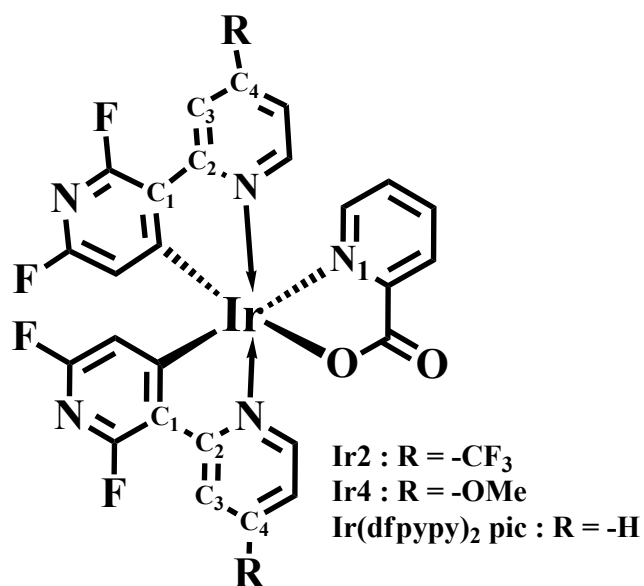


Fig. S39 General structure of the complexes shows the label used for selected atoms as used in Table 2.

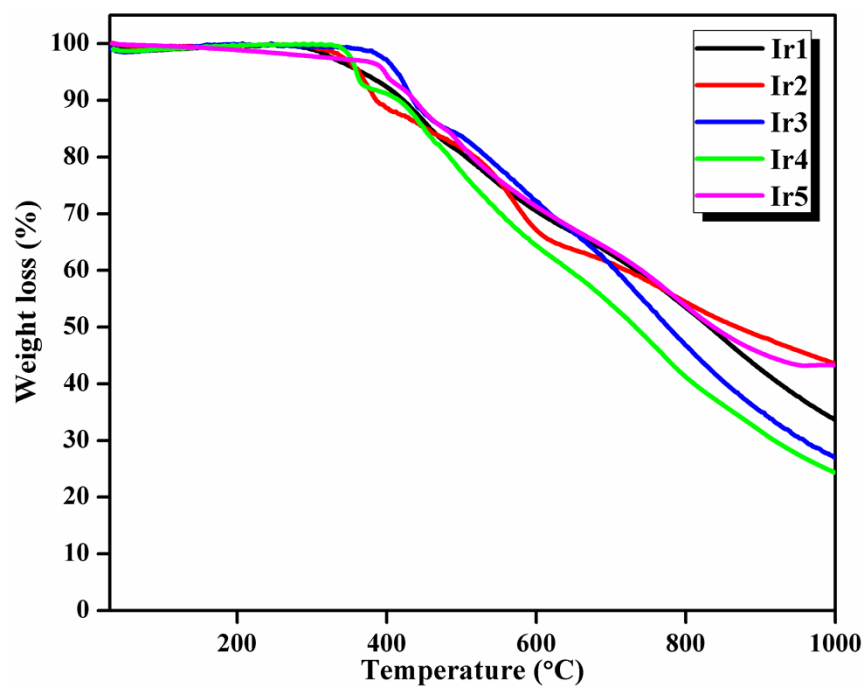


Fig. S40 Thermogravimetric curves for complex **Ir1** **Ir5** under N₂ atmosphere.

