Supporting Information

Deprotonation of a Formato Ligand by a *cis*-Coordinated Carbyne Ligand in a Bis(phenolate) Tungsten Complex

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1 General procedures

All manipulations were performed under argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk or glovebox techniques unless otherwise noted. All glassware was dried at 130 °C in an oven overnight. Silylated glassware was prepared through chemical vapor deposition of CISiMe₃ and drying at 140 °C in an oven overnight.^{S1} The solvents used for NMR scale experiments were dried, distilled and degassed by standard methods and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Prior to NMR scale experiments, the solvents were filtered through a pad of glass wool. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), toluene, pentane and diethyl ether (Et₂O) were dried with a MBraun SPS and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. All other solvents were dried and degassed by standard methods. Water and D₂O were degassed by the freeze-pump-thaw-technique and stored under nitrogen atmosphere. The water content of aprotic solvents was determined by Karl Fischer Titration using a C30 Compact Karl Fischer Coulometer by Mettler Toledo. Hydranal Coulomat AG by Fluka was used as an anolyte reagent and Hydranal Coulomat CG by Fluka as a catholyte reagent. NMR measurements were performed on a Bruker Avance II 400 or on a Bruker DRX 400 spectrometer at 298 K. ¹H (400 MHz) and ¹³C¹H NMR spectra (100 MHz) were referenced to residual proton or carbon signals of the deuterated solvents and reported relative to tetramethylsilane.⁵² Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) and the coupling constant (J) in hertz (Hz). Standard abbreviations indicating multiplicities were used as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet). IR spectra were measured on KBr pellets using an AVATAR 360 FT-IR spectrometer. Abbreviations for IR spectra were used as follows: vw (very weak), w (weak), m (medium), s (strong), vs (very strong), br (broad), sh (shoulder). Elemental Analysis were performed at the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the RWTH Aachen University with an Elementar Analysesysteme GmbH Elementar EL device. Lower carbon content than calculated is presumably caused by tungsten carbide formation during combustion analysis. The starting materials [(OSSO)W(CEt)Cl] (2)⁵³, [(OSSO)W(CEt)(O^tBu)] (1a)⁵³ were prepared according to or by modification of literature procedures. NaOCHO and NaOCDO were dried at 60 °C under reduced pressure or in a drying oven at 120 °C. All other chemicals were purchased form commercial sources and used as received without further purification.

2 Preparation of compounds

NaO¹³CHO. The following procedures were performed under ambient atmosphere. ¹³C-formic acid (5.00 g, >95wt% in water, 103 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of sodium hydroxide (4.13 g, 103 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) in water (3.5 mL) cooled by ice/water bath and the reaction mixture stirred for 10 min at r.t.. NaO¹³CHO was recrystallized from hot water. The white crystals were dried at 120 °C in a drying oven to afford NaO¹³CHO as a white solid (6.64 g, 96.2 mmol, 93%). ¹H NMR (D₂O): 8.51 (d, ²*J*_{CH} = 195 Hz, 1H, OCHO). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (D₂O): 171.3 (s, OCHO). IR (KBr pellet): (ν , cm⁻¹) 2992 (m sh), 2819 (s), 2719 (m), 2668 (w), 1557 (vs, sh), 1365 (vs), 1053 (w), 980 (w), 766 (vs).

Formato{1,4-dithiabutanediyl-2,2'-bis(4,6-di-tert-butyl-phenolato)}propylidynetungsten(vi)

[(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCHO)] (3). Silylated glassware was used to synthesize, purify and store 2. A red solution of [(OSSO)W(CEt)Cl], 2, (1.80 g, 2.36 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in THF (100 mL) was added to sodium formate (611 mg, 8.99 mmol, 3.81 equiv). The suspension was stirred for 3 days at 60 °C. Sodium chloride was removed *via* filtration through a pad of glass wool. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the orange residue extracted with diethyl ether and filtered again. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure and drying gave

