

Electronic Supplementary Information

An Open Route to Asymmetric Substituted Al–Al Bonds using Al(I)- and Al(III)- Precursors

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S1. Experimental Section

All manipulations were carried out under a dry argon or nitrogen atmosphere using Schlenk line and glovebox techniques. Toluene and deuterated benzene was dried by refluxing with sodium/potassium under N₂ prior to use. The NMR (¹H, ¹³C) spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance II 500 MHz spectrometer. Melting points of compounds were measured in a sealed glass tube using the Büchi-540 instrument. Elemental analysis were performed by the Analytisches Labor des Instituts für Anorganische Chemie der Universität Göttingen. Commercial reagents were purchased from Aldrich, Acros, or Alfa-Aesar Chemical Co. and used as received. Me₂-cAAC¹, AC→AlCl₃² and LAl:³ were prepared according to the literatures.

cAAC→AlI₃ (1b): cAAC (0.221 g, 0.5 mmol) and AlI₃ (0.204 g, 0.5 mmol) were added into a flask. Toluene (30 mL) was added under stirring at room temperature. Since AlI₃ is light sensitive, the reaction is undergoing without light. The mixture was stirred for 12h. After filtration, the filtrate was concentrated to 5 mL under vacuum and stored at -20 °C. After 12 h, colorless crystallize solid were obtained and collected by filtration (0.190 g, 55%). Suitable X-ray quality crystals were grown from C₆D₆. Mp: 224°C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆, 298K, ppm): δ = 0.78 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 1.01 (d, ³J_{HH} = 5 Hz, 6 H, CHMe₂), 1.31 (s, 2 H, CH₂), 1.62 (d, ³J_{HH} = 5 Hz, 6 H, CHMe₂), 1.83 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.58 (sept, ³J_{HH} = 5 Hz, 2 H, CHMe₂), 6.98–7.15 (m, 3 H, C₆H₃). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, C₆D₆, 298K, ppm): δ = 25.2, 27.9, 28.4, 29.1, 31.6, 51.2, 57.2, 81.9, 125.5, 131.2, 133.2, 145.6, 223.4. Anal. Calcd (%) for C₂₀H₃₁NAI₃ (Mr = 693.16): C, 34.65; H, 4.51; N, 2.02. Found: C, 34.67; H, 5.01; N, 2.00.

LAl(Cl)-Al(Cl)₂cAAC (2a): LAl: (100 mg, 0.23 mmol) and CAAC-AlCl₃ (94 mg, 0.23 mmol) were added to a 100ml flask. Toluene was added to the mixture at room temperature. The solution was kept stirring overnight and the color changed from reddish to yellow. After filtration, the filtrate was dried under vacuum and light yellow powder was obtained (0.135 g, 70%). Colorless crystals were grown from *n*-hexane. Mp: 92 °C (dec.). ¹H NMR (298K, C₆D₆, 500MHz, ppm): δ = 6.89-7.23 (m,

9H, C_6H_3), 5.07 (s, 1H, γ -H), 3.84 (sept, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 2H), 3.60 (sept, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 2H), 2.61 (sept, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 2H) ($CHMe_2$), 1.68 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 6H), 1.58 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 6H), 1.27 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 6H), 1.06 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 6H), 1.02 (d, $^3J_{HH} = 5$ Hz, 6H) ($CHMe_2$), 1.61 (s, 6H), 1.33 (s, 6H), 0.74 (s, 6H) (CMe , CMe_2), 1.24 (s, 2H, CH_2). ^{13}C NMR (298K, C_6D_6 , 125 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 24.2, 24.4, 24.8, 25.0, 26.9, 27.5, 27.8, 29.1, 30.2, 30.7, 50.43, 55.6, 81.6$ ($CHMe_2$, CMe_2 , CH_2 , CMe), 99.1(γ -C), 124.3, 125.0, 125.1, 127.3, 129.8, 133.5, 142.5, 143.6, 145.2, 145.6 (C_6H_3), 169.6 (CN), 238.6 (carbene *carbon*). Anal. Calcd (%) for $C_{49}H_{72}N_3Al_2Cl_3$ (Mr = 863.44): C, 68.16; H, 8.40; N, 4.87. Found: C, 67.50; H, 8.62; N, 4.48.

LAI(I)-Al(I)₂cAAC (2b): LAI: (100 mg, 0.23 mmol) and CAAC- AlI_3 (157 mg, 0.23 mmol) were added to a 100ml flask. Toluene was added to the mixture at -70 °C. The solution was slowly warmed to room temperature and kept stirring overnight. The color changed from orange to yellow. After filtration, the filtrate was concentrated to 2 mL and kept at room temperature. Light yellow crystals were obtained 2 days later (0.140 g, 55%). Mp: 97 °C (dec.). 1H NMR (298K, C_6D_6 , 500MHz, ppm): $\delta = 6.98$ -7.28 (m, 9H, C_6H_3) 5.23 (s, 1H, γ -H), 4.12 (br, 1H), 4.01 (br, 1H), 3.70 (br, 1H), 3.50 (br, 1H), 3.08 (br, 1H), 2.37 (br, 1H), 1.74 (d, 3H) 1.71 (d, 3H), 1.70 (d, 3H), 1.67 (d, 3H), 1.58-1.62 (m, 14H), 1.32 (d, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.23 (s, 3H), 0.99-1.02 (m, 15H), 0.60 (s, 3H) (CMe , CMe_2 , $CHMe_2$, CH_2). ^{13}C NMR (298K, C_6D_6 , 125 MHz, ppm): $\delta = 24.4, 24.6, 24.7, 24.9, 25.5, 25.6, 25.9, 26.2, 26.6, 28.5, 28.6, 28.9, 29.3, 30.2, 30.3, 33.4, 33.6, 51.3, 56.9, 82.1$ ($CHMe_2$, CMe_2 , CH_2 , CMe) 100.9 (γ -C), 124.6, 124.8, 125.2, 125.4, 130.2, 131.1, 133.2, 134.5, 143.1, 143.9, 144.7, 145.6, 146.2 (C_6H_3), 171.5 (CN), 230.8 (carbene *carbon*). Anal. Calcd (%) for $C_{49}H_{72}N_3Al_2I_3$ (Mr = 1137.79): C, 51.73; H, 6.38; N, 3.69. Found: C, 51.27; H, 5.81; N, 3.98.

S2. X-Ray Crystallographic Analysis

The crystals were selected under cooling, using a X-Temp2 device.⁴ The data were collected from shock-cooled crystals at 100(2) K, on a BRUKER D8 three circle diffractometer equipped with an INCOATEC Mo Microsource and Ag Microsource with mirror optics (MoK α radiation, λ = 0.71073 Å, AgK α radiation, λ = 0.56086 Å) The data were integrated with SAINT.⁵ A multi-scan absorption correction was applied using SADABS.⁶ The structures were solved by SHELXT⁷ and refined on F^2 using SHELXL⁸ in the graphical user interface SHELXLE.⁹

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement of **1b**, **2a** and **2b**.