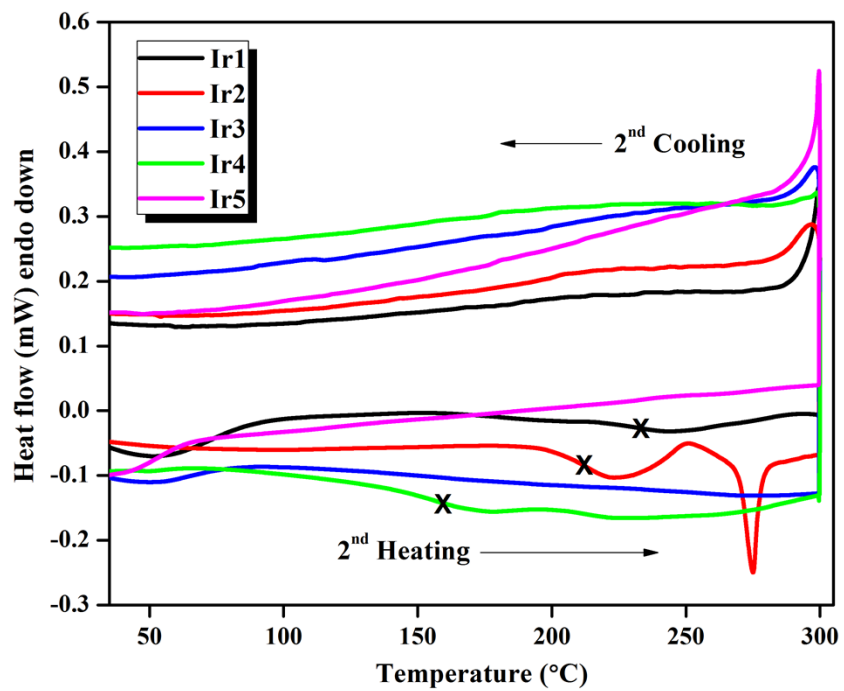


Fig. S41 Differential scanning calorimetric curves for complex **Ir1** **Ir5** under N₂ atmosphere.