[(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCHO)] as an orange/brown solid. Recrystallization from THF/n-hexane at -35 °C afforded [(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCHO)] as an orange/brown solid (1.03 g, 1.34 mmol, 48%). ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 9.35 (s, 1H, OCHO), 7.55 (d, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.50 (d, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.22 (d, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.07 (d, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.07 (d, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{ary}), 7.07 (d, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$), 7.07 (d, {}^{4}J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 4.47 (m, 2H, CCH₂CH₃), 2.69 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH₂S), 2.51 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCH₂CHHS), 1.81 (td, ³*J*_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²*J*_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH₂S), 1.71 (td, ³*J*_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²*J*_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCH₂CHHS), 1.66 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.62 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.22 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.20 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 0.87 (t, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CCH₂CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): 303.6 (CCH₂CH₃), 172.3 (OCHO), 169.3 (C_{aryl}), 166.0 (C_{aryl}), 144.0 (Caryl), 142.4 (Caryl), 140.9 (Caryl), 139.9 (Caryl), 128.0 (Caryl), 127.3 (Caryl), 126.8 (Caryl), 125.1 (Caryl), 117.2 (Caryl), 111.9 (Caryl), 40.0 (CCH₂CH₃), 38.6 (SCH₂CH₂S), 36.1 (C(CH₃)₃), 35.7 (C(CH₃)₃), 34.6 (C(CH₃)₃), 34.5 (C(CH₃)₃), 33.6 (SCH₂CH₂S), 31.7(C(CH₃)₃), 31.6 (C(CH₃)₃), 29.8 (C(CH₃)₃), 29.7 (C(CH₃)₃), 17.7 (CCH₂CH₃). ¹H NMR ([D₈]-THF): 9.20 (s, 1H, OCHO), 7.42 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.38 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.36 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.28 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 4.60 (m, 2H, CCH₂CH₃), 3.60 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH₂S), 3.43 (dt, ²J_{HH}, = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCH₂CHHS), 2.11 (td, ³J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH₂S), 2.00 (td, ³J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCH₂CHHS), 1.47 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.40 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.30 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.28 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 0.86 (t, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CCH₂CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): 304.1 (CCH₂CH₃), 172.3 (OCHO), 169.3 (C_{aryl}), 166.3 (C_{aryl}), 144.9 (Caryl), 143.2 (Caryl), 141.0 (Caryl), 139.5 (Caryl), 129.2 (Caryl), 127.7 (Caryl), 176.2 (Caryl), 126.6 (Caryl), 118.4 (Caryl), 112.8 (Caryl), 40.1 (CCH₂CH₃), 39.4 (SCH₂CH₂S), 36.5 (C(CH₃)₃), 36.2 (C(CH₃)₃), 35.3 (C(CH₃)₃), 35.3 (C(CH₃)₃), 34.3 (SCH₂CH₂S), 32.1(C(CH₃)₃), 32.0 (C(CH₃)₃), 30.0 (C(CH₃)₃), 29.9 (C(CH₃)₃), 18.4 (CCH₂CH₃). IR (KBr pellet): (ν, cm⁻¹) 2960 (vs), 2906 (s), 2868 (s), 1706 (s), 1593 (w), 1477 (m), 1464 (m), 1452 (m), 1434 (vs), 1400 (m, sh), 1632 (m), 1288 (s), 1242 (vs), 1201 (m), 1151 (m, sh), 1103 (s), 1047 (w), 1021 (w), 955 (m), 917 (m), 875 (m, sh), 839 (s), 806 (m), 776 (w), 763 (w), 746 (m), 645 (m), 550 (m), 492 (m). Calculated for C₃₄H₅₀O₄S₂W: C: 52.98, H: 6.54; found: C: 51.66, H: 6.66.

¹³C-Formato{1,4-dithiabutanediyl-2,2'-bis(4,6-di-*tert*-butyl-phenolato)}propylidynetungsten(vi)

