## ESI for

## Chalcogenoether complexes of Nb(V) thio- and seleno-halides as single source precursors for low pressure chemical vapour deposition of NbS<sub>2</sub> and NbSe<sub>2</sub> thin films

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| Compound                                | [NbSCl <sub>3</sub> (SMe <sub>2</sub> )]                       | [NbSCl <sub>3</sub> (MeSCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> SMe)] |
|---|--|---|
| Formula                                 | C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> NbS <sub>2</sub> | $C_4H_{10}Cl_3NbS_3$  |
| Formula weight                          | 293.45   | 353.56  |
| Crystal system                          | Monoclinic   | Monoclinic  |
| Space group (No)                        | P2 <sub>1</sub> (4)  | $P2_1(4)$   |
| a/ Å                                    | 7.2513(5)  | 7.2010(3)   |
| b/ Å                                    | 13.0295(6)   | 11.3494(4)  |
| c/ Å                                    | 9.8715(7)  | 7.8693(5)   |
| α/ deg                                  | 90   | 90  |
| β/ deg                                  | 108.075(7)   | 115.502(7)  |
| $\gamma/\deg$                           | 90   | 90  |
| U/ Å <sup>3</sup>                       | 886.6(1)   | 580.47(6)   |
| Ζ                                       | 4  | 2   |
| $\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ )/mm <sup>-1</sup> | 2.641  | 2.023   |
| F(000)                                  | 568  | 348   |
| Total no. reflections                   | 7662   | 5010  |
| Unique reflections                      | 3468   | 2251  |
| R <sub>int</sub>                        | 0.034  | 0.016   |
| No. of parameters, restraints           | 149, 1   | 102, 2  |
| $R_1^b$ [Io>2 $\sigma$ (Io)]            | 0.036  | 0.018   |
| R <sub>1</sub> (all data)               | 0.073  | 0.018   |
| $wR_2^b$ [Io >2 $\sigma$ (Io)]          | 0.042  | 0.042   |
| wR <sub>2</sub> (all data)              | 0.075  | 0.043   |

Table S1 X-ray crystallographic data

<sup>a</sup> Common items: temperature =100 K; wavelength (Mo-K<sub> $\alpha$ </sub>) = 0.71073 Å;  $\theta$ (max)= 27.5°.

 ${}^{b}R_{1} = \Sigma ||F_{o}| - |F_{c}|| / \Sigma |F\sigma|, wR_{2} = [\Sigma \omega (F_{o}{}^{2} - F_{c}{}^{2})^{2} / \Sigma \omega F_{o}{}^{4}]^{1/2}$ 

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| Table S1 | cont. |
|----------|-------|
|----------|-------|

| Compound  | [NbSCl <sub>3</sub> ( <sup>i</sup> PrSCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> S <sup>i</sup> Pr)] | [NbSCl <sub>3</sub> {MeSe(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> SeMe] |
|---|---|--|
| Formula   | $C_8H_{18}Cl_3NbS_3$  | $C_5H_{12}Cl_3NbSSe_2$   |
| Formula weight  | 409.66  | 461.39   |
| Crystal system  | Monoclinic  | Tetragonal   |
| Space group (No)  | P2 <sub>1</sub> /c (14)   | I4 <sub>1</sub> /a (88)  |
| a/ Å  | 8.7791(2)   | 10.0061(1)   |
| b/ Å  | 9.1658(2)   | 10.0061(1)   |
| c/ Å  | 19.6825(5)  | 26.1100(8)   |
| α/ deg  | 90  | 90   |
| β/ deg  | 98.753(2)   | 90   |
| γ/ deg  | 90  | 90   |
| U/ Å <sup>3</sup>   | 1565.36(6)  | 2614.2(1)  |
| Z   | 4   | 8  |
| $\mu$ (Mo-K <sub><math>\alpha</math></sub> )/mm <sup>-1</sup> | 1.652   | 7.216  |
| F(000)  | 824   | 1744   |
| Total no. reflections   | 14369   | 11648  |
| Unique reflections  | 5181  | 2242   |
| R <sub>int</sub>  | 0.032   | 0.045  |
| No. of parameters,  | 140, 0  | 60, 0  |
| restraints  |   |  |
| $R_1$ [Io>2 $\sigma$ (Io)]                                    | 0.038   | 0.030  |
| R <sub>1</sub> (all data)                                     | 0.050   | 0.042  |
| wR <sub>2</sub> [Io >2 $\sigma$ (Io)]                         | 0.084   | 0.063  |
| wR <sub>2</sub> (all data)                                    | 0.091   | 0.068  |



**Fig. S1** In plane XRD (blue), grazing incidence (incidence angle =  $1^{\circ}$ ) XRD (black) from the NbS<sub>2</sub> thin film deposited by LPCVD using [NbSCl<sub>3</sub>{<sup>n</sup>BuS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>S<sup>n</sup>Bu}] at 700 °C; simulated XRD pattern for bulk NbS<sub>2</sub> from ref. 26 (red). The broad feature at  $2\theta \sim 22^{\circ}$  is from the SiO<sub>2</sub> substrate.



Fig. S2 SEM image of NbS<sub>2</sub> thin film deposited from [NbSCl<sub>3</sub>{<sup>n</sup>BuS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>S<sup>n</sup>Bu}]



**Fig. S3** In plane XRD (blue), grazing incidence (incidence angle =  $1^{\circ}$ ) XRD (black) from the NbSe<sub>2</sub> thin film deposited by LPCVD using [NbSe<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>(Se<sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>)] at 650 °C; simulated XRD pattern from bulk NbSe<sub>2</sub> from ref. 27 (red). The broad feature at  $2\theta \sim 22^{\circ}$  is from the SiO<sub>2</sub> substrate.



Fig. S4 TGA of [NbSCl<sub>3</sub>(S<sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>)]



Fig. S5 TGA of [NbSCl<sub>3</sub>{<sup>n</sup>BuS(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>S<sup>n</sup>Bu}]



Fig. S6 TGA of [NbSe<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>(Se<sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>)]