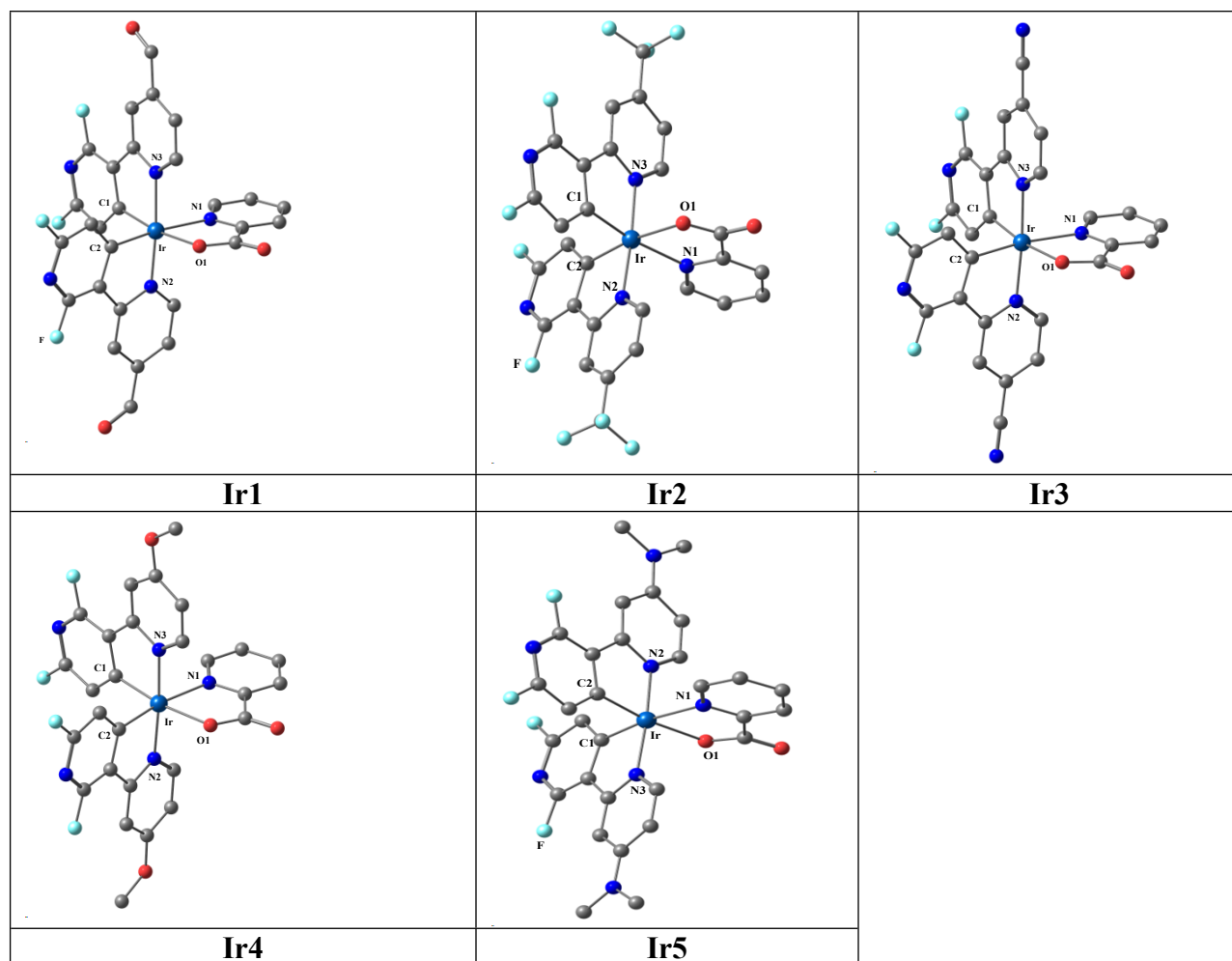


Fig. S42 Optimized geometrical structures of complex **Ir1** **Ir5**.

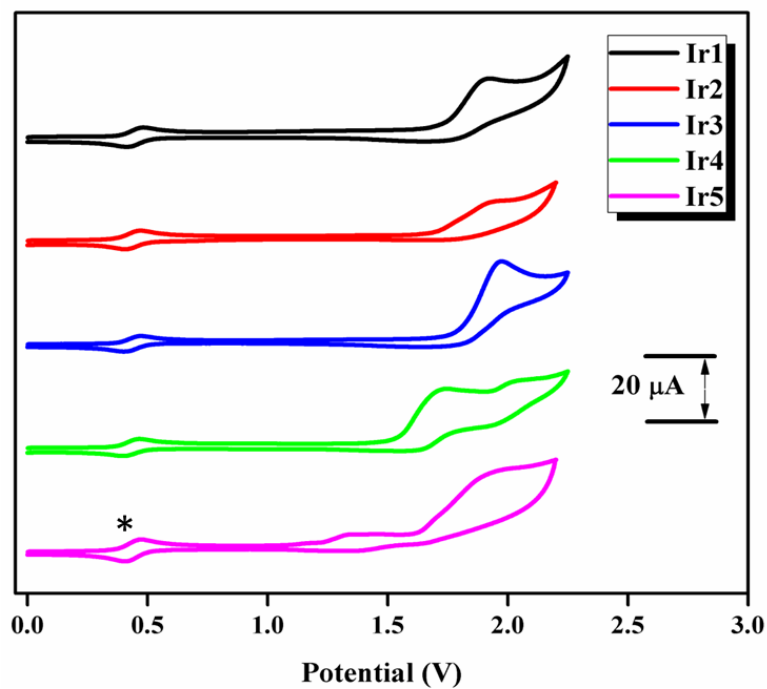


Fig. S43 Comparison of oxidation potentials (vs Ag/AgCl in CH_3CN) of **Ir1**–**Ir5**, (oxidation potential $\text{FeCp}_2/\text{FeCp}_2^+ = 0.45$ V, marked with asterisk).

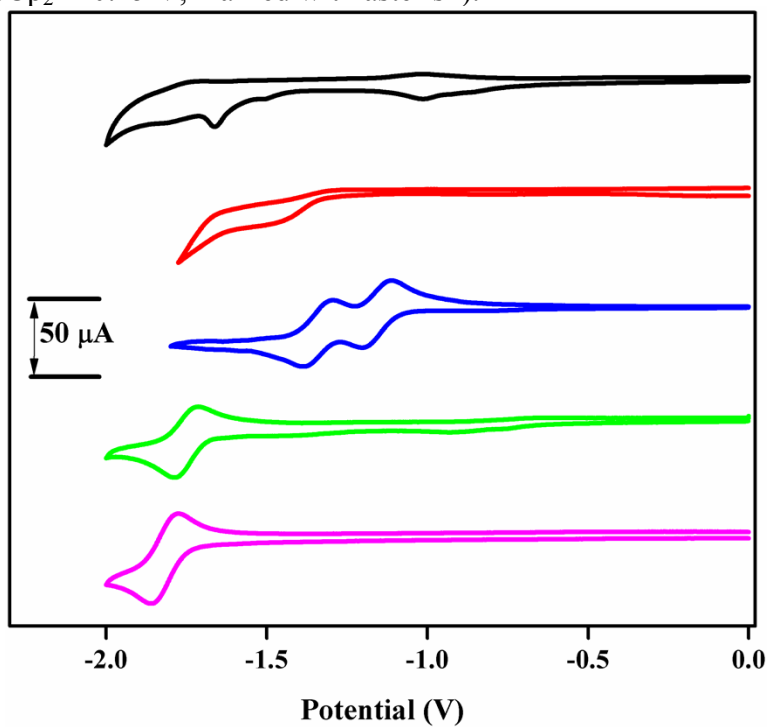


Fig. S44 Comparison of reduction potentials (vs Ag/AgCl in CH_3CN) of **Ir1**–**Ir5**,

