Electronic Supplementary Information

Bimetallic nickel-lutetium complexes: Tuning the properties and catalytic hydrogenation activity of the Ni site by varying the Lu coordination environment

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Note: RasOrb files, which are editable files produced by the rassof program of *Molcas* to allow the possibility to read the orbitals in a later run, are available as separate TXT files.

Experimental Section

General Considerations. Unless otherwise stated, all manipulations were performed under an inert atmosphere in a glovebox or using standard Schlenk techniques. Standard solvents were deoxygenated by sparging with inert gas and dried by passing through activated alumina columns of a SG Water solvent purification system. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. or Sigma-Aldrich, degassed via freeze-pump-thaw cycles and stored over activated 4 Å molecular sieves. Elemental analyses were performed by Robertson Microlit Laboratories, Inc. (Ledgewood, NJ). ¹H and ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded on Varian 500 MHz, Bruker 500 MHz, or Bruker 400 MHz spectrometers at ambient temperature unless otherwise stated. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced internally to the residue solvent and ³¹P NMR were referenced to an external 85% H₃PO4 standard. The temperature of the probe during the variable-temperature NMR experiments was calibrated against an external methanol standard at temperatures below 25 °C. NMR titration data was modeled using bindfit fitting software, available through supramolecular.org,¹ using a simple 1:1 binding model and a Nelder–Mead fit method.^{2, 3} UV-Visible spectra were collected at room temperature on a Cary 300 Bio UV-Visible spectrophotometer and simulated using the program BF written by Eckhard Bill.⁴ Cyclic voltammetry was performed with a CH Instruments 600 electrochemical analyzer with a one-cell setup, comprising a glassy carbon working electrode, a platinum wire counter electrode, and Ag/AgNO₃ reference electrode in acetonitrile. Analytes were measured in 0.1M [*n*-Bu₄N]PF₆ in THF, 0.1M $[n-Pr_4N][BAr^F_4]$ (BAr^F₄= tetrakis(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)borate)) in THF, or 0.1M [*n*-Pr₄N][BAr^F₄] in diffuorobenzene solutions and internally referenced to the FeCp₂/FeCp₂⁺ redox couple.

The reagents Ni(COD)₂, LuCl₃, and diisopropylphosphine were purchased from Strem Chemicals and used without further purification. Aniline was purchased from Sigma–Aldrich and purified by vacuum distillation before use. 1,4,7–tris(2'–aminophenyl)–1,4,7–triazacyclononane⁵, diisopropylphosphinomethanol⁶, Ni(N(o-(NHCH₂PⁱPr₂)C₆H₄)₃)⁷, and [^{*n*}Pr₄N][BAr^F₄]⁸ were synthesized according to literature procedures.

Synthesis of ⁱPr₂PCH₂NHPh. A tube–shaped Schlenk reaction flask with an adjustable large– bore Teflon valve was charged with a magnetic stir bar, diisopropylphosphinomethanol (2.31 g, 2.50 mL, 16 mmol) and aniline (1.45 g, 1.42 mL, 16 mmol). The sides of the flask were rinsed with THF (~3 mL) to ensure full transfer. The solution was stirred at 65 °C for 13 h, and then the solvent removed in vacuo to afford a clear oil. The oil was extracted into hexane and filtered through a Celite pad and dried in vacuo. The product was used as is without further purification (3.22 g, 90 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 7.17 (t, ³J = 6.9 Hz, 2H, aryl CH), 6.76 (td, ^{3,4}J = 7.3 & 1.2 Hz, 2H, aryl CH), 6.50 (d, ³J = 8.7 Hz, 1H, aryl CH), 3.50 (br, 1H, NH), 3.03 (d, ²J_{HP} = 5.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂PⁱPr₂), 1.55 (m, 2H, CHMe₂), 0.96 (m, 12H, CH₃). ³¹P NMR (282 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 4.2. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 149.1 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 129.1, 117.4, 112.9, 38.6 (d, J = 14.5 Hz), 22.9 (d, J = 13.0 Hz), 19.9 (d, J = 16.5 Hz), 18.7 (d, J = 9.5 Hz). ESI-MS-TOF *m*/*z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₃H₂₂NPNa 246.1392; found: 246.1418.