Compound	1b	2a	2b
Empirical formula	C20 H31 Al I3 N	C55 H86 Al2 Cl3 N3	C59.50 H84 Al2 I3 N3
CCDC number	1516682	1516005	1516006
Formula weight	693.14	949.57	1275.95
Temperature [K]	100(2)	100(2) K	100(2)
Wavelength [Å]	0.56086	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n
<i>a</i> [Å]	<i>a</i> = 9.092(2) Å	13.873(2)	10.457(2)
<i>b</i> [Å]	<i>b</i> = 17.918(3) Å	17.388(3)	19.397(2)
<i>c</i> [Å]	<i>c</i> = 15.271(2) Å	22.812(4)	29.510(3)
α [°]	90	90	90
β [°]	94.99(2)	91.73(2)	97.95(2)
γ [°]	90	90	90
<i>V</i> [Å ³]	2478.4(8)	5500.3(16)	5928.1(15)
<i>Z</i>	4	4	4
ρ [Mgm ⁻³]	1.858	1.147	1.430
μ [mm ⁻¹]	2.028	0.235	1.649
<i>F</i> (000)	1320	2056	2588
Crystal size [mm]	0.2 x 0.2 x 0.3	0.3 x 0.2 x 0.2	0.1 x 0.2 x 0.2
θ -area [°]	1.386 to 21.375	1.473 to 25.739	1.260 to 26.463
Index ranges	-11 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 11, 23 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 23, 19 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 19	- 16 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 16, - - 21 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 21, - 27 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 27	-13 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 13, - 24 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 24, - 36 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 36
Total number reflect.	72237	113490	157393
Unique reflections	5700	10489	12214
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.0363	0.0639	0.0553
Data / restraints /	5700 / 0 / 234	10489 / 1565 / 741	12214 / 918 / 750

parameters			
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.042	1.238	1.073
$R1 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R1 = 0.0157$	0.0696	0.0285
$wR2 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$wR2 = 0.0295$	0.1545	0.0648
$R1$ [all data]	$R1 = 0.0208$	0.0773	0.0353
$wR2$ [all data]	$wR2 = 0.0311$	0.1572	0.0685
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.877 and -0.738	0.672 and -0.619	1.101 and -0.428
max. / min. [$e \cdot \text{\AA}^{-3}$]			

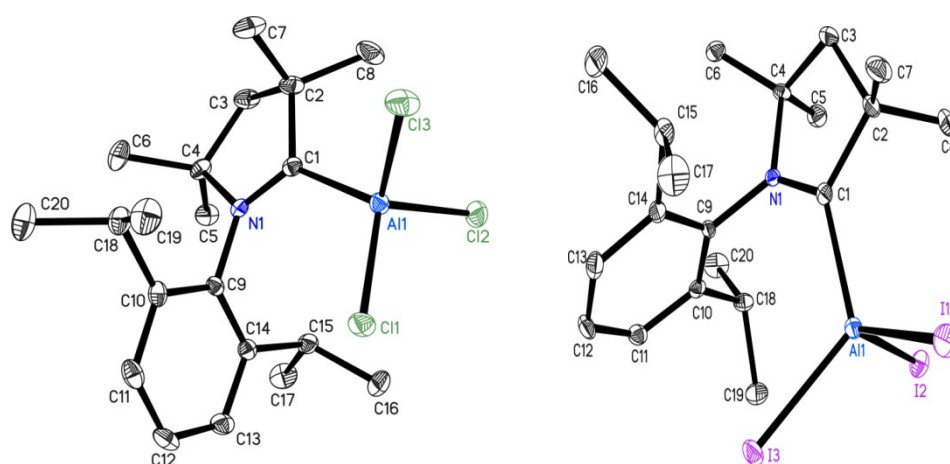


Figure S1. Molecular structure of **1a** (left) and **1b** (right) with thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level. The hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

In the structure of **1b**, close to I1 residual electron density peak with a height of about $0.88 e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ was found. It could be modelled as a disorder but the two positions refined very close to each other and the occupancy of the second position was under 10 %. Therefore we stayed with the model without disorder.

Table S2. Bond lengths [$\text{\AA}$] and angles [$^\circ$] for **1b**.

Al(1)-C(1)	2.0494(19)	C(2)-C(8)	1.538(3)
Al(1)-I(3)	2.5197(6)	C(2)-C(7)	1.543(3)
Al(1)-I(1)	2.5347(7)	C(2)-C(3)	1.546(3)
Al(1)-I(2)	2.5443(8)	C(3)-C(4)	1.526(3)
C(1)-N(1)	1.304(2)	C(4)-C(6)	1.517(2)
C(1)-C(2)	1.531(2)	C(4)-C(5)	1.536(3)

C(4)-N(1) 1.544(2)
 N(1)-C(9) 1.466(2)
 C(9)-C(10) 1.402(2)
 C(9)-C(14) 1.412(2)
 C(10)-C(11) 1.394(3)
 C(10)-C(18) 1.514(3)
 C(11)-C(12) 1.381(3)
 C(12)-C(13) 1.386(3)
 C(13)-C(14) 1.393(3)
 C(14)-C(15) 1.525(2)
 C(15)-C(17) 1.532(3)
 C(15)-C(16) 1.537(3)
 C(18)-C(19) 1.535(2)
 C(18)-C(20) 1.539(3)

 C(1)-Al(1)-I(3) 118.91(6)
 C(1)-Al(1)-I(1) 113.76(6)
 I(3)-Al(1)-I(1) 106.38(2)
 C(1)-Al(1)-I(2) 98.07(5)
 I(3)-Al(1)-I(2) 109.64(2)
 I(1)-Al(1)-I(2) 109.65(2)
 N(1)-C(1)-C(2) 109.60(15)
 N(1)-C(1)-Al(1) 124.27(13)
 C(2)-C(1)-Al(1) 124.85(13)
 C(1)-C(2)-C(8) 112.96(15)
 C(1)-C(2)-C(7) 108.93(15)
 C(8)-C(2)-C(7) 108.29(16)
 C(1)-C(2)-C(3) 103.14(14)
 C(8)-C(2)-C(3) 113.82(16)

C(7)-C(2)-C(3) 109.54(15)
 C(4)-C(3)-C(2) 106.59(14)
 C(6)-C(4)-C(3) 115.51(15)
 C(6)-C(4)-C(5) 109.95(15)
 C(3)-C(4)-C(5) 110.98(15)
 C(6)-C(4)-N(1) 111.27(14)
 C(3)-C(4)-N(1) 99.33(14)
 C(5)-C(4)-N(1) 109.29(14)
 C(1)-N(1)-C(9) 122.65(15)
 C(1)-N(1)-C(4) 113.91(14)
 C(9)-N(1)-C(4) 122.64(14)
 C(10)-C(9)-C(14) 122.41(16)
 C(10)-C(9)-N(1) 122.24(15)
 C(14)-C(9)-N(1) 115.34(15)
 C(11)-C(10)-C(9) 117.16(17)
 C(11)-C(10)-C(18) 118.66(16)
 C(9)-C(10)-C(18) 124.18(16)
 C(12)-C(11)-C(10) 121.86(17)
 C(11)-C(12)-C(13) 119.80(18)
 C(12)-C(13)-C(14) 121.29(17)
 C(13)-C(14)-C(9) 117.37(16)
 C(13)-C(14)-C(15) 118.40(16)
 C(9)-C(14)-C(15) 124.22(16)
 C(14)-C(15)-C(17) 111.52(16)
 C(14)-C(15)-C(16) 111.14(15)
 C(17)-C(15)-C(16) 110.52(16)
 C(10)-C(18)-C(19) 112.00(15)
 C(10)-C(18)-C(20) 109.93(15)
 C(19)-C(18)-C(20) 109.36(15)