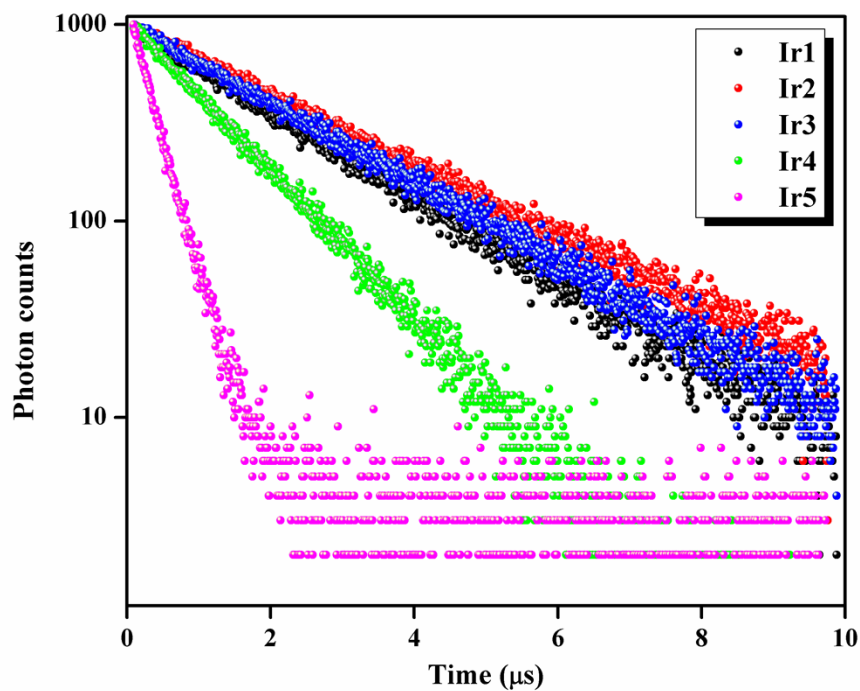


Fig. S45 Lifetime decay profiles of complex **Ir1**–**Ir5** in degassed dichloromethane solution ($c = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ M, $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375$ nm) at 298 K.

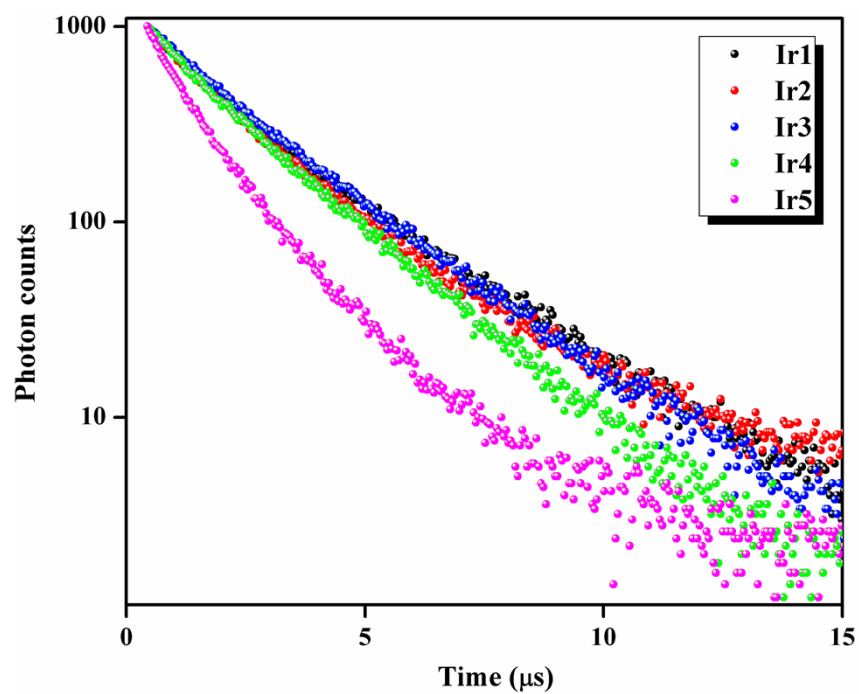


Fig. S46 Lifetime decay profiles of complex **Ir1**–**Ir5** in 5 wt% doped PMMA film ($\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375$ nm) at 298 K.