Synthesis of ⁱPr₂PCH₂NKPh. In a 20–mL scintillation vial, $KN(TMS)_2$ (0.447 g, 2.24 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL of toluene and then added to a stirring solution of ⁱPr₂PCH₂NHPh (0.500 g, 2.24 mmol) in toluene (~5 mL) at room temperature. Within 15 min, a yellow precipitate was formed. After stirring for an additional 45 min, the yellow solids were isolated via filtration, washed with toluene (3 x 2 mL), and dried in vacuo to give the desired product as a bright yellow powder (503

mg, 86 %). ¹H{³¹P} NMR (400 MHz, THF– d_8 , δ): 6.64 (br, 2H, aryl CH), 5.98 (br, 2H, aryl CH), 5.59 (t, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H, aryl CH), 3.14 (s, 2H, C*H*₂PⁱPr₂), 1.81 (septet of d, *J* = 7.2 & 3.6 Hz, 2H, C*H*Me₂), 1.16–1.09 (m, 12H, C*H*₃).³¹P (282 MHz, THF– d_8 , δ): 1.3. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, THF– d_8 , δ): 163.3, 130.0, 104.5, 48.0, 24.4, 20.7, 20.5, 6.9.

Synthesis of ($^{1}Pr_{2}PCH_{2}NHPAr$)₃tacn. A tube–shaped Schlenk reaction flask with an adjustable large–bore Teflon valve was charged with a magnetic stir bar, diisopropylphosphinomethanol (1.00 g, 1.07 mL, 6.7 mmol) and 1,4,7–tris(2'–aminophenyl)–1,4,7–triazacyclononane (1.00 g, 2.28 mmol). The sides of the flask were rinsed with THF (~3 mL) to ensure full transfer. The solution was stirred at 65 °C for 13 h, and then the solvent removed in vacuo to afford a clear oil. The oil was extracted into hexane and filtered through a Celite pad and dried in vacuo. The crude product was dissolved in 10 mL hexane, filtered, and purified by eluting through a short silica plug with hexane (60 mL). Evaporation of the eluate in vacuo yielded a colorless oil (1.10 g, 60%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 7.18 (d, ³J = 8.0 Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 7.12 (t, ³J = 7.7 Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 6.80 (d, ³J = 8.0 Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 6.75 (t, ³J = 7.6 Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 5.22 (br, 3H, NH), 3.54 (br, 12H, tacn CH₂), 3.25 (d, ²J_{HP} = 5.1 Hz, 6H, CH₂¹Pr₂), 1.72 (sept of d, J = 7.0 & 2.5 Hz, 6H, CHMe₂), 1.12–1.00 (m, 36H, CH₃). ³¹P NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆, 121 MHz): δ 3.3. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 144.5 (d, J = 8.4 Hz), 142.1, 125.2, 122.8, 117.1, 110.8, 57.2, 38.9 (d, J = 14.4 Hz), 23.2 (d, J = 13.5 Hz), 19.9 (d, J = 16.0 Hz), 18.9 (d, J = 9.9 Hz). ESI-MS-TOF m/z: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₄₅H₇₅N₆P₃Na 815.5192; found, 815.5313.