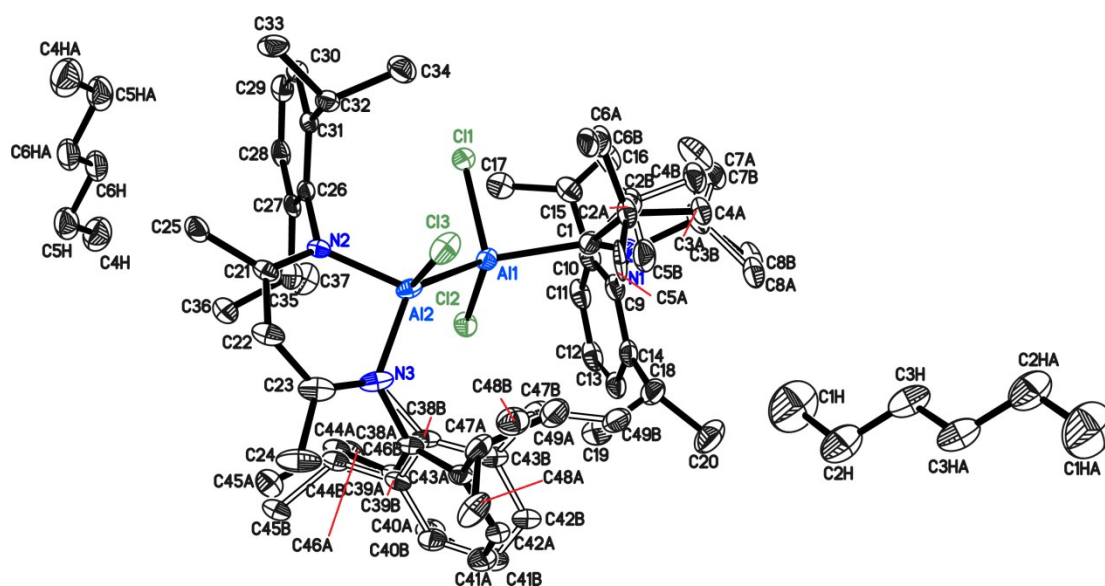


Figure S2. Molecular structure of **2a** with thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level. The hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. The disordered ligands were refined on two positions. The occupancy of the main positions refined to 0.750(5) for C38-C46 and to 0.584(10) for C3-C6, respectively. For the disordered groups distance restraints and restraints for the anisotropic displacement parameters were used.¹⁰

Table S3. Bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **2a**.

Cl(1)-Al(1)	2.1854(14)	C(9)-N(1)	1.477(5)
Cl(3)-Al(2)	2.1978(14)	C(10)-C(11)	1.402(5)
Al(1)-C(1)	2.098(4)	C(10)-C(15)	1.519(6)
Al(1)-Cl(2)	2.1669(14)	C(11)-C(12)	1.375(6)
Al(1)-Al(2)	2.5953(16)	C(12)-C(13)	1.381(6)
Al(2)-N(2)	1.917(3)	C(13)-C(14)	1.392(5)
Al(2)-N(3)	1.923(3)	C(14)-C(18)	1.525(6)
N(2)-C(21)	1.340(4)	C(15)-C(17)	1.532(6)
N(2)-C(26)	1.455(4)	C(15)-C(16)	1.536(6)
C(4H)-C(5H)	1.512(7)	C(18)-C(19)	1.534(6)
C(5H)-C(6H)	1.523(7)	C(18)-C(20)	1.537(5)
C(6H)-C(6H)#1	1.519(9)	C(21)-C(22)	1.395(5)
C(9)-C(10)	1.403(6)	C(21)-C(25)	1.507(5)
C(9)-C(14)	1.403(5)	C(22)-C(23)	1.384(5)

C(24)-C(23)	1.505(5)	C(39A)-C(40A)	1.391(7)
C(26)-C(31)	1.405(4)	C(39A)-C(44A)	1.519(6)
C(26)-C(27)	1.408(5)	C(40A)-C(41A)	1.391(8)
C(27)-C(28)	1.397(5)	C(41A)-C(42A)	1.379(8)
C(27)-C(35)	1.522(5)	C(42A)-C(43A)	1.397(6)
C(28)-C(29)	1.375(5)	C(43A)-C(47A)	1.519(6)
C(29)-C(30)	1.385(5)	C(47A)-C(49A)	1.524(7)
C(30)-C(31)	1.399(4)	C(47A)-C(48A)	1.532(6)
C(31)-C(32)	1.518(5)	C(44A)-C(46A)	1.534(7)
C(32)-C(34)	1.520(5)	C(44A)-C(45A)	1.538(7)
C(32)-C(33)	1.532(5)	C(38B)-C(39B)	1.422(12)
C(35)-C(37)	1.529(5)	C(38B)-C(43B)	1.433(12)
C(35)-C(36)	1.531(5)	C(39B)-C(40B)	1.403(13)
C(1H)-C(2H)	1.499(8)	C(39B)-C(44B)	1.520(13)
C(2H)-C(3H)	1.519(8)	C(40B)-C(41B)	1.379(13)
C(3H)-C(3H)#2	1.502(9)	C(41B)-C(42B)	1.374(13)
C(1)-N(1)	1.299(5)	C(42B)-C(43B)	1.412(12)
C(1)-C(2A)	1.535(8)	C(43B)-C(47B)	1.522(12)
C(1)-C(2B)	1.548(11)	C(47B)-C(49B)	1.520(12)
N(1)-C(3A)	1.546(9)	C(47B)-C(48B)	1.524(12)
N(1)-C(3B)	1.552(11)	C(44B)-C(46B)	1.521(13)
C(3A)-C(7A)	1.513(10)	C(44B)-C(45B)	1.522(13)
C(3A)-C(8A)	1.515(10)		
C(3A)-C(4A)	1.526(10)	C(1)-Al(1)-Cl(2)	107.50(11)
C(4A)-C(2A)	1.541(9)	C(1)-Al(1)-Cl(1)	93.80(11)
C(2A)-C(5A)	1.529(9)	Cl(2)-Al(1)-Cl(1)	108.32(6)
C(2A)-C(6A)	1.538(10)	C(1)-Al(1)-Al(2)	127.35(12)
C(3B)-C(7B)	1.529(12)	Cl(2)-Al(1)-Al(2)	109.89(6)
C(3B)-C(8B)	1.534(12)	Cl(1)-Al(1)-Al(2)	107.80(5)
C(3B)-C(4B)	1.534(13)	N(2)-Al(2)-N(3)	95.23(14)
C(4B)-C(2B)	1.542(12)	N(2)-Al(2)-Cl(3)	102.58(10)
C(2B)-C(5B)	1.516(12)	N(3)-Al(2)-Cl(3)	102.63(10)
C(2B)-C(6B)	1.530(12)	N(2)-Al(2)-Al(1)	112.68(9)
C(23)-N(3)	1.346(5)	N(3)-Al(2)-Al(1)	124.87(10)
N(3)-C(38A)	1.443(6)	Cl(3)-Al(2)-Al(1)	115.19(6)
N(3)-C(38B)	1.514(11)	C(21)-N(2)-C(26)	118.0(3)
C(38A)-C(43A)	1.397(7)	C(21)-N(2)-Al(2)	118.5(2)
C(38A)-C(39A)	1.399(6)	C(26)-N(2)-Al(2)	123.1(2)