Table S1 Selected Bond Lengths for Complexes **Ir2** and **Ir4**

Selected bond lengths for Ir2 (Å)			
Number	Atom1	Atom2	Length
1	Ir1	N6	2.150(11)
2	Ir1	N5	2.045(11)
3	Ir1	N4	2.026(10)
4	Ir1	C3A	1.966(16)
5	Ir1	C2A	1.987(10)
6	Ir1	O1	2.115(11)
Selected bond lengths for Ir4 (Å)			
1	Ir1	N1	2.048(2)
2	Ir1	N14	2.050(2)
3	Ir1	N27	2.125(2)
4	Ir1	O33A	2.158(2)
5	Ir1	C12	1.983(2)
6	Ir1	C26	2.000(3)

Table S2 Selected Bond Angles for **Ir2**

Selected bond angles for Ir2 (°)				
Number	Atom1	Atom2	Atom3	Angle
1	N6	Ir1	N5	88.7(5)
2	N6	Ir1	N4	96.0(5)
3	N6	Ir1	C3A	172.5(5)
4	N6	Ir1	C2A	99.0(5)
5	N6	Ir1	O1	77.1(5)
6	N5	Ir1	N4	175.2(5)
7	N5	Ir1	C3A	96.1(5)
8	N5	Ir1	C2A	81.8(5)
9	N5	Ir1	O1	94.2(5)
10	N4	Ir1	C3A	79.1(5)
11	N4	Ir1	C2A	98.3(5)
12	N4	Ir1	O1	85.9(5)
13	C3A	Ir1	C2A	87.4(6)
14	C3A	Ir1	O1	96.8(5)
15	C2A	Ir1	O1	174.5(5)

Table S3 Selected Bond Angles for **Ir4**

Selected bond angles for Ir4 (°)				
Number	Atom1	Atom2	Atom3	Angle
1	C12	Ir1	C26	88.2(1)
2	C12	Ir1	N1	80.8(1)
3	C12	Ir1	N14	96.4(1)
4	C12	Ir1	N27	94.50(9)
5	C12	Ir1	O33A	169.19(9)
6	C26	Ir1	N1	93.9(1)
7	C26	Ir1	N14	80.3(1)
8	C26	Ir1	N27	174.78(9)
9	C26	Ir1	O33A	100.61(9)
10	N1	Ir1	N14	173.78(9)
11	N1	Ir1	N27	90.91(9)
12	N1	Ir1	O33A	92.24(8)
13	N14	Ir1	N27	94.89(9)
14	N14	Ir1	O33A	91.25(8)
15	N27	Ir1	O33A	77.24(8)

Table S4 Intermolecular Hydrogen Bond Interactions for **Ir2**

D-H $\cdots$ A	d(D-H) [Å]	d(H $\cdots$ A) [Å]	d(D $\cdots$ A) [Å]	<(DHA) [°]
C(42)-H(42A) $\cdots$ O(49)iv	0.93	2.66	3.299(3)	127
C(3)-H(3A) $\cdots$ F(50)i	0.93	3.06	3.821(5)	140
C(4)-H(4A) $\cdots$ F(51) ii	0.93	3.06	3.953(2)	161
C(3)-H(3A) $\cdots$ N(16) i	0.93	2.43	3.168(1)	136
C(17)-H(17A) $\cdots$ N(18)iii	0.93	2.61	3.468(7)	153

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: i) $x, x-y, 1/2+z$; ii) $y, -x+y, -z$; iii) $y, x, 1/2-z$; iv) $1-x+y, 1-x, z$