Synthesis of Lu(ⁱ**Pr**₂**PCH**₂**NPh)₃ (1).** In a 20–mL scintillation vial, a solution of ⁱ**Pr**₂**PCH**₂**NHPh** (0.300g, 1.34 mmol) in Et₂O (~4 mL) was frozen in a LN₂ coldwell and then layered with ⁿBuLi (0.537 mL, 1.34 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and then dried in vacuo. The resulting solid was dissolved in THF (~4 mL) and frozen in a LN₂ coldwell. The thawing solution was layered on top of a frozen solution of LuCl₃ (0.126 g, 0.447 mmol) in THF (~8 mL). The solution was allowed to warm to rt and then stirred overnight. After drying the solution in vacuo, the resulting crude solid was washed with hexanes (8 mL) and then dissolved in benzene. After filtering through a Celite pad and drying in vacuo, the product was obtained as a white powder (0.376 g, 85%). Single crystals were grown by layering a concentrated toluene solution of **1** with hexane at –30 °C. ¹H{³¹P} NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 7.28 (t, ³*J* = 7.7 Hz, 6H, aryl C*H*), 7.07 (d, ³*J* = 8.1 Hz, 6H, aryl C*H*), 6.72 (t, ³*J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, aryl C*H*), 3.53 (s, 6H, C*H*₂PⁱPr₂), 1.80 (br, 6H, C*H*Me₂), 1.11–0.84 (m, 36H, C*H*₃). ³¹P NMR (282 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): –9.4. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 157.0, 129.4, 115.9, 114.7, 43.0, 24.0, 20.7, 19.3, 18.8. Multiple EA attempts consistently showed incorporation of water. Anal. Calcd. for **1**(H₂O), C₃₉H₆₅N₃OP₃Lu: 54.48 C, 7.62 H, 4.89 N. Found: 54.50 C, 7.87 H, 4.83 N.

Alternative synthesis of 1. To a stirring THF (~8 mL) solution of LuCl₃ (0.054 g, 0.191 mmol) in a 20–mL scintillation vial at room temperature, a THF solution (~4 mL) of ${}^{i}Pr_2PCH_2NKPh$ (0.150 g, 0.574 mmol) was added. The reaction was stirred overnight and then dried in vacuo. The crude was washed with hexanes (~8 mL) and dissolved in benzene. After filtering through a Celite pad, the solution was dried in vacuo to yield a white powder (0.129 g, 80%).

Synthesis of Lu{($^{i}Pr_2PCH_2NAr$)₃tacn} (2). In a 20–mL scintillation vial, an Et₂O (~4 mL) solution of ($^{i}Pr_2PCH_2NHPAr$)₃tacn (0.337g, 1.51 mmol) was frozen in a LN₂ coldwell, and then layered with ⁿBuLi (0.604 mL, 1.51 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature and then dried in vacuo. The resulting solid was dissolved in THF (~4 mL) and frozen in a LN₂ coldwell. The thawing solution was layered on top of a frozen solution of LuCl₃ (141.6 g, 0.50

mmol) in THF (~8 mL). The reaction was allowed to warm to rt and then stirred overnight. After drying the solution in vacuo, the resulting crude solid was washed with cold hexanes (8 mL) and then dissolved in benzene. After filtering through a Celite pad and drying in vacuo, the product was obtained as a white powder (0.280 g, 66%). Single crystals were grown by layering a concentrated toluene solution of **2** with hexane at $-30 \degree$ C. ¹H{³¹P} NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 7.26 (td, ^{3,4}*J* = 7.7 & 1.5 Hz, 3H, aryl C*H*), 6.88 (d, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H, aryl C*H*), 6.70 (dd, ^{3,4}*J* = 7.8 & 1.6 Hz, 3H, aryl C*H*), 6.55 (td, ^{3,4}*J* = 7.5 & 1.3 Hz, 3H, aryl C*H*), 3.70 (d, ²*J* = 13.2 Hz, 3H, C*H*H'PⁱPr₂), 3.45 (d, ²*J* = 13.2 Hz, 3H, CHH'PⁱPr₂), 3.36 (m, 3H, NC*H*H'), 2.64 (m, 3H, N NCH*H*'), 2.52 (m, 6H, NC'*HH*'), 1.80 (sept, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, C*H*Me₂, 3H), 1.44 (sept, ³*J* = 7.2 Hz, C'*H*Me₂, 3H), 1.16 – 1.03 (m, 36H, C*H*₃). ³¹P NMR (282 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): -7.1. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 155.6 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 141.6, 121.5, 114.0 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 112.8, 57.7, 56.3, 46.7, 24.9 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz), 23.6 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz), 22.1 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz), 21.1 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz), 19.5 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz), 18.5 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz). Multiple EA attempts consistently showed incorporation of water. Anal. Calcd. for **2**(H₂O), C₄₅H₇₄N₆OP₃Lu: 54.98 C, 7.59 H, 8.55 N. Found: 55.01 C, 7.63 H, 8.52 N.

