

*Electronic supplementary information (ESI)*

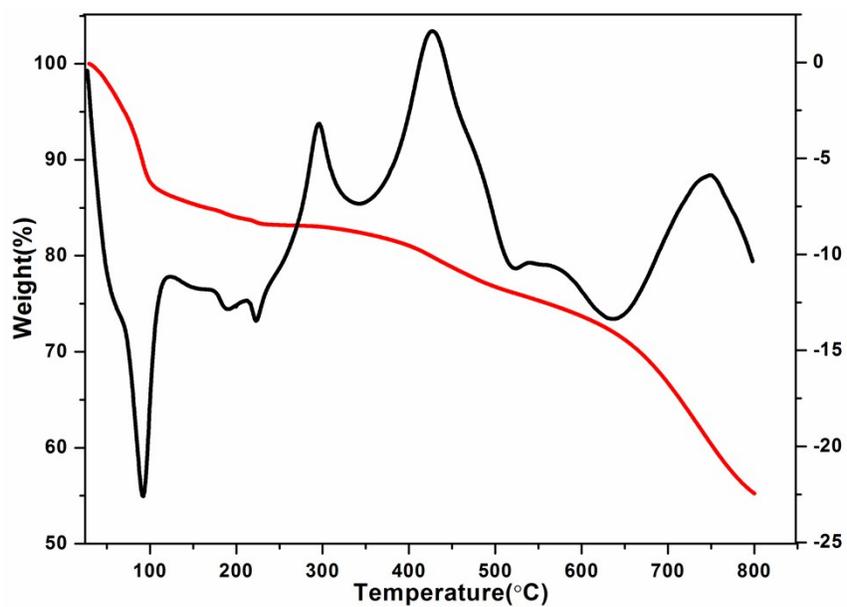
**Two hybrid transition metal triphosphonates decorated with tripodal imidazole ligand: synthesis, structures and properties**