Table S5 Intermolecular Hydrogen Bond Interactions for **Ir4**

D-H $\cdots$ A	d(D-H) [Å]	d(H $\cdots$ A) [Å]	d(D $\cdots$ A) [Å]	<(DHA) [°]
C(3)-H(3) $\cdots$ O(33A)i	0.95	2.81	3.597(3)	130
C(13)-H(13B) $\cdots$ O(17)ii	0.98	2.92	3.791(5)	138
C(90)-H(90B) $\cdots$ O(17)vi	0.99	2.83	3.869(4)	161
C(20)-H(20A) $\cdots$ O(33B)v	0.98	2.61	3.514(4)	141
C(28)-H(28) $\cdots$ O(4)iv	0.95	2.48	3.281(3)	130
C(13)-H(13C) $\cdots$ F(22)iii	0.98	2.45	3.259(4)	130
C(13)-H(13C) $\cdots$ F(10)iv	0.98	2.57	3.410(4)	134
C(20)-H(20B) $\cdots$ F(8)vi	0.98	2.77	3.575(4)	131
C(20)-H(20B) $\cdots$ N(9)vi	0.98	2.67	3.642(4)	150
C(90)-H(90A) $\cdots$ N(23)vii	0.99	2.37	3.447(5)	171

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: i) $1-x, 2-y, 1-z, -1/2+z$; ii) $-1+x, 3/2-y, 1/2+z$; iii) $-1+x, y, z$; iv) $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$; v) $1+x, y, z$; vi) $2-x, 1-y, 1-z$; vii) $2-x, -1/2+y, 3/2-z$

Table S6 Selected Bond Distances, Bond Angles and Dihedral Angles from the Optimized Ground (**S₀**) and Triplet State (**T₁**) Geometry for the Complexes **Ir1-Ir5** Together with the Experimental Values for **Ir2** and **Ir4**

	Ir1		Ir2		Ir3		Ir4		Ir5		Exp	
	S₀	T₁	S₀	T₁	S₀	T₁	S₀	T₁	S₀	T₁	Ir2	Ir4
Bond length (Å)												
Ir-N1	2.207	2.207	2.208	2.209	2.207	2.209	2.204	2.215	2.204	2.222	2.150	2.125
Ir-N2	2.073	2.010	2.062	2.086	2.073	2.001	2.081	2.023	2.067	2.099	2.046	2.050
Ir-N3	2.060	2.093	2.075	2.021	2.060	2.098	2.067	2.087	2.081	1.992	2.025	2.048
Ir-C1	2.006	2.011	2.006	2.002	2.006	2.011	2.003	2.005	2.005	2.016	1.965	1.983
Ir-C2	2.007	2.004	2.005	2.008	2.007	2.009	2.005	2.004	2.001	2.007	1.987	2.000
Ir-O1	2.167	2.148	2.165	2.158	2.163	2.143	2.173	2.167	2.177	2.162	2.115	2.157
Bond length(deg)												
N3-Ir-N2	175.3	175.2	175.5	175.6	175.5	175.2	175.2	175.4	175.2	175.0	175.1	173.7
N3-Ir-N1	89.0	88.3	95.7	95.5	88.9	88.3	88.8	88.4	96.1	96.0	96.0	90.9
N3-Ir-O1	92.7	92.1	88.8	90.4	92.7	91.5	93.3	92.5	88.7	92.6	85.9	92.2
N3-Ir-C2	95.2	95.0	98.0	96.9	95.3	94.9	95.3	94.5	97.8	97.0	98.3	94.0
N3-Ir-C1	80.6	80.2	80.3	81.6	80.6	80.0	80.5	80.2	80.1	81.8	79.1	80.8
Dihedral Angle (deg)												
N2-C2-Ir-N1	-64.0	-71.8	87.4	86.8	-64.3	-73.4	-65.0	-73.4	87.2	86.5	87.4	-63.9
O1-N1-Ir-C1	173.4	172.4	23.1	18.2	173.4	171.6	173.9	172.9	22.7	16.0	35.2	170.0

Table S7 Calculated Energy Levels of the HOMO, HOMO-1, HOMO-2, LUMO, LUMO+1, and LUMO+2 and Percentage of Contribution of Iridium metal (Ir), 2',6'-difluoro-2,3'-bipyridine Derivatives and Picolinate (pic) Ligands