C(4H)-C(5H)-C(6H)	113.2(4)	C(34)-C(32)-C(33)	109.2(3)
C(6H)#1-C(6H)-C(5H)	114.4(4)	C(27)-C(35)-C(37)	113.4(3)
C(10)-C(9)-C(14)	123.2(3)	C(27)-C(35)-C(36)	111.5(3)
C(10)-C(9)-N(1)	120.4(3)	C(37)-C(35)-C(36)	110.0(3)
C(14)-C(9)-N(1)	116.4(3)	C(1H)-C(2H)-C(3H)	113.5(5)
C(11)-C(10)-C(9)	116.5(4)	C(3H)#2-C(3H)-C(2H)	114.6(5)
C(11)-C(10)-C(15)	117.4(4)	N(1)-C(1)-C(2A)	110.8(4)
C(9)-C(10)-C(15)	126.0(3)	N(1)-C(1)-C(2B)	105.2(5)
C(12)-C(11)-C(10)	121.9(4)	N(1)-C(1)-Al(1)	129.7(3)
C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	119.7(4)	C(2A)-C(1)-Al(1)	119.4(4)
C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	121.9(4)	C(2B)-C(1)-Al(1)	123.8(5)
C(13)-C(14)-C(9)	116.8(4)	C(1)-N(1)-C(9)	124.6(3)
C(13)-C(14)-C(18)	118.5(4)	C(1)-N(1)-C(3A)	113.2(4)
C(9)-C(14)-C(18)	124.6(3)	C(9)-N(1)-C(3A)	122.1(4)
C(10)-C(15)-C(17)	111.3(3)	C(1)-N(1)-C(3B)	119.0(5)
C(10)-C(15)-C(16)	111.6(4)	C(9)-N(1)-C(3B)	116.4(5)
C(17)-C(15)-C(16)	108.1(3)	C(7A)-C(3A)-C(8A)	110.8(8)
C(14)-C(18)-C(19)	111.0(3)	C(7A)-C(3A)-C(4A)	112.4(7)
C(14)-C(18)-C(20)	111.5(4)	C(8A)-C(3A)-C(4A)	114.2(8)
C(19)-C(18)-C(20)	110.1(4)	C(7A)-C(3A)-N(1)	106.3(7)
N(2)-C(21)-C(22)	122.9(3)	C(8A)-C(3A)-N(1)	111.4(8)
N(2)-C(21)-C(25)	120.6(3)	C(4A)-C(3A)-N(1)	101.0(5)
C(22)-C(21)-C(25)	116.5(3)	C(3A)-C(4A)-C(2A)	107.0(6)
C(23)-C(22)-C(21)	127.9(3)	C(5A)-C(2A)-C(1)	111.0(7)
C(31)-C(26)-C(27)	121.5(3)	C(5A)-C(2A)-C(6A)	108.1(10)
C(31)-C(26)-N(2)	120.3(3)	C(1)-C(2A)-C(6A)	112.1(10)
C(27)-C(26)-N(2)	118.2(3)	C(5A)-C(2A)-C(4A)	110.1(7)
C(28)-C(27)-C(26)	118.0(3)	C(1)-C(2A)-C(4A)	103.3(5)
C(28)-C(27)-C(35)	120.2(3)	C(6A)-C(2A)-C(4A)	112.2(9)
C(26)-C(27)-C(35)	121.8(3)	C(7B)-C(3B)-C(8B)	106.8(9)
C(29)-C(28)-C(27)	121.3(3)	C(7B)-C(3B)-C(4B)	110.1(10)
C(28)-C(29)-C(30)	119.9(3)	C(8B)-C(3B)-C(4B)	113.1(11)
C(29)-C(30)-C(31)	121.4(3)	C(7B)-C(3B)-N(1)	115.2(9)
C(30)-C(31)-C(26)	117.7(3)	C(8B)-C(3B)-N(1)	111.7(11)
C(30)-C(31)-C(32)	119.0(3)	C(4B)-C(3B)-N(1)	100.1(7)
C(26)-C(31)-C(32)	123.2(3)	C(3B)-C(4B)-C(2B)	106.4(8)
C(31)-C(32)-C(34)	110.2(3)	C(5B)-C(2B)-C(6B)	109.9(13)
C(31)-C(32)-C(33)	112.0(3)	C(5B)-C(2B)-C(4B)	113.0(10)

C(6B)-C(2B)-C(4B)	112.8(12)	C(43A)-C(47A)-C(49A)	111.7(5)
C(5B)-C(2B)-C(1)	101.9(9)	C(43A)-C(47A)-C(48A)	111.7(4)
C(6B)-C(2B)-C(1)	111.7(13)	C(49A)-C(47A)-C(48A)	109.7(4)
C(4B)-C(2B)-C(1)	107.0(7)	C(39A)-C(44A)-C(46A)	113.0(6)
N(3)-C(23)-C(22)	122.5(3)	C(39A)-C(44A)-C(45A)	111.2(5)
N(3)-C(23)-C(24)	121.0(4)	C(46A)-C(44A)-C(45A)	108.8(6)
C(22)-C(23)-C(24)	116.6(4)	C(39B)-C(38B)-C(43B)	116.6(11)
C(23)-N(3)-C(38A)	114.9(4)	C(39B)-C(38B)-N(3)	113.4(10)
C(23)-N(3)-C(38B)	126.1(8)	C(43B)-C(38B)-N(3)	129.9(10)
C(23)-N(3)-Al(2)	118.2(2)	C(40B)-C(39B)-C(38B)	119.6(13)
C(38A)-N(3)-Al(2)	126.6(3)	C(40B)-C(39B)-C(44B)	118.5(13)
C(38B)-N(3)-Al(2)	114.8(8)	C(38B)-C(39B)-C(44B)	121.6(13)
C(43A)-C(38A)-C(39A)	122.3(5)	C(41B)-C(40B)-C(39B)	122.6(16)
C(43A)-C(38A)-N(3)	118.2(4)	C(42B)-C(41B)-C(40B)	119.5(17)
C(39A)-C(38A)-N(3)	119.4(5)	C(41B)-C(42B)-C(43B)	120.0(13)
C(40A)-C(39A)-C(38A)	118.0(5)	C(42B)-C(43B)-C(38B)	121.5(10)
C(40A)-C(39A)-C(44A)	119.6(5)	C(42B)-C(43B)-C(47B)	115.5(10)
C(38A)-C(39A)-C(44A)	122.0(5)	C(38B)-C(43B)-C(47B)	123.0(10)
C(39A)-C(40A)-C(41A)	120.8(6)	C(49B)-C(47B)-C(43B)	114.8(10)
C(42A)-C(41A)-C(40A)	120.0(6)	C(49B)-C(47B)-C(48B)	110.1(12)
C(41A)-C(42A)-C(43A)	121.2(5)	C(43B)-C(47B)-C(48B)	112.2(11)
C(38A)-C(43A)-C(42A)	117.7(4)	C(39B)-C(44B)-C(46B)	112.8(16)
C(38A)-C(43A)-C(47A)	124.4(4)	C(39B)-C(44B)-C(45B)	112.0(14)
C(42A)-C(43A)-C(47A)	117.9(4)	C(46B)-C(44B)-C(45B)	111.3(17)