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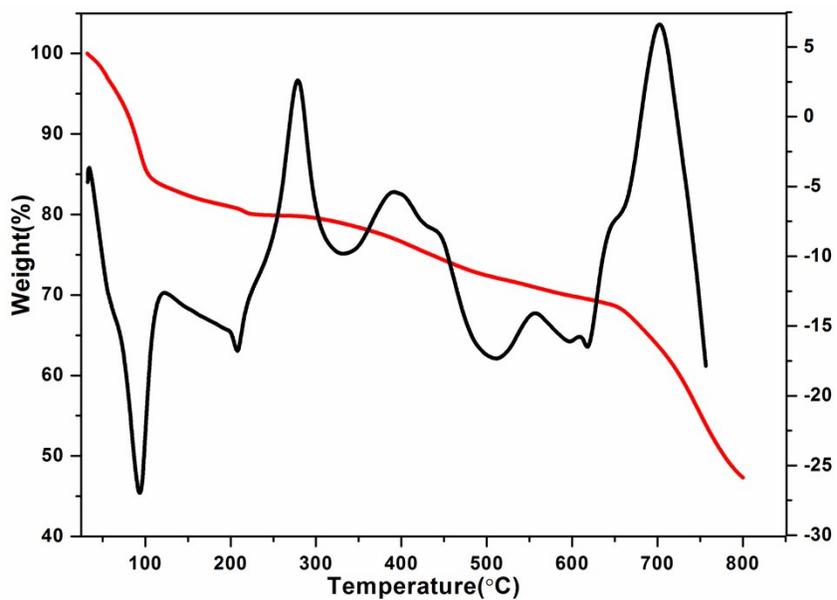
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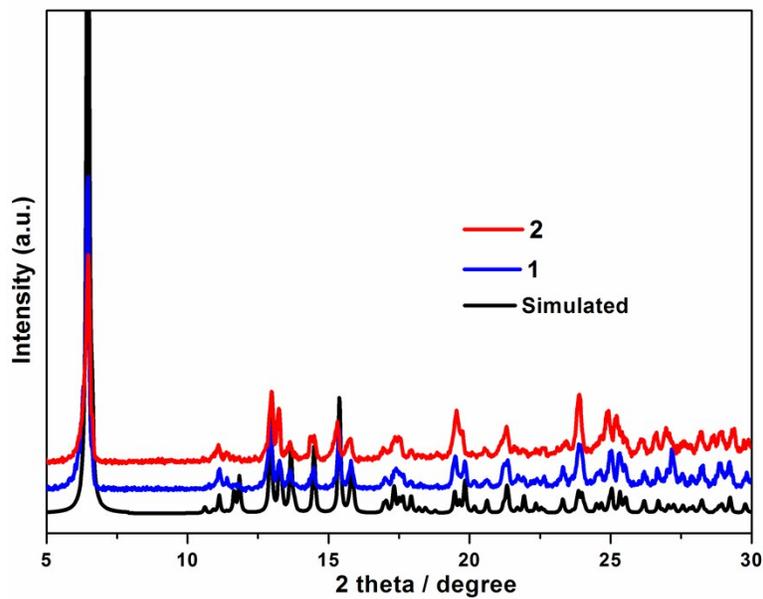
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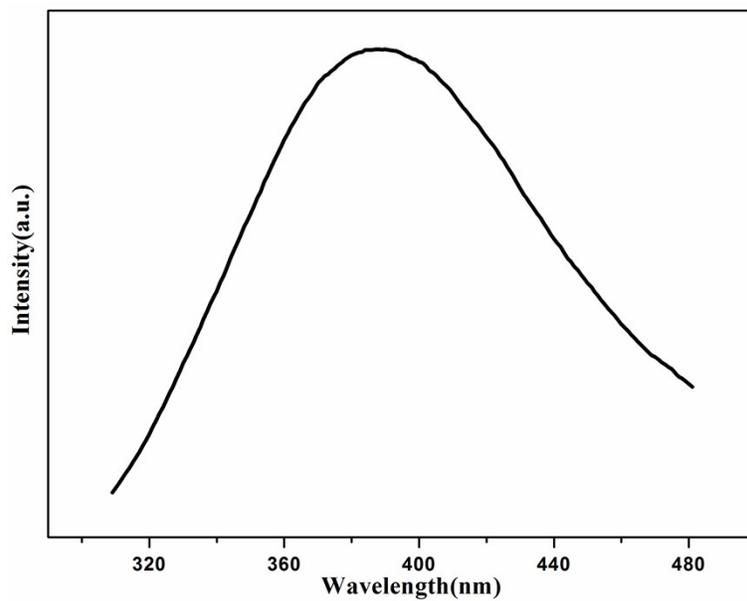
**Fig. S1** TGA (thermogravimetric analysis, red) and DTA (differential thermal analysis, black) curves for **1**.



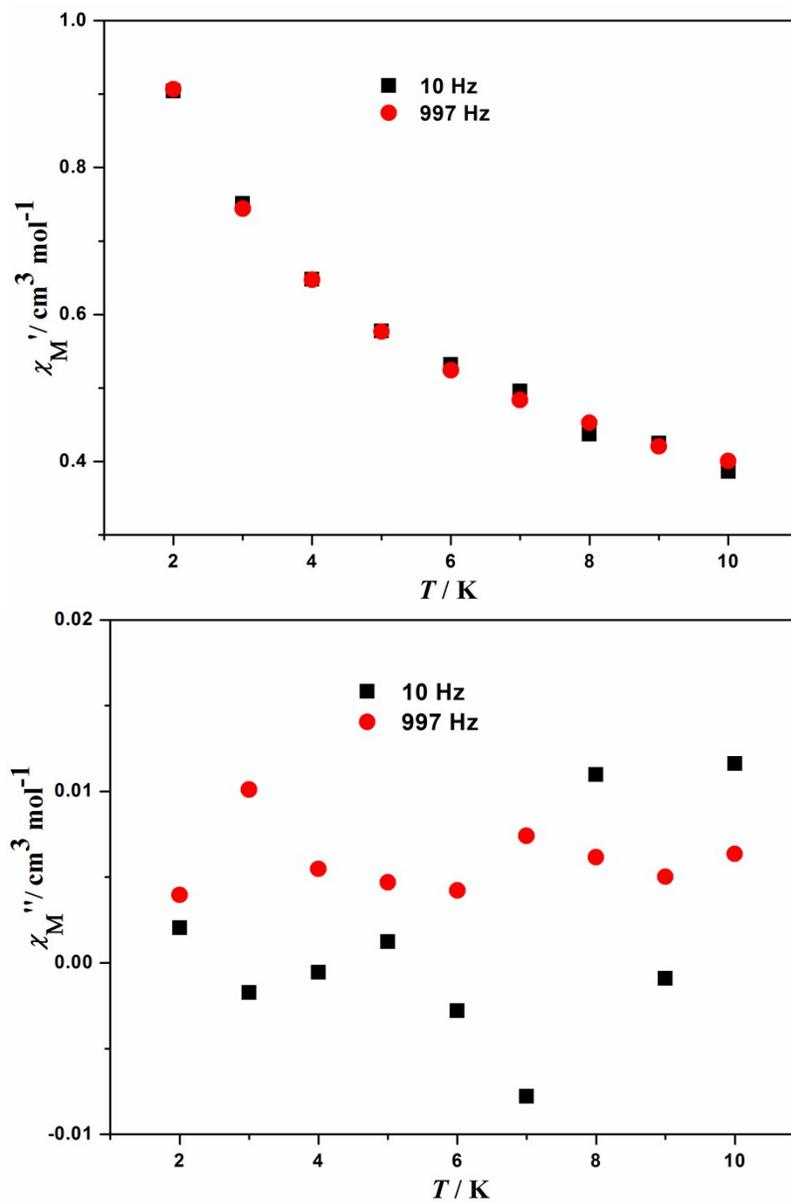
**Fig. S2** TGA (red) and DTA (black) curves for **2**.