[(OSSO)W(CEt)(O¹³CHO)] (¹³C-3). Silylated glassware was used to synthesize, purify and store ¹³C-3. The synthesis was performed analogously to **3** with NaO¹³CHO (68.9 mg, 999 µmol, 3.80 equiv) and **2** (200 mg, 263 µmol, 1.00 equiv) in THF (10 mL). The compound was obtained as an orange/brown solid (165 mg, 214 µmol, 81%) and used without further purification. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 9.35 (d, ²J_{CH} = 214 Hz, 1H, OCHO), 7.55 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.49 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.22 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.07 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 4.46 (m, 2H, CCH₂CH₃), 2.69 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH2S), 2.51 (dt, 1H, ²J_{JHH} = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, SCH₂CHHS), 1.81 (td, ³J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH₂S), 1.71 (td, ³J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCH₂CHHS), 1.66 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.62 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.22 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.20 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 0.87 (t, ³J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CCH₂CH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): 303.6 (CCH₂CH₃), 122.3 (OCHO), 169.3 (*C*_{aryl}), 117.2 (*C*_{aryl}), 141.0 (*C*_{aryl}), 141.0 (*C*_{aryl}), 139.9 (*C*_{aryl}), 128.0 (*C*_{aryl}), 127.3 (*C*_{aryl}), 125.1 (*C*_{aryl}), 117.2 (*C*_{aryl}), 111.9 (*C*_{aryl}), 40.0 (CCH₂CH₃), 38.6 (SCH₂CH₂S), 36.1 (C(CH₃)₃), 35.7 (C(CH₃)₃), 34.6 (C(CH₃)₃), 34.5 (C(CH₃)₃), 33.6 (SCH₂CH₂S), 31.7(C(CH₃)₃), 31.6 (C(CH₃)₃), 29.8 (C(CH₃)₃), 29.7 (C(CH₃)₃), 17.7 (CCH₂CH₃). IR (KBr pellet): (*v*, cm⁻¹) 2960 (vs), 2906 (s), 2869 (s), 1776 (w), 1667 (vs), 1593 (w), 1531 (w), 1461 (m), 1433 (s), 1400 (m), 1362 (m), 745 (m), 645 (m), 550 (m), 493 (m). Calculated for C_{33H₅₀O₄S_{2¹³}CW: C: 53.03, H: 6.54; found: C: 52.14, H: 6.98.}

D-Formato{1,4-dithiabutanediyl-2,2'-bis(4,6-di-tert-butyl-phenolato)}propylidynetungsten(vi)

[(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCDO)] (D-3). The synthesis was performed analogously to **3** with NaOCDO (68.9 mg, 999 µmol, 3.80 equiv) and **2** (200 mg, 263 µmol, 1.00 equiv) in THF (15 mL). The compound was obtained as an orange/brown solid (176 mg, 229 µmol, 87%) and used without further purification. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 7.55 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.49 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.22 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 7.07 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz, 1H, H_{aryl}), 4.46 (m, 2H, CCH₂CH₃), 2.69 (dt, ²J_{HH,trans} = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH₂S), 2.51 (dt, ²J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ³J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCH₂CHHS), 1.81 (td, ³J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCHHCH₂S), 1.71 (td, ³J_{HH} = 14 Hz, ²J_{HH} = 3 Hz, 1H, SCH₂CHHS), 1.66 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.62 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.22 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.20 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 0.87 (t, ³J_{HH} = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CCH₂CH₃). 1.¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): 303.5 (CCH₂CH₃), 169.3 (C_{aryl}), 140.0 (C_{aryl}), 143.7 (C_{aryl}), 142.4 (C_{aryl}), 140.9 (C_{aryl}), 139.9 (C_{aryl}), 127.3 (C_{aryl}), 126.8 (C_{aryl}), 125.1 (C_{aryl}), 117.2 (C_{aryl}), 112.0 (C_{aryl}), 40.0 (CCH₂CH₃), 38.6 (SCH₂CH₂S), 36.1 (C(CH₃)₃), 37.7 (CCH₂CH₃). R (KBr pellet): (*v*, cm⁻¹) 2960 (vs), 2906 (s), 2869 (s), 2112 (m), 1759 (w), 1678 (vs), 1593 (w), 1555 (w), 1461 (s), 1433 (vs), 1400 (s), 1362 (s), 1200 (s), 1253 (vs), 1241 (vs), 1201 (m), 1141 (s), 1103 (s), 1047 (w), 998 (w), 965 (w), 916 (m), 839 (s), 802 (m), 776 (m), 763 (m), 746 (m), 645 (m), 550 (m), 493 (m). Calculated for C₃₄H₄₉DQ₄S₂W: C: 52.92, H: 6.66; found: C: 52.14, H: 6.99.