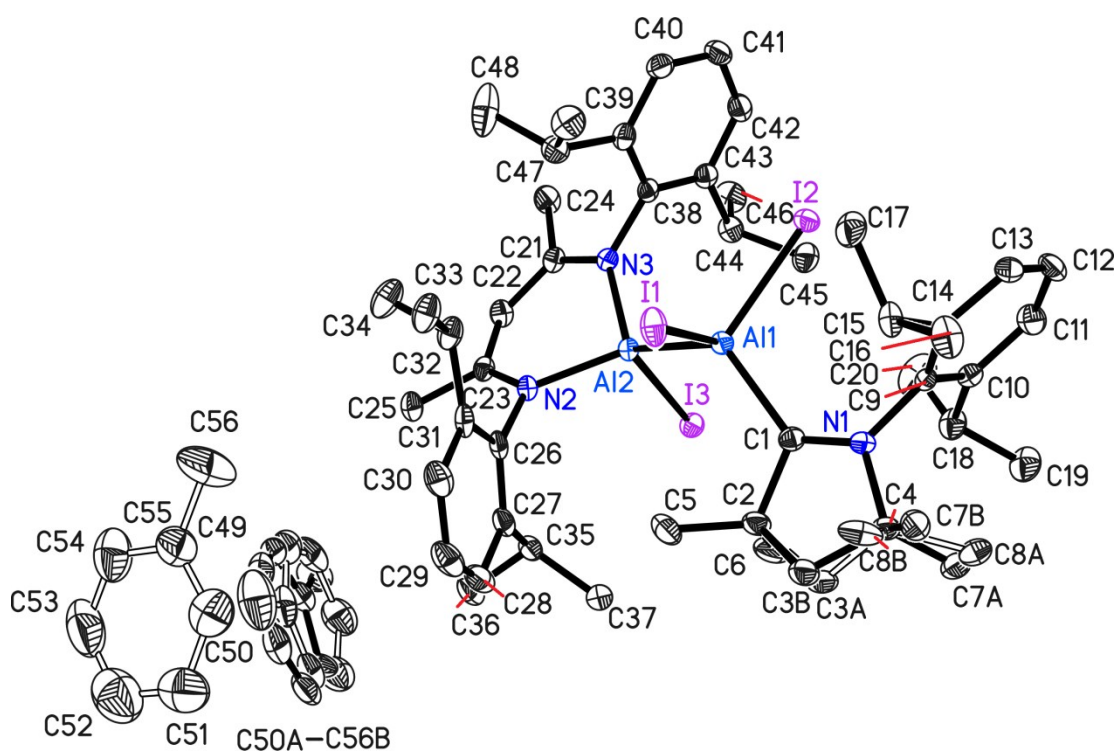


Figure S3. Molecular structure of **2b** with thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level. The hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. The disordered toluene was refined on two positions. The occupancy of the main position refined to 0.557(6). The disordered ligand was refined on two positions. The occupancy of the main positions refined to 0.877(8). For the disordered groups distance restraints and restraints for the anisotropic displacement parameters were used.¹⁰

Table S4. Bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **2b**.

I(1)-Al(1)	2.6077(9)	N(3)-C(38)	1.458(3)
Al(1)-C(1)	2.094(3)	N(1)-C(1)	1.304(3)
Al(1)-I(2)	2.5537(8)	N(1)-C(9)	1.470(3)
Al(1)-Al(2)	2.6327(11)	N(1)-C(4)	1.549(3)
Al(2)-N(3)	1.919(2)	C(1)-C(2)	1.535(4)
Al(2)-N(2)	1.931(2)	C(2)-C(5)	1.527(4)
Al(2)-I(3)	2.6258(9)	C(2)-C(6)	1.534(4)
N(2)-C(23)	1.341(3)	C(2)-C(3A)	1.534(4)
N(2)-C(26)	1.457(3)	C(2)-C(3B)	1.543(14)
N(3)-C(21)	1.335(3)	C(3A)-C(4)	1.522(4)

C(4)-C(7B)	1.500(12)	C(41)-C(42)	1.378(4)
C(4)-C(8A)	1.510(4)	C(42)-C(43)	1.392(4)
C(4)-C(3B)	1.522(14)	C(43)-C(44)	1.515(4)
C(4)-C(7A)	1.528(4)	C(44)-C(45)	1.528(4)
C(4)-C(8B)	1.540(13)	C(44)-C(46)	1.535(4)
C(9)-C(14)	1.405(4)	C(47)-C(49)	1.519(4)
C(9)-C(10)	1.409(3)	C(47)-C(48)	1.532(4)
C(10)-C(11)	1.391(4)	C(50)-C(51)	1.361(11)
C(10)-C(18)	1.521(4)	C(50)-C(55)	1.373(11)
C(11)-C(12)	1.372(4)	C(50)-C(56)	1.482(13)
C(12)-C(13)	1.385(4)	C(51)-C(52)	1.383(11)
C(13)-C(14)	1.395(4)	C(52)-C(53)	1.376(12)
C(14)-C(15)	1.520(3)	C(53)-C(54)	1.380(12)
C(15)-C(17)	1.532(4)	C(54)-C(55)	1.360(11)
C(15)-C(16)	1.543(4)	C(50A)-C(51A)	1.380(9)
C(18)-C(20)	1.524(4)	C(50A)-C(55A)	1.397(8)
C(18)-C(19)	1.535(4)	C(50A)-C(56A)	1.485(9)
C(21)-C(22)	1.393(4)	C(51A)-C(53A)	1.370(9)
C(21)-C(24)	1.505(4)	C(53A)-C(52A)	1.388(9)
C(22)-C(23)	1.393(4)	C(52A)-C(54A)	1.355(9)
C(23)-C(25)	1.511(3)	C(54A)-C(55A)	1.385(8)
C(26)-C(27)	1.402(4)	C(50B)-C(51B)	1.373(10)
C(26)-C(31)	1.411(4)	C(50B)-C(55B)	1.388(11)
C(27)-C(28)	1.404(4)	C(50B)-C(56B)	1.497(11)
C(27)-C(35)	1.522(4)	C(51B)-C(52B)	1.350(10)
C(28)-C(29)	1.374(4)	C(52B)-C(53B)	1.364(10)
C(29)-C(30)	1.378(5)	C(53B)-C(54B)	1.383(10)
C(30)-C(31)	1.389(4)	C(54B)-C(55B)	1.371(11)
C(31)-C(32)	1.526(4)		
C(32)-C(33)	1.528(4)	C(1)-Al(1)-I(2)	110.61(8)
C(32)-C(34)	1.539(4)	C(1)-Al(1)-I(1)	91.24(8)
C(35)-C(36)	1.530(4)	I(2)-Al(1)-I(1)	105.25(3)
C(35)-C(37)	1.533(4)	C(1)-Al(1)-Al(2)	124.44(8)
C(38)-C(39)	1.402(4)	I(2)-Al(1)-Al(2)	107.50(3)
C(38)-C(43)	1.407(4)	I(1)-Al(1)-Al(2)	115.78(3)
C(39)-C(40)	1.393(4)	N(3)-Al(2)-N(2)	96.30(9)
C(39)-C(47)	1.515(4)	N(3)-Al(2)-I(3)	101.17(7)
C(40)-C(41)	1.376(4)	N(2)-Al(2)-I(3)	102.48(7)