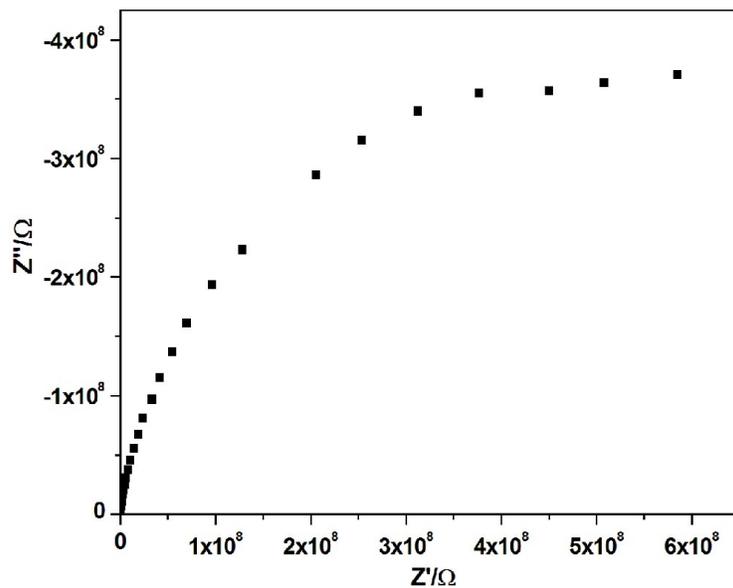
**Fig. S3** PXR D patterns of **1** and **2**.



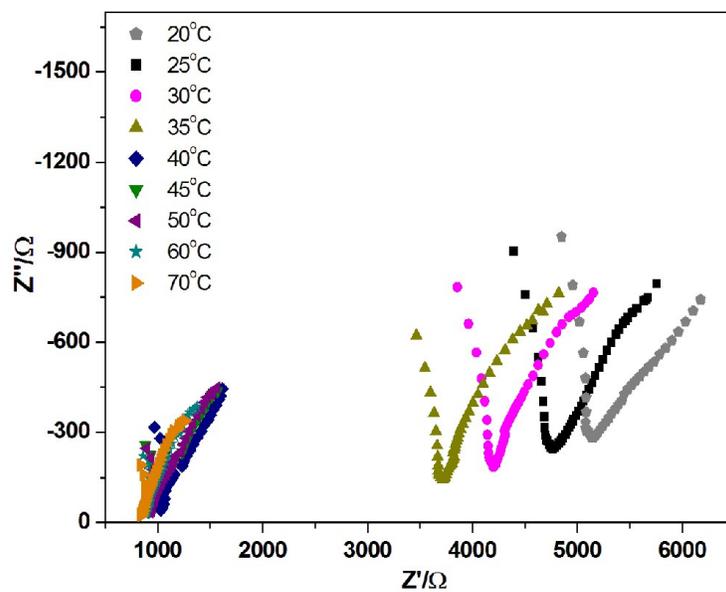
**Fig. S4** Emission spectra of tib ligand in the solid state at room temperature with excitation at 260 nm.