Dioxo{1,4-dithiabutanediyl-2,2'-bis(4,6-di-*tert***-butyl-phenolato)}tungsten(vi) [(OSSO)WO₂] (4).** A solution of **3** (19.8 mg, 25.7 µmol, 1.00 equiv) in C₆D₆ (0.6 mL) was heated in a non-silylated J. Young NMR tube at 60 °C for 3 days with intermittent freeze-pump-thaw cycles to shift the equilibrium toward **4**. All volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to afford **4** as a dark brown solid (15.3 mg, 21.4 µmol, 83%). ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 7.51 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.3 Hz, 2H, H_{aryl}), 7.05 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.3 Hz, 2H, H_{aryl}), 2.54 (d, ³J_{HH} = 11 Hz, 2H, SCH₂CH₂S), 1.98 (d, ³J_{HH} = 11 Hz, 2H, SCH₂CH₂S), 1.52 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.17 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): 165.8 (C_{aryl}), 145.5 (C_{aryl}), 141.6 (C_{aryl}), 127.9 (C_{aryl}), 127.8 (C_{aryl}), 115.3 (C_{aryl}), 37.3 (SCH₂CH₂S), 36.1 (C(CH₃)₃), 34.9 (C(CH₃)₃), 31.9 (C(CH₃)₃), 30.0 (C(CH₃)₃). IR (KBr pellet): (*v*, cm⁻¹) 2960 (vs), 2907 (m), 2869 (m), 1592 (v.w.), 1465 (m), 1455 (m), 1435 (vs), 1400 (m, sh), 1362 (m), 1287 (m), 1240 (vs, sh), 1203 (m), 1140 (w), 1104 (m), 983 (v.w.), 958 (m), 920 (s), 868 (w), 843 (s), 777 (w), 752 (m), 679 (v.w.), 641 (w, sh), 557 (m), 492 (w). Calculated for C₃₀H₄₄O₄S₂W: C: 50.28, H: 6.19; found: C: 45.46, H: 6.13.

3 Experiments of decomposition

Decomposition of 3

Typical Procedure: A solution of **1a**, **2**, **3**, ¹³**C-3** or **D-3** (5-20 mg) in the respective solvent was heated for a minimum of 24 h at 60 °C in a Young tube. The reaction was monitored *via* NMR spectroscopy.

Decomposition of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(O^tBu)] (1a) under air

A solution of **1a** in C_6D_6 (0.6 mL) was heated at 80 °C under air for 3 h. The reaction was monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy, revealing the formation of the main product **4** and some pro-ligand H₂(OSSO). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were grown from the reaction mixture.

Hydrolysis of 3

Typical Procedure: H_2O (1 equiv.) was added *via* microliter-syringe to a solution of **3**, ¹³C-**3** or **D-3** (5-15 mg) in C_6D_6 inside of a nitrogen glovebox and heated for 12 h at 60 °C in a silylated Young tube. The reaction was monitored *via* NMR spectroscopy.

Hydrolysis of 1a

Typical Procedure: H_2O (1 equiv.) was added *via* microliter-syringe to a solution of **1a** (5-15 mg) in [D₈]-THF with the internal standard trimethoxybenzene inside of a nitrogen glovebox and heated for 12 h at 60 °C in a silylated Young tube. The reaction was monitored *via* NMR spectroscopy.

4 Spectroscopic data of by-products

Ethylene: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 5.25 (s, 4H, *CH*₂).⁵² *Propylene*: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 5.71 (m, 1H, *CH*), 4.96 (m, 2H, *CH*₂), 1.55 (m, 3H, *CH*₃).⁵² *H*₂(*OSSO*): ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 7.46 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.2 Hz, 2H, *H*_{aryl}), 7.43 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 2.5 Hz, 2H, *H*_{aryl}), 7.13 (m, 2H, *OH*), 2.44 (s, 4H, *SCH*₂), 1.55 (s, 18H, *C*(*CH*₃)₃), 1.22 (s, 18H, *C*(*CH*₃)₃). Butanal: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 9.30 (s br, 1H, *CHO*), 1.80 (s br, 2H, *CH*₂), 1.28 (s br, 2H, *CH*₂), 0.65 (s br, 3H, *CH*₂). 2-Methylpropanal: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 9.26 (m, 1H, *CHO*), 1.85 (m, 1H, *CH*), 0.75 (d, ⁴J_{HH} = 7.1 Hz, 6H, *CH*₃); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): 203.4 (*C*HO), 40.9 (*C*H₂), 15.3 (*C*H₃). *Tert-butyl alcohol*: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 1.05 (s, 9H, *C*(*CH*₃)₃), 0.63 (s, 1H, *OH*). ⁵² *Formic acid*: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 1.21 (s, 1H, HCOOH), 7.30 (s, 1H, HCOOH). *Isobutylene*: ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): 4.75 (m, 2H, *H*₂CC(*CH*₃)₂), 1.60 (m, 6H, H₂CC(*CH*₃)₂).⁵² Carbon monoxide: ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆): 184.5 (CO).⁵²

5 Proposed mechanism of formation of ethylene and propylene



Scheme S1. Proposed mechanism of formation of ethylene and propylene starting from B([W] = (OSSO)W, H = Hor D) and alternative formation of B via a concerted five-centered transition state.



Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectrum of NaO¹³CHO in D_2O .



Figure S2. $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR spectrum of NaO 13 CHO in D₂O.



Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCHO)] (3) in C_6D_6 .



Figure S4. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCHO)] (**3**) in C₆D₆.



Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(O^{13} CHO)] (¹³C-3) in C₆D₆ with impurities of [(OSSO)WO₂] and H₂(OSSO).



Figure S6. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)($O^{13}CHO$)] (${}^{13}C-3$) in C_6D_6 with impurities of [(OSSO)WO₂] and $H_2(OSSO)$.



Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCDO)] (**D-3**) in C_6D_6 .

Figure S8. $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCDO)] (**D-3**) in C₆D₆.





Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)WO₂] (4) with traces of pro-ligand $H_2(OSSO)$ in C_6D_6 .



Figure S10. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of [(OSSO)WO₂] (**4**) with traces of pro-ligand H₂(OSSO) in C₆D₆.



Figure S11. ¹H NMR spectrum of **1a** (bottom) before and (top) after heating at 60 °C for 35 h in C₆D₆ (*) in non-silylated glassware.



Figure S12. ¹H NMR spectrum of **1a** (bottom) before and (top) after heating under ambient atmosphere for 3h at 80 °C in C_6D_6 (*) in non-silylated glassware.



Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum of **1a** (bottom) before and (top) after addition of H_2O and heating at 60 °C in [D₈]-THF (*) in non-silylated glassware with the internal standard trimethoxybenzene (#): Formation of ethylene, propylene, $H_2(OSSO)$ and tert-butyl alcohol with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 2.



Figure S14. ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** (bottom) before and (top) after heating at 60 °C for 35 h in C_6D_6 (*) in non-silylated glassware.



Figure S15. Comparison of the ¹H NMR spectra of **3** in C₆D₆ (top) and (bottom) of **3** after heating at 60 °C for 62 h in C₆D₆ (*) in non-silylated glassware with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 2.



Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** (top) before and (bottom) after heating at 60 °C for 44 h in [D₈]-THF (*) in silylated glassware with trimethoxybenzene (#) as internal standard.



Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** (bottom) before and (top) after heating at 60 °C for 24 h in C₆D₆ (*) in silylated glassware with trimethoxybenzene (#) as internal standard.



Figure S18. Comparison of the ¹H NMR spectra of ¹³C-3 (bottom) in C_6D_6 (*) and (top) after heating ¹³C-3 in C_6D_6 (*) at 60 °C for 12 d in non-silylated glassware.



Figure S19. Comparison of the ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectra of ${}^{13}C-3$ (bottom) and (top) after heating ${}^{13}C-3$ in C_6D_6 (*) at 60 °C for 12 d in non-silylated glassware.



Figure S20. Comparison of ¹H NMR spectra of (top) ¹³C-3 in C₆D₆ (*) after heating at 60 °C for 12 d in C₆D₆ (*) with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 1.1 and (bottom) after addition of water and heating at 60 °C for 20 h in C₆D₆ (*) with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 2.5.



Figure S21. Comparison of the ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra of (top) ¹³C-3 in C₆D₆ (*) after heating at 60 °C for 12 d and (bottom) after addition of water and heating at 60 °C for 20 h in C₆D₆.



Figure S22.¹H NMR spectrum of (top) **3** in C₆D₆ (*) after heating at 60 °C for 62 h with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 2 and (bottom) ¹H NMR spectrum of (OSSO)W(CEt)(OCDO), **D-3**, after heating at 60 °C for 13 d in C₆D₆ (*) with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : <0.4.



Figure S23. ¹H NMR spectrum of (top) **D-3** in C₆D₆ (*) after heating at 60 °C for 13 d with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : <0.4 and (bottom) ¹H NMR spectrum of **D-3** after addition of H₂O and heating at 60 °C for 17 h in C₆D₆ (*) with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 6.7.



