## **Supplementary Information**

## Porous zinc and cobalt 2-nitroimidazolate frameworks with six-membered ring windows and a layered cobalt 2-nitroimidazolate polymorph

Angelica Orsi,<sup>*a*</sup> David J. Price,<sup>*a*</sup> Jürgen Kahr,<sup>*a*</sup> Renjith S. Pillai,<sup>*b*</sup> Scott Sneddon,<sup>*a*</sup> Shuai Cao,<sup>*c*</sup> Virginie Benoit,<sup>*d*</sup> Magdalena M. Łozińska,<sup>*a*</sup> David B. Cordes,<sup>*a*</sup> Alexandra M. Z. Slawin,<sup>*a*</sup> Philip L. Llewellyn,<sup>*d*</sup> Ian Casely,<sup>*c*</sup> Sharon E. Ashbrook,<sup>*a*</sup> Guillaume Maurin,<sup>*b*</sup> and Paul A. Wright,<sup>*a*,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> EaStCHEM School of Chemistry, University of St Andrews, Purdie Building, North Haugh,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9ST, United Kingdom.

<sup>*b*</sup> Institut Charles Gerhardt Montpellier, UMR-5253, Université de Montpellier, CNRS, ENSCM, Place E. Bataillon, 34095 Montpellier cedex 05, France.

<sup>c</sup> Johnson Matthey Technology Centre, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9NH, UK.

<sup>*d*</sup> Aix-Marseille University, CNRS, MADIREL (UMR 7246), Centre de St Jérôme, 13397 Marseille cedex 20, France.



**Figure S1.** PXRD patterns of (a) the simulated PXRD from single crystal XRD data of ZIF-65(Zn) and (b) as-prepared ZIF-65(Zn).



**Figure S2.** PXRD patterns of (a) the simulated PXRD from single crystal XRD data of ZIF-65(Co) and (b) as-prepared ZIF-65(Co).



**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of histamine (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.49 (d, *J* = 1.1 Hz, 1H, CH), 6.73 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.73 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.55 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>).



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2-nitroimidazole (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.26 (s, 2H, CH),

6.59 (s, HCl).



**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **1** from solvothermal preparation, dissolved (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.29 (s, 2H, CH), 6.67 (s, HCl).



**Figure S6**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **2** from solvothermal preparation, dissolved (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.36 (s, 2H, CH), 5.71 (s, HCl).



**Figure S7.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2,6-diaminopurine (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 12.09 (s, 1H, NH), 7.65 (s, 1H, CH), 6.62 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 5.66 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 3.38 (s, H<sub>2</sub>O).



**Figure S8.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **3** from solvothermal preparation, dissolved (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.12 (s, DMF), 7.35 (s, 2H, CH), 5.95 (s, HCl), 2.85 (s, DMF), 2.96 (s, DMF).



Figure S9. Stacked <sup>1</sup>H NMR of histamine (red) and dissolved compound 1 (blue), compound2 (purple) and 2-nitroimidazole (green).



**Figure S10.** Stacked <sup>1</sup>H NMR of 2,6-diaminopurine (pink), dissolved compound **3** (orange) and 2-nitroimidazole (green).



**Figure S11.** TGA (flowing air, ramp rate 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup>) of as-prepared compound 1, 2 and 3 from the described synthetic procedures.



Figure S12. TGA (flowing air, ramp rate 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup>) of as-prepared ZIF-65(Zn).



**Figure S13.** N<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherms (-196 °C (top) and 25 °C (bottom)) for ZIF-65(Zn) (red) and compound **1** samples from the recrystallisation of ZIF-65(Zn) (black) and from direct solvothermal synthesis (blue). Activation conditions: 110 °C (circles), 140 °C (squares) and 200 °C (triangles) for 6 hours.



**Figure S14.** PXRD patterns of as-prepared compound **1** (bottom) and after various stability tests: (a) furnace heated (60 °C, 18 h,  $N_2$ +H<sub>2</sub>O flow), (b) immersion in water (room temperature, 72 h), (c) water reflux (24 h) followed by (d) re-immersion in MeOH (room temperature 48 h).



Figure S15. SEM images of compound 1 after refluxing in water (24 h).



**Figure S16.** N<sub>2</sub> (-196 °C, top) and CO<sub>2</sub> (25 °C, bottom) isotherms of a dense phase achieved from refluxing compound **1** in water. Activation conditions: 140 °C for 6 hours.