Synthesis of NiLu(Pr₂PCH₂NPh)₃ (3) and 3-THF. A solution of 1 (0.150 g, 0.180 mmol) in THF (~4 mL) was added to solid Ni(COD)₂ (0.049 g, 0.180 mmol), resulting in a red-orange color. The reaction was stirred for 16 h and then dried in vacuo. The crude was washed with cold hexanes (6 mL) and toluene (6 mL). The product was extracted into hot toluene and then filtered through a Celite pad. After drying in vacuo, a red powder was obtained (0.145 g, 90% yield). Alternatively, 3 can by synthesized by heating a solution of 1 and Ni(COD)₂ in toluene at 70 °C for 16 h, during which red crystals of 3 precipitate. The crystals were collected and washed with cold. Single crystals were grown from a hot concentrated toluene solution of 3 cooled to room temperature and then placed in the freezer at -28 °C. Single crystals of **3**-THF were grown by layering hexane on a concentrated THF solution at -28 °C. ¹H{³¹P} NMR (400 MHz, toluene- d_8 , δ): 7.18 (t, ³J = 7.7 Hz, 6H, aryl CH), 6.65 (d, ${}^{3}J = 8.1$ Hz, 6H, aryl CH), 6.62 (t, ${}^{3}J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 3.96 (s, 6H, $CH_2P^{i}Pr_2$), 2.23 (sept, ${}^{3}J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H, $CHMe_2$), 1.08 (d, ${}^{3}J = 7.1$ Hz, 18H, CH_3), 1.01 (d, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.1 Hz, 18H, C'H₃). ³¹P NMR (282 MHz, toluene– d_8 , δ): -0.8. UV-Vis (nm, in difluorobenzene): 366 (3900 M^{-1} cm⁻¹), 405 (2650), 515 (660). Multiple EA attempts consistently showed incorporation of water. Anal. Calcd. for 3(H₂O), C₃₉H₆₅N₃OP₃LuNi: 51.00 C, 7.13 H, 4.57 N. Found: 51.22 C, 6.61 H, 4.43 N.

Spectroscopic data for 3–THF: ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR (400 MHz, THF– d_8 , δ): 6.94 (t, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.7 Hz, 6H, aryl CH), 6.61 (d, ${}^{3}J$ = 8.0 Hz, 6H, aryl CH), 6.34 (t, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.2 Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 3.87 (s, 6H, CH₂PⁱPr₂), 2.44 (sept, ${}^{3}J$ = 7.2 Hz, 6H, CHMe₂), 1.30 (dd, J = 7.3 & 4.1 Hz, 36H, CH₃). ${}^{31}P$ NMR (282 MHz, THF– d_8 , δ): 10.2. ${}^{13}C$ NMR (126 MHz, THF– d_8 , δ): 159.5, 129.0, 116.8, 114.8, 54.82, 29.0, 21.8, 19.7. UV–Vis (nm, in THF): 407 (3312 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹), 451 (708), 548 sh (345).