Figure S24. ¹H NMR spectrum of (top) **D-3** in C₆D₆ (*) after addition of H₂O and heating at 60 °C for 17 h with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 6.7 and (bottom) ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** after addition of D₂O and heating at 60 °C for 4 h in C₆D₆ (*) with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : <0.4.



Figure S25: ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** after addition of H_2O and heating for 17 h at 60 °C in $[D_8]$ -THF (*) with a ratio of ethylene to propylene of 1 : 8.3.



Figure S26. IR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCHO)] (3) in KBr



Figure S27. IR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(O¹³CHO)] (¹³C-3) in KBr.



Figure S28. IR spectrum of [(OSSO)W(CEt)(OCDO)] (**D-3**) in KBr.



Figure S29. IR spectrum of [(OSSO)WO₂] (4) in KBr.

8 Molecular structure of 3



Figure S30. Molecular structure of 3 in the solid state. Hydrogen atoms except the formate proton are omitted for clarity.

9 Crystallographic data

Diffraction data of **3** were collected at 100 K on a Eulerian 4-circle diffractometer (STOE STRADIVARI) with Cu K_{α} radiation (graded multilayer mirror, $\lambda = 1.54186$ Å) using ω scans. The programs X-Area⁵⁴ and STOE X-Red32^{S5} were used for data reduction and absorption correction. Diffraction data of **4** were collected at 100 K on a Bruker CCD area-detector diffractometer with Mo K_{α} radiation (monolayer optics, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) at 100 K using ω scans. The SMART program package was used for data collection and unit cell determination; processing of the raw frame data was performed using SAINT; the absorption correction was applied with SADABS.^{56,57}

The structures were solved by direct methods (SIR-92).^{S8} All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically using all reflections with the program SHELXL-2013 as implemented in the program system WinGX.^{S9,510} In **3**, the carbon atoms C8, C9, C28, C29, C30, C33 and C34 as well as the carbon atoms C24, C25 and C26 in **4** that belong to methyl groups of tert-butyl units are disordered. This disorder was modelled with spilt positions and these atoms are refined with isotropic displacement parameters. All hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions and treated as riding with $U_{\rm H} = 1.2 \cdot U_{\rm C}$ or with $U_{\rm H} = 1.5 \cdot U_{\rm C}$ for the hydrogen atoms of methyl groups, respectively. The structure of **3** contains co crystallized solvent molecules that could not be refined. The SQUEEZE routine as implemented in the program system PLATON has been applied to account for the large solvent accessible void.^{S11} Due to the high sensitivity of the crystals of **3**, the crystals quickly decomposed and data were measured only up to a θ value of 60.22° (corresponding to a value for (sin θ)/ λ of 0.56). For this reason, details about the molecular structure of **3** are not discussed. The graphical representations were performed with the program DIAMOND.^{S12}

Table S1. Crystallographic and refinement data of 3 and 4.

	3	4
Chemical formula	$C_{34}H_{50}O_4S_2W$	$C_{30}H_{44}O_4S_2W$
<i>M</i> ^w (g [·] mol ⁻¹)	770.71	716.62
Crystal size (mm)	0.11 x 0.12 x 0.13	0.12 x 0.15 x 0.24
Crystal color and habit	block, red	block, colourless
Crystal system	trigonal	orthorhombic
space group	$\bar{R}3$	P212121
a (Å)	21.333(3)	12.4416(16)
b (Å)		14.4457(18)
<i>c</i> (Å)	45.902(9)	17.920(2)
V (ų)	18091(6)	3220.7(7)
Ζ	18	4
$D_{\text{calc.}}$ (g'cm ⁻¹)	1.273	1.478
μ(Mo Kα) (mm⁻¹)	6.522	3.747
F(000)	7056	1448
θ range, deg	4.54 - 60.22	1.81-25.56
Refins collected	20555	26945
Independent reflns (R _{int})	5730, 0.0669	6007, 0.0977
Observed refins ([$l \ge 2\sigma(l)$])	3410	5364
Data/restraints/params	5730 / 0 / 364	6007 / 0 / 347
<i>R</i> 1, <i>wR</i> 2 [<i>l</i> ≥ 2σ(<i>l</i>)]	0.0623, 0.1601	0.0373, 0.0746
R1, wR2 (all data)	0.0968, 0.1957	0.0468, 0.0783
GoF (F ²)	1.049	1.011
$\Delta ho_{\max,\min}$, e'Å ⁻³	0.544, -1.323	2.135, -1.020

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