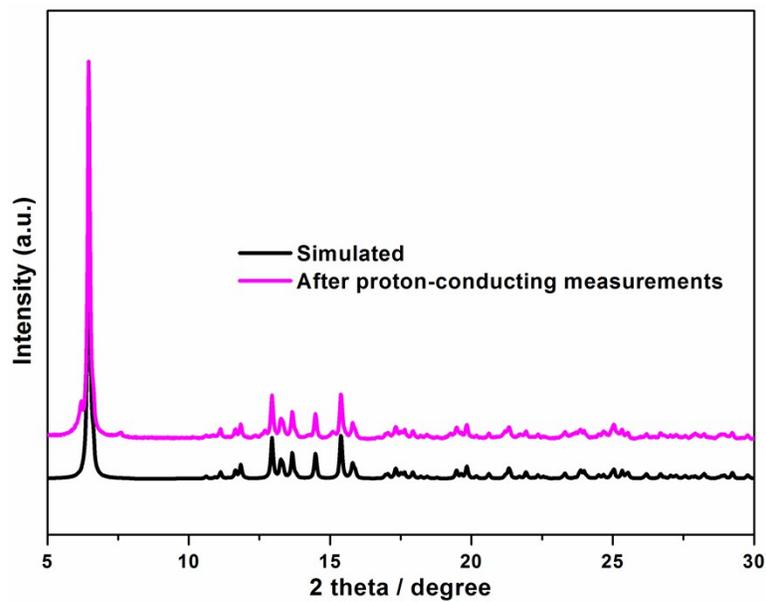
**Fig. S5** Temperature dependence of the AC  $\chi_M$  at 10 and 997 Hz with zero DC field for **2**.



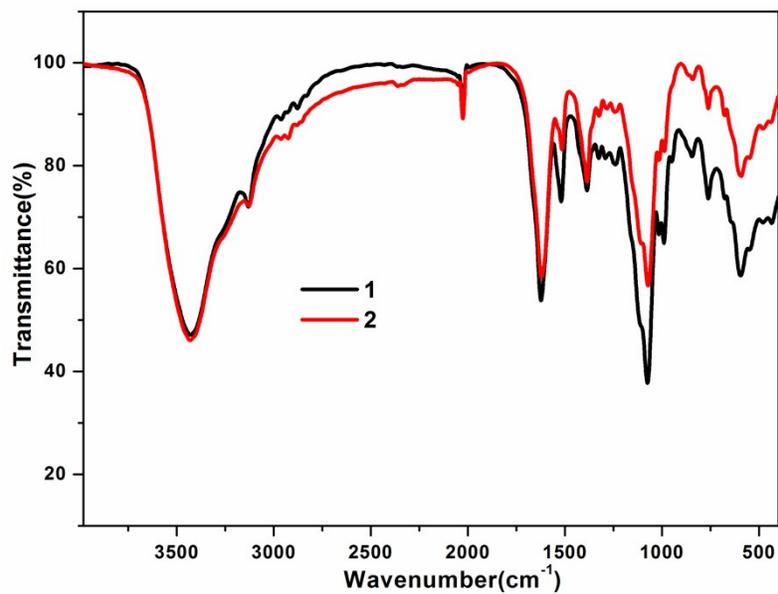
**Fig. S6** Nyquist plot of compound **2** at 20°C and 30% relative humidity.