Synthesis of NiLu{($^{i}Pr_{2}PCH_{2}NAr$)₃tacn} (4). A solution of 2 (0.404 g, 0.555 mmol) in THF (~12 mL) was added to solid Ni(COD)₂ (0.153 g, 0.555 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 16 h and then dried in vacuo. The crude was washed with cold pentane and then dissolved in toluene. After filtering through a Celite pad and drying in vacuo, a red-purple powder was obtained (0.316 g, 70% yield). Single crystals were grown by diffusion of hexane into a concentrated THF solution of 4. $^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 7.26 (td, $^{3,4}J = 8.6 \& 1.5$ Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 6.75 (t, $^{3}J = 7.4$, 6H, aryl CH), 6.54 (td, $^{3,4}J = 7.4 \& 1.2$ Hz, 3H, aryl CH), 3.66 (d, $^{2}J = 13.1$ Hz, 3H, CHH'PⁱPr₂), 3.41 (m, 3H, NCHH'), 2.60 (m, 6H, NC'HH'), 2.48 (dd, J = 11.2 & 3.1 Hz, 3H, NCHH'), 2.35 (sept, $^{3}J = 7.3$ Hz, 3H, CHMe₂), 1.89 (sept, $^{3}J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, C'HMe₂), 1.36 (m, 18H, CH₃), 1.19 (m, 9H, C'H₃), 0.98 (m, 9H, C''H₃). ^{31}P NMR (282 MHz, C₆D₆,

δ): 15.0. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆, δ): 157.1, 142.4, 128.9, 119.8, 111.6, 110.5, 59.8, 56.0, 49.4, 29.9, 26.4, 22.8, 21.5, 20.5, 19.75. UV–Vis (nm, in difluorobenzene): 504 (4700 M⁻¹cm⁻¹). Anal. Calcd. for C₄₅H₇₂N₆P₃LuNi: 52.80 C, 7.09 H, 8.21 N. Found: 53.03 C, 7.25 H, 8.03 N.

Catalytic hydrogenation of olefins by 3, 3–THF, and 4, NMR scale. A J. Young NMR tube was charged with 5.6 µmol of catalyst (3 and 4). A stock solution of olefin and ferrocene was prepared such 40 equivalents of olefin (0.37 M in 0.6 mL toluene-d₈ solution) and ferrocene (ca. 0.3M) as an internal integration standard was transferred into each sealed J. Young NMR tube. In the case of 3-THF, the same procedure is carried out with THF as the solvent. One freeze-pump-thaw cycle was performed to evacuate the headspace, followed by cooling the NMR tube to LN₂ temperature and back-filling with H₂ (4 atm). In order to promote the mixing of H₂ into solution, the J. Young tube was inverted 3 x before being placed in an oil bath and heated to 100 °C. Olefin hydrogenation catalysis was monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy by quantitative integration of the vinylic protons of the olefin against those of the internal ferrocene standard (recycle delay = 20 s). Alkane product peaks were also integrated in cases where they did not overlap with NiLu peaks. All catalytic hydrogenation experiments were performed in triplicate unless otherwise indicated. Control experiments carried out under the same conditions in the presence of Hg (300 equiv) showed catalysis was uninhibited by the addition of mercury, with 94% conversion in the absence of mercury as compared to 91% conversion in the presence of mercury, consistent with a homogeneous catalytic process.

¹H NMR of Alkyl and Olefinic Peaks of Selected Hydrogenated and Isomerized Products (ppm, toluene– d_8):

ethyl benzene: 2.44 (q, ${}^{2}J$ = 8 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 1.08 (t, ${}^{2}J$ = 8 Hz, 3H, CH₃) propylbenzene: 2.42 (t, ${}^{2}J$ = 7.5 Hz, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.50 (sextet, ${}^{2}J$ = 7.5 Hz, CH₂CH₂CH₃, 2H), 0.82 (t, ${}^{2}J$ = 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH₃) trans-2-octene: 5.43 (m, 2H, H₃CCHCH(CH₂)₄CH₃), 1.61 (d, J=5 Hz, 3H H₃CCHCH(CH₂)₄CH₃) octane: 1.21 (s, 12H) trans-stilbene: 7.29 (d, ${}^{2}J$ = 6.9Hz, 4H, aryl CH), 6.93 (s, 2H) bibenzyl: 2.71 (s, 4H)

Computational Methods.