**Figure S17.** DFT-geometry optimized structures of the seven plausible models of compound 1 viewed along the *a* vector direction. Models: 1 (a), 2 (b), 3 (c), 4 (d), 5 (e), 6 (f) and 7 (g). Zn, orange; C, grey; O, red; N, blue; H, white.



**Figure S18.** SCXRD of compound **1** compared to the calculated PXRD patterns for the seven DFT-geometry optimized structures of compound **1**.



Figure S19. Fitting of the <sup>13</sup>C (9.4 T, 12.5 kHz MAS) CP MAS NMR spectrum of compound 1, performed using dmfit, with the (integrated) intensity ratio of the two C–NO<sub>2</sub> resonances (1.0:2.8) shown.



Figure S20. DSC (left) and DTA (right) of compound 1 (in flowing air).



**Figure S21.** A plot of <sup>13</sup>C (9.4 T, 12.5 kHz MAS) chemical shift position as a function of temperature for CH (left) and C-NO<sub>2</sub> (right) species in compound **1**.



**Figure S22.**  $CO_2$  (black),  $CH_4$  (pink) and  $N_2$  (green) adsorption enthalpies (0-10 bar, 30 °C) for compound 1 from the recrystallisation of ZIF-65(Zn).



**Figure S23.** SEM images of as-prepared ZIF-65(Co) (top), compound **2** from the recrystallisation of ZIF-65(Co) (middle) and compound **2** from solvothermal synthesis (bottom).



**Figure S24**. PXRD of compound **2** via (a) direct solvothermal synthesis and (b) recrystallization of ZIF-65(Co), and (c) of as prepared ZIF-65(Co).



**Figure S25.** Difference plot (purple) between experimental PXRD profile of compound **2** from the recrystallisation of ZIF-65(Co) (red) and simulated PXRD (green).



Figure S26. PXRD patterns (left) of as-prepared compound 2 from solvothermal synthesis and the same sample after refluxing in water (8 hours). SEM image (right) of compound 2 particles after refluxing in water.



**Figure S27.** (Above) Low pressure  $CO_2$  single gas adsorption isotherms (298 K, 1 bar, top) for ZIF-65(Co) and compound **2** from direct solvothermal synthesis. (Below) High pressure isotherm for compound 2 from direct synthesis (298 K, 10 bar, bottom) Activation conditions: 110 °C (circles), 150 °C (squares) and 200 °C (triangles) for 6 h.



**Figure S28**. PXRD patterns of compound **3** prepared via two different synthetic routes: (b) recrystallization of ZIF-65(Co) and (c) direct solvothermal synthesis (\* Teflon insert), compared to (a) the simulated PXRD from single crystal XRD data of compound **3** 



**Figure S29.**  $N_2$  adsorption isotherm (298 K, top) for compound **3**. High pressure  $CO_2$  single gas adsorption isotherms (298 K, 10 bar, bottom) for compound **3** from recrystallisation of ZIF-65(Co) and inset the low pressure isotherm (298 K, 1 bar). Activation conditions: 120 °C for 6 h.



**Figure S30.** SEM images of compound **3** from the recrystallisation of ZIF-65(Co) (top) and from solvothermal synthesis (bottom).

**Table S1.** Gas adsorption parameters for compound **1**. Adsorbed quantities (30 °C, 1 bar), Henry's law constants (K<sub>H</sub>), enthalpies of adsorption ((-) $\Delta h_{ads}$ ), selectivity ( $\alpha$ ) CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> calculated at 1 bar and selectivity ( $\alpha$ ) CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> calculated at 1 and 5 bar.

Gas type	Amount adsorbed/ mmol g <sup>-1</sup>	K <sub>H</sub> / mmol g <sup>-1</sup> bar <sup>-1</sup>	(-)∆h <sub>ads</sub> / kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	α CO <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> (15/85%) 1 bar	α CO <sub>2</sub> /CH <sub>4</sub> (50/50%) 1 bar	α CO <sub>2</sub> /CH <sub>4</sub> (50/50%) 5 bar
$CO_2$	1.80	35.4	39.5	_		
$\mathrm{CH}_4$	0.45	0.7	26.0	75	17	10
N <sub>2</sub>	0.21	0.2	18.5	-		