N(3)-Al(2)-Al(1)	118.30(7)	C(14)-C(9)-C(10)	121.8(2)
N(2)-Al(2)-Al(1)	126.24(7)	C(14)-C(9)-N(1)	121.2(2)
I(3)-Al(2)-Al(1)	108.77(3)	C(10)-C(9)-N(1)	117.0(2)
C(23)-N(2)-C(26)	117.8(2)	C(11)-C(10)-C(9)	117.7(2)
C(23)-N(2)-Al(2)	120.02(17)	C(11)-C(10)-C(18)	117.5(2)
C(26)-N(2)-Al(2)	121.96(16)	C(9)-C(10)-C(18)	124.8(2)
C(21)-N(3)-C(38)	115.7(2)	C(12)-C(11)-C(10)	121.8(3)
C(21)-N(3)-Al(2)	119.41(18)	C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	119.6(2)
C(38)-N(3)-Al(2)	124.86(16)	C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	121.6(2)
C(1)-N(1)-C(9)	126.2(2)	C(13)-C(14)-C(9)	117.4(2)
C(1)-N(1)-C(4)	115.1(2)	C(13)-C(14)-C(15)	116.8(2)
C(9)-N(1)-C(4)	118.14(19)	C(9)-C(14)-C(15)	125.6(2)
N(1)-C(1)-C(2)	108.6(2)	C(14)-C(15)-C(17)	110.6(2)
N(1)-C(1)-Al(1)	131.54(19)	C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	112.1(2)
C(2)-C(1)-Al(1)	119.34(18)	C(17)-C(15)-C(16)	108.0(2)
C(5)-C(2)-C(6)	108.9(3)	C(10)-C(18)-C(20)	111.0(2)
C(5)-C(2)-C(3A)	109.6(3)	C(10)-C(18)-C(19)	112.4(2)
C(6)-C(2)-C(3A)	114.2(3)	C(20)-C(18)-C(19)	109.9(2)
C(5)-C(2)-C(1)	115.2(2)	N(3)-C(21)-C(22)	124.0(2)
C(6)-C(2)-C(1)	106.0(2)	N(3)-C(21)-C(24)	120.3(2)
C(3A)-C(2)-C(1)	103.0(2)	C(22)-C(21)-C(24)	115.7(2)
C(5)-C(2)-C(3B)	123.3(11)	C(23)-C(22)-C(21)	127.7(2)
C(6)-C(2)-C(3B)	94.3(12)	N(2)-C(23)-C(22)	122.9(2)
C(1)-C(2)-C(3B)	106.1(6)	N(2)-C(23)-C(25)	121.2(2)
C(4)-C(3A)-C(2)	107.0(3)	C(22)-C(23)-C(25)	115.9(2)
C(8A)-C(4)-C(3A)	112.1(3)	C(27)-C(26)-C(31)	121.6(2)
C(7B)-C(4)-C(3B)	116.2(14)	C(27)-C(26)-N(2)	120.0(2)
C(8A)-C(4)-C(7A)	107.7(3)	C(31)-C(26)-N(2)	118.3(2)
C(3A)-C(4)-C(7A)	114.3(3)	C(26)-C(27)-C(28)	117.7(3)
C(7B)-C(4)-C(8B)	110.8(14)	C(26)-C(27)-C(35)	124.1(2)
C(3B)-C(4)-C(8B)	102.9(14)	C(28)-C(27)-C(35)	118.2(3)
C(7B)-C(4)-N(1)	114.6(10)	C(29)-C(28)-C(27)	121.2(3)
C(8A)-C(4)-N(1)	111.7(2)	C(28)-C(29)-C(30)	120.1(3)
C(3A)-C(4)-N(1)	100.2(2)	C(29)-C(30)-C(31)	121.6(3)
C(3B)-C(4)-N(1)	102.3(6)	C(30)-C(31)-C(26)	117.6(3)
C(7A)-C(4)-N(1)	110.9(3)	C(30)-C(31)-C(32)	120.3(2)
C(8B)-C(4)-N(1)	109.2(10)	C(26)-C(31)-C(32)	122.0(2)
C(4)-C(3B)-C(2)	106.5(9)	C(31)-C(32)-C(33)	113.7(2)

C(31)-C(32)-C(34)	113.1(2)		
C(33)-C(32)-C(34)	107.1(2)	C(51)-C(50)-C(56)	120.8(9)
C(27)-C(35)-C(36)	111.6(2)	C(55)-C(50)-C(56)	120.4(10)
C(27)-C(35)-C(37)	112.3(2)	C(50)-C(51)-C(52)	122.4(10)
C(36)-C(35)-C(37)	108.4(2)	C(53)-C(52)-C(51)	117.4(11)
C(39)-C(38)-C(43)	121.5(2)	C(52)-C(53)-C(54)	120.8(12)
C(39)-C(38)-N(3)	117.6(2)	C(55)-C(54)-C(53)	120.0(11)
C(43)-C(38)-N(3)	120.8(2)	C(54)-C(55)-C(50)	120.4(11)
C(40)-C(39)-C(38)	118.3(2)	C(51A)-C(50A)-C(55A)	117.4(6)
C(40)-C(39)-C(47)	119.2(2)	C(51A)-C(50A)-C(56A)	122.5(6)
C(38)-C(39)-C(47)	122.4(2)	C(55A)-C(50A)-C(56A)	120.1(6)
C(41)-C(40)-C(39)	121.0(3)	C(53A)-C(51A)-C(50A)	121.9(8)
C(40)-C(41)-C(42)	119.9(3)	C(51A)-C(53A)-C(52A)	120.3(7)
C(41)-C(42)-C(43)	121.8(3)	C(54A)-C(52A)-C(53A)	118.5(7)
C(42)-C(43)-C(38)	117.5(2)	C(52A)-C(54A)-C(55A)	121.8(7)
C(42)-C(43)-C(44)	119.0(2)	C(54A)-C(55A)-C(50A)	120.1(7)
C(38)-C(43)-C(44)	123.5(2)	C(51B)-C(50B)-C(55B)	118.8(8)
C(43)-C(44)-C(45)	110.7(2)	C(51B)-C(50B)-C(56B)	120.2(10)
C(43)-C(44)-C(46)	112.4(2)	C(55B)-C(50B)-C(56B)	121.0(10)
C(45)-C(44)-C(46)	109.9(2)	C(52B)-C(51B)-C(50B)	120.5(9)
C(39)-C(47)-C(49)	112.9(2)	C(51B)-C(52B)-C(53B)	121.3(9)
C(39)-C(47)-C(48)	111.0(3)	C(52B)-C(53B)-C(54B)	119.2(8)
C(49)-C(47)-C(48)	110.1(2)	C(55B)-C(54B)-C(53B)	119.5(9)
C(51)-C(50)-C(55)	118.9(9)	C(54B)-C(55B)-C(50B)	120.5(10)

S3. Theoretical Calculations

Geometry optimizations were performed using the Gaussian 09 optimizer¹¹ together with TurboMole V7.0.¹² energies and gradients. All geometry optimizations were computed using the functional BP86¹³ functional in combination with the def2-TZVPP basis set.¹⁴ In the case of BP86 the dispersion interactions were estimated using the D3 approximations of Grimme with Becke-Johnson (BJ) damping.¹⁵ The stationary points were located with the Berny algorithm¹⁶ using redundant internal coordinates. Analytical Hessians were computed to determine the nature of stationary points (one and zero imaginary frequencies for transition states and minima,

respectively)¹⁷ and to calculate unscaled zero-point energies (ZPEs) as well as thermal corrections and entropy effects using the standard statistical-mechanics relationships for an ideal gas.¹⁸ The atomic partial charges have been estimated with the natural bond orbital (NBO)¹⁹ method using NBO 5.9.²⁰