Complex		E (eV)	Ir	Substituted pyridyl moiety	Difluoropyridyl moiety	pic
Ir1	LUMO+3	-1.969	1.71	57.94	30.83	13.16
	LUMO+2	-2.224	2.97	3.67	6.79	92.60
	LUMO+1	-2.974	4.7	88.90	10.11	1.01
	LUMO	-3.038	4.89	88.42	9.77	1
						52
	HOMO	-6.422	51.20	7.77	29.44	11.59
	HOMO-1	-6.591	45.11	10.32	62.81	26.71
	HOMO-2	-6.823	6.54	16.57	53.50	30.18
Ir2	LUMO+3	-1.91	1.9	57.81	12.81	27.9
	LUMO+2	-2.25	3.3	4.14	2.45	92.2
	LUMO+1	-2.45	5.4	75.08	15.09	1.9
	LUMO	-2.53	5.3	75.08	41.70	2.9
	HOMO	-6.45	52.1	10.21	27.08	11.1
	HOMO-1	-6.63	47.1	13.82	13.96	25.2
	HOMO-2	-6.89	7.7	26.38	41.70	24.8
Ir3	LUMO+3	-2.174	1.55	64.81	21.81	11.83
	LUMO+2	-2.368	3.03	4.89	0.83	91.24
	LUMO+1	-2.942	5.32	84.19	9.22	1.27
	LUMO	-3.015	5.53	82.61	9.82	2.04
	HOMO	-6.645	51.75	6.79	28.31	13.14
	HOMO-1	-6.782	45.37	9.68	14.77	30.18
	HOMO-2	-7.019	1.53	4.62	15.43	78.42
Ir4	LUMO+3	-1.420	1.95	18.49	2.90	76.66
	LUMO+2	-1.506	5.11	65.34	26.99	2.56
	LUMO+1	-1.661	3.48	58.70	31.15	6.67
	LUMO	-1.875	3.47	5.41	1.70	89.42
	HOMO	-5.978	52.56	8.11	26.59	12.74
	HOMO-1	-6.040	50.11	14.73	13.60	21.55
	HOMO-2	-6.383	49.95	21.18	11.25	17.63
Ir5	LUMO+3	-1.05	2.6	14.60	2.37	80.4
	LUMO+2	-1.18	3.7	63.56	30.00	1.6
	LUMO+1	-1.32	3.5	55.83	27.81	6.6
	LUMO	-1.55	2.8	3.34	0.87	93.0
	HOMO	-5.62	45.0	30.43	9.86	14.6
	HOMO-1	-5.66	53.4	10.28	24.79	11.4
	HOMO-2	-5.86	40.8	52.16	3.85	3.0

Table S8 Calculated Absorption of **Ir1-Ir5** in CH₂Cl₂ Media at TD-B3LYP Level together with Experimental Values

	State	$\lambda(\text{nm})/\text{E}(\text{eV})$	Oscillator	Main configuration	Assign	λ_{exp} (nm)
Ir1	S ₁	434/2.86	0.0111	H→L (90%)	CHOdcbpy/ Ir → CHOdcbpy (ILCT/ MLCT/LLCT)	387
	S ₄	385/3.22	0.1709	H-1→L+1(84%)	CHOdcbpy/ Ir → CHOdcbpy (ILCT/ MLCT)	
	S ₉	357/3.47	0.0796	H-3→L+1(58%)	CHOdcbpy / Ir/ pic→ CHOdcbpy (MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₁₁	341/3.63	0.1191	H-4→L (82%)	CHOdcbpy/ Ir → CHOdcbpy (MLCT/ LLCT)	334
	S ₁₆	318/3.90	0.1416	H→L+3(90%)	CHOdcbpy/ Ir → CHOdcbpy (ILCT/ MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₂₂	292/4.24	0.0560	H-2→L+2 (62%)	CHOdcbpy → pic (LLCT)	
	S ₂₇	280/4.42	0.0572	H-2→L+3(45%)	CHOdcbpy → CHOdcbpy (LLCT)	274
	S ₃₀	278/4.45	0.0203	H-4→L+2(62%)	CHOdcbpy/ Ir→ pic (MLCT/ LLCT)	
Ir2	S ₁	372/ 3.32	0.0016	H→L (95%)	CF ₃ dfbpy/ Ir/ pic→ CF ₃ dfbpy/ Ir (ILCT/ MLCT)	377
	S ₄	343/ 3.61	0.1132	H-1→L+1(71%)	Ir /CF ₃ dfbpy / pic→ CF ₃ dfbpy (ILCT/ MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₇	319/3.88	0.0771	H-2→L+1(36%)	CF ₃ dfbpy / Ir/ pic→ CF ₃ dfbpy/ Ir (ILCT/ MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₁₂	303/4.09	0.1714	H-4→L (42%)	Ir/ pic→ CF ₃ dfbpy (MLCT/ LLCT)	255
	S ₂₀	282/4.39	0.1353	H-1→L+4(74%)	Ir/ CF ₃ dfbpy / pic→ CF ₃ dfbpy (ILCT/ MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₂₈	261/4.73	0.0538	H-6→L (46%)	Ir/ CF ₃ dfbpy / pic→ CF ₃ dfbpy (ILCT/ MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₃₀	259/4.79	0.0414	H-6→L+1(71%)	Ir/ CF ₃ dfbpy / pic→ CF ₃ dfbpy/ Ir (ILCT/ MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₁	415/2.98	0.0191	H→L (93%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → CNdfbpy (MLCT/ ILCT/ LLCT)	391
Ir3	S ₃	388/3.19	0.0008	H-1→L (81%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → CNdfbpy (MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₄	370/3.35	0.1723	H-1→L+1(78%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → CNdfbpy (ILCT/ MLCT)	
	S ₇	337/3.67	0.0850	H-3→L (60%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → CNdfbpy (MLCT/ LLCT)	321
	S ₁₀	327/3.79	0.1204	H-4→L(69%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → CNdfbpy (LLCT/ MLCT)	
	S ₁₄	314/3.94	0.1212	H→L+3(71%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → pic (LLCT/ ILCT/MLCT)	
	S ₁₉	292/4.25	0.0777	H-1→L+4(83%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → CNdfbpy (ILCT/ MLCT)	260
	S ₂₈	272/4.55	0.0647	H-2→L+4 (46%)	CNdfbpy / pic→ CNdfbpy (ILCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₃₀	269/4.60	0.0108	H-3→L+3 (72%)	Ir/ CNdfbpy → pic (MLCT/ LLCT)	