**Fig. S7** The variable-temperature ac impedance spectra of **2** at 100% relative humidity.



**Fig. S8** The PXR D patterns of **2** after proton-conducting measurements.



**Fig. S9** IR patterns of **1** and **2**.

**Table S1.** Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for **1**

Zn(1)-O(7)#6	1.926(2)	Zn(2)-N(7)	2.322(3)
Zn(1)-O(8)#5	1.938(2)	Zn(2)-N(2)#1	2.058(3)
Zn(1)-O(2)	1.945(2)	Zn(3)-O(1)	1.929(2)
Zn(1)#4-O(7)	1.926(2)	Zn(3)#3-O(4)	1.940(2)
Zn(1)#5-O(8)	1.938(2)	Zn(3)#4-O(5)	1.963(2)
Zn(1)-N(1)	2.004(3)	Zn(3)-O(4)#3	1.940(2)
Zn(2)-O(9)	1.970(2)	Zn(3)-O(5)#6	1.963(2)
Zn(2)-O(6)	2.034(2)	Zn(3)-N(3)#7	1.996(3)
Zn(2)-O(3)	2.010(2)	Zn(3)#2-N(3)	1.996(3)
Zn(2)#1-N(2)	2.058(3)		
O(7)#6-Zn(1)-O(8)#5	114.22(9)	O(6)-Zn(2)-N(2)#1	96.78(1)
O(7)#6-Zn(1)-O(2)	109.91(1)	O(9)-Zn(2)-N(7)	84.72(8)
O(8)#5-Zn(1)-O(2)	104.46(1)	O(3)-Zn(2)-N(7)	83.37(8)
O(7)#6-Zn(1)-N(1)	98.73(1)	O(6)-Zn(2)-N(7)	82.88(8)
O(8)#5-Zn(1)-N(1)	107.33(1)	N(2)#1-Zn(2)-N(7)	175.12(9)
O(2)-Zn(1)-N(1)	122.60(1)	O(1)-Zn(3)-O(4)#3	109.37(1)
O(9)-Zn(2)-O(3)	122.99(9)	O(1)-Zn(3)-O(5)#6	116.42(1)
O(9)-Zn(2)-O(6)	117.80(1)	O(4)#3-Zn(3)-O(5)#6	104.28(1)
O(3)-Zn(2)-O(6)	115.61(1)	O(1)-Zn(3)-N(3)#7	102.87(1)
O(9)-Zn(2)-N(2)#1	99.69(1)	O(4)#3-Zn(3)-N(3)#7	114.14(1)
O(3)-Zn(2)-N(2)#1	92.43(1)	O(5)#6-Zn(3)-N(3)#7	110.14(1)

<sup>a</sup>Symmetry codes: #1: -x+2, -y+1, -z; #2: x, y+1, z-1; #3: -x+1, -y, -z+1; #4: x-1, y, z; #5: -x+1, -y+1, -z+1; #6: x+1, y, z; #7: x, y-1, z+1.

**Table S2.** Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for **2**

Co(1)-O(9)	1.981(2)	Co(2)-O(1)#3	1.969(2)
Co(1)-O(6)	2.000(2)	Co(2)-N(7)#4	2.021(3)
Co(1)-O(3)	2.028(2)	Co(3)-O(7)#3	1.933(2)
Co(1)-N(5)#1	2.080(3)	Co(3)-O(8)#5	1.946(2)
Co(1)-N(1)	2.268(3)	Co(3)-O(5)	1.952(2)
Co(2)-O(4)	1.940(2)	Co(3)-N(2)	2.016(3)
Co(2)-O(2)#2	1.953(2)		
123.23(1)	123.23(1)	O(4)-Co(2)-O(1)#3	117.65(1)
117.33(1)	117.33(1)	O(2)#2-Co(2)-O(1)#3	105.55(1)
116.64(1)	116.64(1)	O(4)-Co(2)-N(7)#4	100.75(1)
98.03(1)	98.03(1)	O(2)#2-Co(2)-N(7)#4	112.97(1)
92.14(1)	92.14(1)	O(1)#3-Co(2)-N(7)#4	108.95(1)
96.57(1)	96.57(1)	O(7)#3-Co(3)-O(8)#5	116.11(1)
85.64(9)	85.64(9)	O(7)#3-Co(3)-O(5)	109.92(1)
84.07(9)	84.07(9)	O(8)#5-Co(3)-O(5)	105.42(1)
83.52(9)	83.52(9)	O(7)#3-Co(3)-N(2)	98.19(1)
175.78(1)	175.78(1)	O(8)#5-Co(3)-N(2)	106.16(1)
111.17(1)	111.17(1)	O(5)-Co(3)-N(2)	121.57(1)

<sup>a</sup>Symmetry codes: #1: -x+1, -y+1, -z; #2: -x, -y, -z+1; #3: x+1, y, z; #4: x, y-1, z+1; #5: -x, -y+1, -z+1; #6: x, y+1, z-1; #7: x-1, y, z.