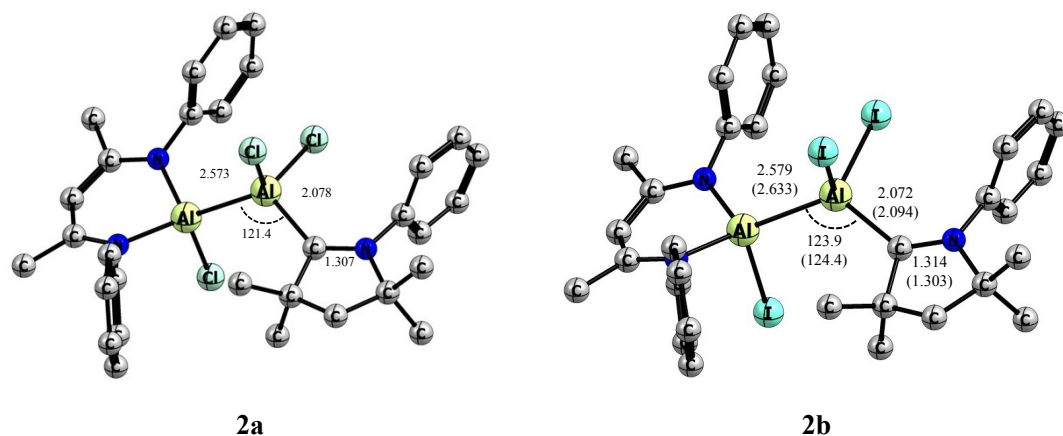
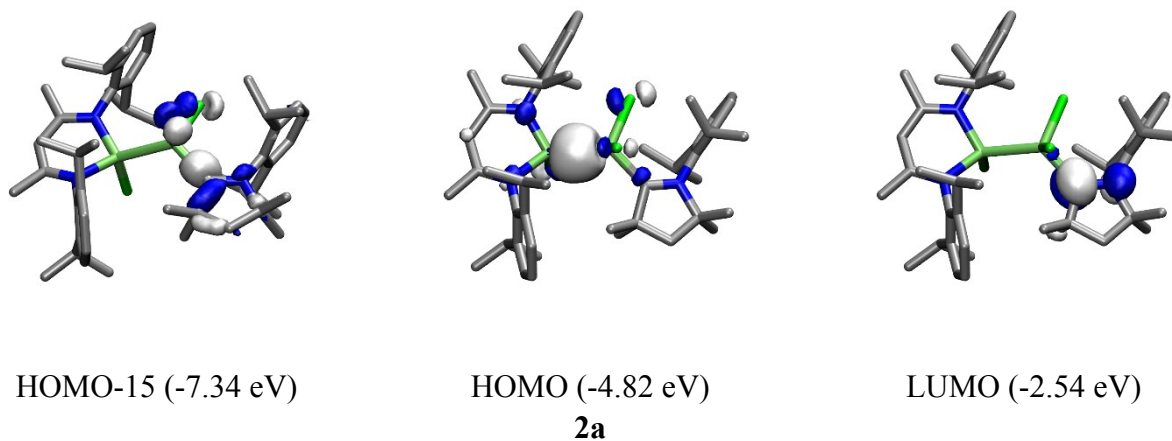
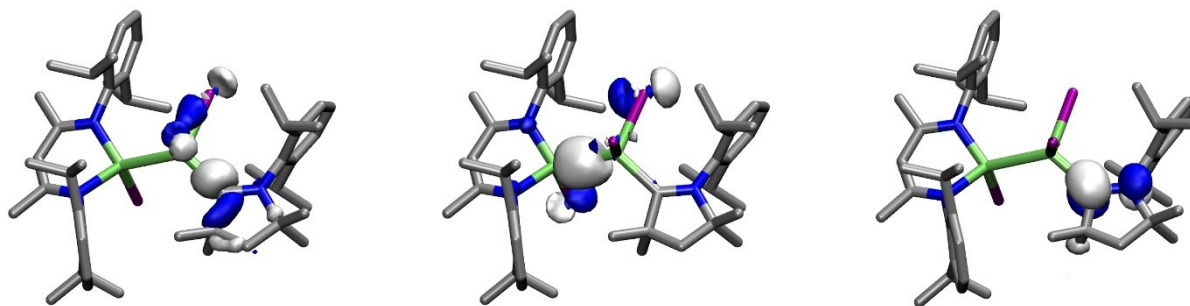


Figure S4. X-ray structure (in parenthesis) and optimized geometry at the BP86+D3(BJ)/def2-TZVPP level of theory. Bond distances and angles are in Å and [°], respectively. Hydrogen atoms and isopropyl groups were omitted for clarity.





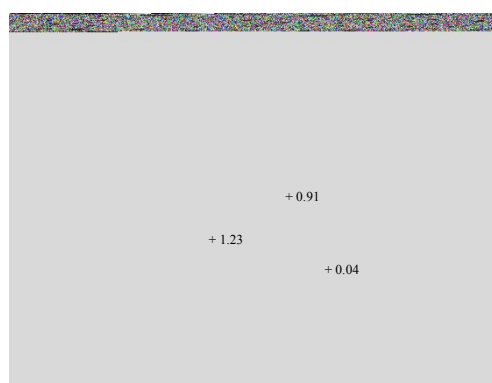
HOMO-15 (-6.97 eV)

HOMO (-4.76 eV)

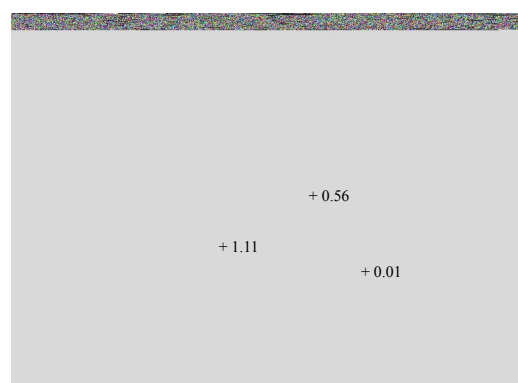
LUMO (-2.66 eV)

2b

Figure S5. Molecular orbital and energies at the BP86+D3(BJ)/def2-TZVPP level of theory.

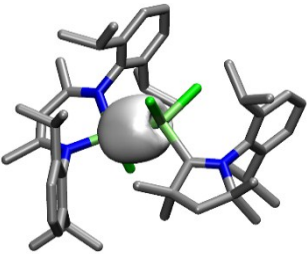
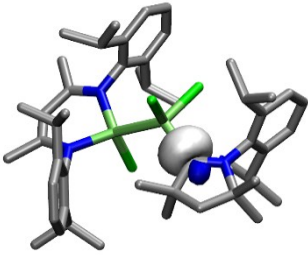
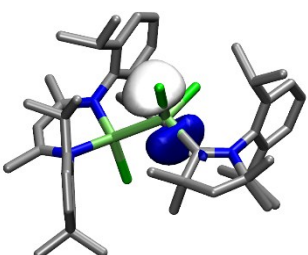
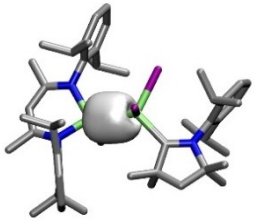
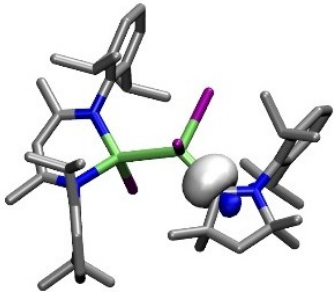


2a



2b

Figure S6. NBO charges at the BP86+D3(BJ)/def2-TZVPP of compound **2a** and **2b**.