DFT Calculations. Quantum-chemical studies were performed on the three bimetallic species **3**, **3**–THF, and **4**. Gas-phase geometry optimizations were initially screened for **4** with various DFT functionals, including PBE⁹, PBE-D3⁹⁻¹¹, PBE0¹², PBE0-D3¹⁰⁻¹², B3LYP-D3^{10, 11, 13-16}, B97-D3^{10, 11, 17}, M06-L¹⁸, B3P86¹⁹, and B3PW91¹³ implemented in the *Gaussian 09* program package (Table S7).²⁰ The Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof exchange-correlation functional, PBE-D3, was found to have the best agreement with experimental data and, thus, used for all three bimetallic species. For C and H atoms, the double– ζ -quality basis set def-SV(P) was used, whereas the triple– ζ -quality basis set def–TZVP was employed for N, P, and Ni.²¹ The relativistic energy-consistent Stuttgart-Dresden effective core potential was used for Lu atom.²² The initial starting points for geometry optimizations were derived from experimentally determined X-ray structures.

CASSCF Calculations. These bimetallic species were further investigated with complete-activespace self-consistent-field (CASSCF)²³ method. CASSCF calculations, were performed with the MOLCAS 7.8 package on the DFT-optimized structures without symmetry constraints.²⁴ Relativistic all-electron ANO-RCC basis sets were used for all elements.^{25, 26} Double- ζ -quality (ANO-RCC-VDZP) basis sets were used for Lu, Ni, N and P and minimal basis sets (ANO-RCC-MB) were used for C and H atoms. Scalar relativistic effects were included by using the Douglas– Kroll–Hess Hamiltonian.²⁷ The two-electron integral evaluation was simplified by employing the Cholesky decomposition technique.²⁸ In the CASSCF calculations an active space of 10 electrons in 11 orbitals (10,11) was used for all species, which comprises the 3d, 4s and 4d orbitals of Ni and the 5d of Lu.

X-ray Crystallographic and Structure Refinement Details

A colorless plate of 1, a colorless plate of 2, red plate of 3, red–orange plate of 3–THF and a dark red block of 4 were mounted on a 200 µm MiTeGen microloop and placed on a Bruker APEX-II Platform diffractometer or a Bruker PHOTON-II CMOS diffractometer for data collection at 173(2) K or 123(2) K. The data collection was carried out using either Cu K α (1) or Mo K α (2, 3, 3-THF, 4) radiation (graphite monochromator). The data intensity was corrected for absorption and decay (SADABS). Final cell constants were obtained from least-squares fits of all measured reflections. The structure was solved using SHELXT-97 and refined using SHELXL 97. A directmethods solution was calculated which provided most non-hydrogen atoms from the E-map. Fullmatrix least-squares/difference Fourier cycles were performed to locate the remaining nonhydrogen atoms. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms were placed in ideal positions and refined as riding atoms with relative isotropic displacement parameters. A disordered toluene molecule in 3 resides on an inversion center and was modeled using SHELXTL SAME and SIMU restraints in addition to EADP constraints where appropriate. An isopropyl phosphine ligand arm in complex 4 was disordered over three positions and modeled using SIMU restraints in addition to EADP and EXYZ constraints where appropriate. A separate methyl group in 4 disordered over two positions was also modeled using SIMU restraints in addition to EADP and EXYZ constraints where appropriate.