	State	$\lambda(\text{nm})/\text{E}(\text{eV})$	Oscillator	Main configuration	Assign	λ_{exp} (nm)
Ir4	S ₁	349/3.55	0.0047	H→L (97%)	Ir/OMedfbpy→pic (MLCT/LLCT)	355
	S ₄	331/3.75	0.0757	H-1→L+1(82%)	Ir/OMedfbpy →OMedf bpy (MLCT/LLCT/ILCT)	
	S ₇	317/3.91	0.0823	H-2→L(56%)	Ir/OMedfbpy /pic→ pic (LLCT/MLCT/ILCT)	
	S ₂₄	265/4.67	0.2847	H-1→L+5 (34%)	Ir/OMedfbpy → OMedfbpy (MLCT/LLCT/ILCT)	
	S ₂₇	259/4.78	0.0925	H-2→L +5 (39%)	Ir/OMedfbpy /pic → OMedfbpy (MLCT/LLCT)	
	S ₂₉	256/4.83	0.1589	H-2→L+5(33%)	Ir/OMedfbpy /pic → OMedfbpy (MLCT/LLCT)	
	S ₃₀	254/4.88	0.0073	H-3→L+3(58%)	Ir/ pic→ pic (ILCT/ MLCT)	
Ir5	S ₁	365/3.39	0.0122	H→L (92%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ pic (MLCT/ LLCT)	254
	S ₃	351/3.53	0.0385	H-1→L (94%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ pic (MLCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₆	332/3.73	0.1390	H→L+2(81%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic (MLCT/ LLCT/ILCT)	
	S ₁₂	302/4.10	0.0351	H-1→L+3(59%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic (MLCT/ LLCT/ILCT)	
	S ₂₁	277/4.46	0.0953	H-1→L+4(33%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic (ILCT/ MLCT/ LLCT)	265
	S ₂₆	269/4.59	0.1854	H→L+5(21%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ NMe ₂ dfbpy (MLCT/ ILCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₂₉	265/4.67	0.3187	H-1→L+5(24%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ NMe ₂ dfbpy (MLCT/ ILCT/ LLCT)	
	S ₃₀	263/ 4.70	0.0788	H→L+6(22%)	Ir/ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ pic→ NMe ₂ dfbpy/ Ir (MLCT/ ILCT/ LLCT)	

Table S9 Calculated singlet-triplet splitting energy at the B3LYP/6-31G* level.

Complexes	S ₁	T ₁	ΔE_{S1-T1}
Ir1	2.561	2.054	0.507
Ir2	2.914	2.232	0.682
Ir3	2.706	2.112	0.594
Ir4	3.103	2.339	0.764
Ir5	3.050	2.329	0.721