Orbital	Occ.	Contribution from atoms to the orb	Atomic orbitals
2a			
	1.94	Al (51.74 %) - Al (48.26%)	Al: s (53.96%) p (45.44%) d (0.59%) Al: s (58.47%) p (41.11%) d (0.41%)
	1.67	C	C: s (37.74%) p (62.18%) d (0.08%)
	0.28	Al	Al: s (0.02%) p (99.40%) d (0.55%)
2b			
	1.93	Al (52.23 %) - Al (47.77%)	Al: s (40.05%) p (59.31%) d (0.63%) Al: s (59.11%) p (40.57%) d (0.32%)
	1.67	C	C: s (37.69%) p (62.22%) d (0.08%)

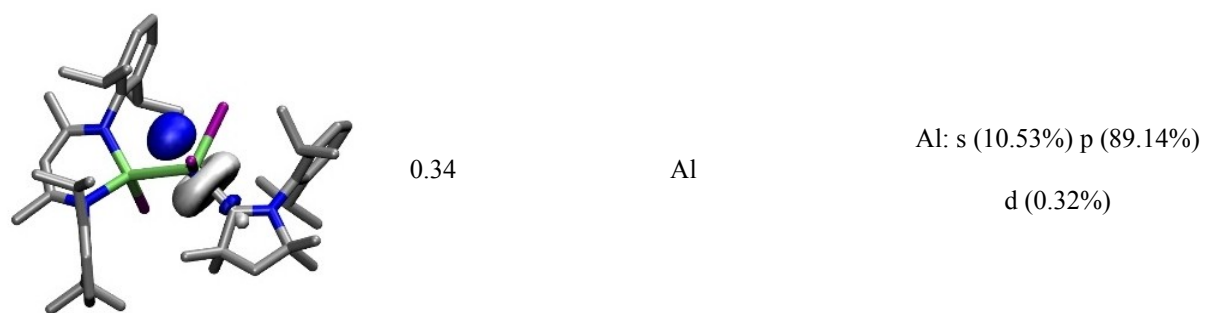


Figure S7. NBO results at the BP86/def2-TZVPP//BP86/def2-SVP of compound **2a** and **2b**.

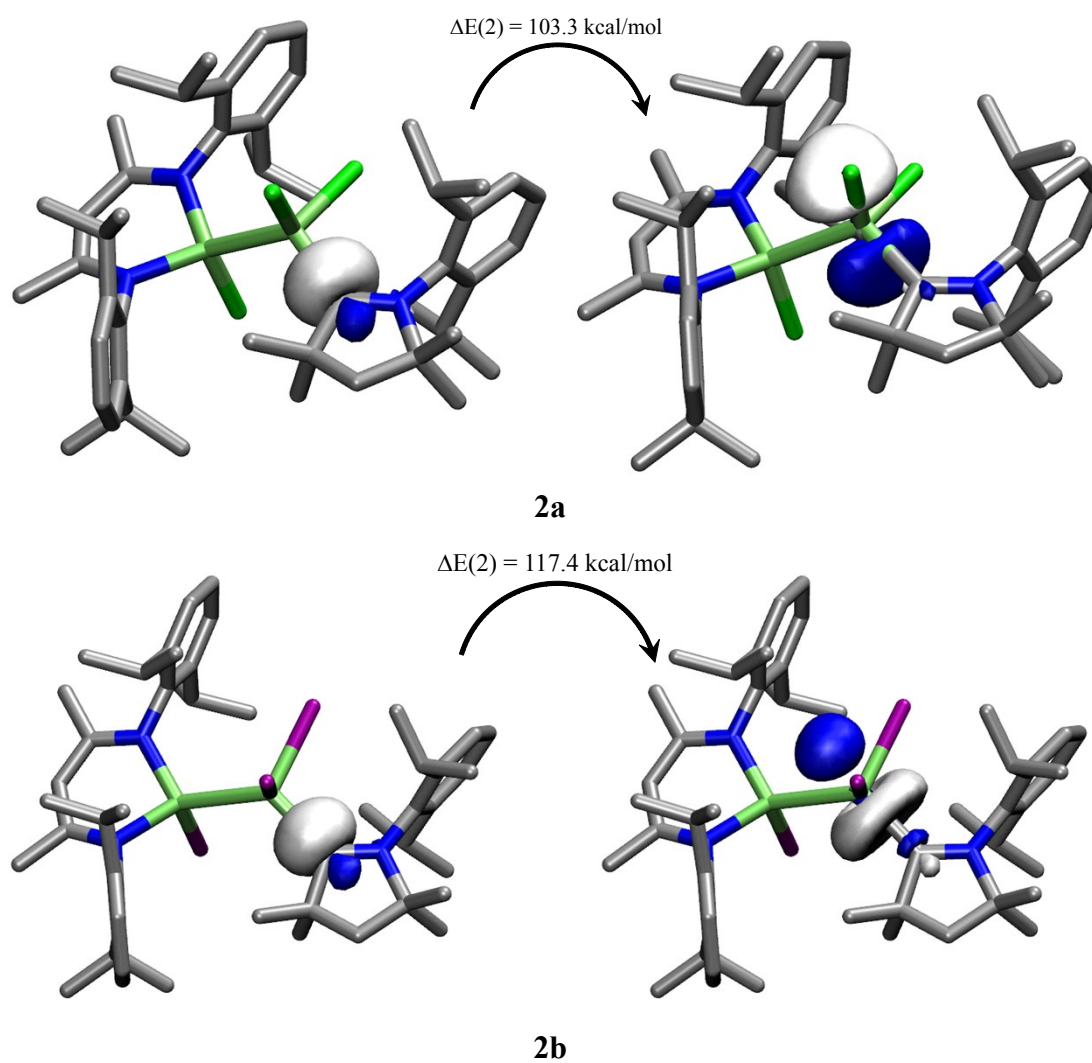


Figure S8. NBO perturbative energy in kcal/mol.

Cartesian coordinates and Electronic energies at the BP86+D3(BJ)/def2-TZVPP level of theory.

2a

E(BP86+D3(BJ)/def2-TZVPP) = -3942.0491520850

Cl	-0.238192	9.002971	24.277920
Al	1.721807	10.015681	24.339498
Cl	2.044437	10.815715	26.341760
Al	2.186258	11.970184	22.732616
N	1.627945	12.182226	20.887377
Cl	4.358990	12.310992	22.594806
N	1.447281	13.643628	23.350262
N	3.203449	7.417359	25.098616
C	2.736463	8.210475	24.170161
C	2.922087	7.555985	22.815802
C	1.730418	7.714479	21.873868
H	1.959003	7.237568	20.911945
H	1.525072	8.771938	21.671973
H	0.821725	7.269965	22.293865
C	4.139063	8.274871	22.187249
H	4.284793	7.905543	21.163699
H	5.062921	8.111183	22.755475
H	3.964523	9.357218	22.139710
C	3.207052	6.074388	23.143811
H	2.282421	5.494965	23.019759
H	3.963447	5.642383	22.477171
C	3.655249	6.025684	24.612226
C	5.163370	5.836611	24.781979
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H	5.747352	6.515044	24.152092
C	2.931912	4.941036	25.401922
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C	3.414509	7.789833	26.489057
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C	1.021093	7.026545	27.149055
H	0.928815	6.892472	26.062755
C	0.694473	5.698317	27.853418
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H	0.693494	5.830345	28.944349
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C	1.356791	14.572454	21.125960
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C	1.429663	13.401108	20.358315
C	0.938267	16.040637	23.086424
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H	0.166707	15.966717	23.862028
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H	-0.709594	8.600919	19.202076
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H	-2.816086	12.428061	25.652723
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2b

E(BP86+D3(BJ)/def2-TZVPP) = -3454.8236882800

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C	1.364162	11.006932	20.047769
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H	-2.756945	12.461725	25.664891
H	-1.459032	11.247492	25.830735

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