	1	2	3	3 –THF	4
chemical formula	C ₃₉ H ₆₃ N ₃ P ₃ Lu	$\begin{array}{c} C_{45}H_{72}N_6P_3Lu.\\ [C_6H_{14}]_{0.5}\end{array}$	C ₃₉ H ₆₃ N ₃ P ₃ LuNi. C ₇ H ₈	$\begin{array}{c} C_{39}H_{63}N_{3}P_{3}Lu.\\ C_{4}H_{8}O \end{array}$	C45H72N6P3LuNi
Fw	841.80	1008.05	992.64	972.61	1023.67
cryst syst	triclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
space group	Pī	$P2_1/c$	$P2_1/c$	ΡĪ	Pī
a (Å)	10.6585(3)	11.5369(5)	12.9011(7)	11.4262(10)	10.7814(2)
b (Å)	1.7628(4)	38.7027(14)	14.0250(7)	12.1111(11)	10.8562(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	17.3425(6)	11.8500(4)	25.5191(14)	17.7291(16)	20.1873(4)
α (°)	90.3090(10)	90	90	76.8410(10)	78.2730(10)
β (°)	91.0120(10)	112.211(2)	94.979(2)	81.2330(10)	79.6030(10)
γ (°)	112.4100(10)	90	90	68.2440(10)	78.3390(10)
V(Å ³)	2009.60(11)	4898.5(3)	4599.9(4)	2212.5(3)	2241.69(7)
Ζ	2	4	4	2	2
$D_{cald}(g\;cm^{-3})$	1.391	1.367	1.433	1.460	1.517
λ (Å), μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.71073, 2.605	1.54178, 5.066	0.71073, 2.681	0.71073, 2.787	1.54178, 5.936
Т	123(2)	123(2)	123(2)	173(2)	123(2)
θ (°)	2.197 – 30.536	4.139 - 74.647	2.245 - 43.109	1.183 - 27.250	4.222 - 74.588
relns collected	37888	43324	124210	25794	33217
unique relfns	10582	7815	24284	8608	8162
data/restraint/ parameters	12243/0/427	9883/0/536	34226/18/535	9816/0/481	9120/25/589
R ₁ , wR ₂ (I>2σ (I))	0.0289, 0.0488	0.0334, 0.0665	0.0345, 0.0602	0.0282, 0.0555	0.0283, 0.0618

 Table S1. Crystallographic Details for Complexes 1, 2, 3, 3–THF, and 4.

Complex	M–M Distance (Å)	Sum of Covalent Radii ²⁹	r ^a	ref.
3	2.4644	2.72	0.91	This work
3-THF	2.5989	2.72	0.96	This work
4	2.9771	2.72	1.09	This work
$FU(OC_6 H_2-6-But-4-Me-2-PPh_2-\kappa_2O, P)_3Ni$	2.520	2.80	0.90	30
$[U(Cl)_2 \{C(PPh_2NSiMe_3)(PPh[C_6H_4]-NSiMe_3)\} \{Rh(CH(SiMe_3)(PPh_2)\}]$	2.5835	2.95	0.88	31
$[Lu{Ni(ArO)_3 tacn}_2][ClO_4]$	2.918, 2.925	2.72	1.07, 1.08	32
$C_{6}H_{4}\{N=CHC_{6}H_{4}-2-(O-)\}_{2}Ni$ Lu(CF_{3}COCH_{2}COCF_{3})_{3}	3.151	2.72	1.16	33
$(C_5Me_4SiMe_2CH_2PPh_2)Lu(\mu - CH_2SiMe_2CH_2)(OC_4H_8)PtMe_2$	2.7668	2.85	0.97	34
$[(Ph_2PNHPh)Pd \{\mu-(Ph_2PNPh)\}_3Lu(\mu-Cl)Li(THF)_3]$	2.9031	2.82	1.03	35
$[(Ph_2PNHPh)Pt \{\mu-(Ph_2PNPh)\}_3Lu(\mu-Cl)Li(THF)_3]$	2.9523	2.85	1.04	36
$[Cp_2Lu-ReCp_2]$	2.8958	2.93	0.99	37
$(C_4H_8O)(C_5H_5)_2Lu-Ru(CO)_2(C_5H_5)$	2.995	2.87	1.04	38
[2,6-(CH ₂ C ₅ H ₃) ₂ C ₅ H ₃ N] ₂ Dy-Fe Cp(CO) ₂	2.884	2.83	1.02	39
$[Nd(ButNCH2CH2{C(NCSiMe3CHNBut)})-(N(SiMe3)2)]{FeCp(CO)2}]$	2.9942	2.90	1.03	40
$Me-PdNd \{O[Si(CH_3)_2NH-(4-CH_3C_5H_3N)_2\}_2$	3.0345	2.94	1.03	41

Table S2. Selected Literature Heterobimetallic d–f Complexes with Short Intermetal Distances

 $a^{a}r$ is the ratio of their metal-metal bond distance to the corresponding sum of the metals' covalent single-bond radii²⁹



Figure S1. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6) spectrum of ⁱPr₂PCH₂NHPh. Residual impurity peaks are indicated by *.





Figure S3. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C_6D_6) spectrum of (ⁱ Pr_2PCH_2NHPAr)₃tacn. Residual solvent peaks (hexanes) are indicated by *.



Figure S4. Proton ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆) spectrum of (ⁱ**Pr₂PCH₂NHPAr**)₃tacn. Residual solvent peaks (hexanes) are indicated by *.





Figure S6. ³¹P NMR (282 MHz) spectra overlay of all reported complexes: 1, 2, 3, 4 (in C₆D₆), and 3–THF (in THF– d_8).



Figure S8. ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆) spectrum of **2**. Residual solvent peaks (hexanes) are indicated by *.





Figure S10. ¹H{³¹P} NMR (400 MHz, THF– d_8) spectrum of **3**–THF. Residual solvent peaks (THF) are indicated by *.



Figure S11. ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆) spectrum of 4. Residual solvent peaks (toluene) are indicated by *.



Figure S12.¹H{³¹P} NMR (400 MHz, toluene– d_8) spectrum of **3** titrated with varying equivalents of THF. Residual solvent peaks (toluene and THF) are indicated by *.



Figure S13. (Left) ³¹P NMR spectra from titration of 10 mM **3** with THF in d₈-toluene (Right). Solvent binding isotherm data for the titration of 10 mM **3** with THF (blue circles) at 25 ± 1 °C in d₈-toluene.



Figure S14. (Left) A fitted plot of the δ versus equivalents of $[THF]_o/[3]_o$ (guest (G) = THF; host (H) =3) at 25 ± 1 °C in d_8 -toluene, where δ is the ³¹P chemical shift. Data was modeled using *bindfit* fitting software, available through supramolecular.org,¹ using a simple 1:1 binding model between 3 and THF.^{2, 3} From the non-linear regression, K_a = 59 (2) M⁻¹. Lower equivalent addition data point (1 eq) was excluded due to issues in solubility of 3 at lower equiv additions of THF. (Right) Raw titration data used for non-linear and linear regression (Figure S15) plots.



Figure S15. A Scatchard plot of the $\Delta\delta$ versus $\Delta\delta/[THF]_o$, where $\Delta\delta$ is the measured change in ³¹P chemical shift (upon addition of THF) referenced to that of the un-complexed **3.**^{2, 42} From the plot, K_a = 48.32 M⁻¹ which is in close agreement to the K_a value obtained by non-linear regression.



Figure S16. ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum of **3** under 1 atm and 4 atm H₂ at room temperature (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). At 1 atm and 4 atm H₂, a non-perturbed ¹H resonance (indicated by #) for free H₂ is observed at 4.5 ppm (free H₂ is 4.50 ppm in toluene– d_8)⁴³. A bound H₂ resonance is not observed at either pressure.



Figure S17. ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum of **3**–THF under 1 atm and 4 atm H₂ at room temperature (400 MHz, THF– d_8). Residual solvent peaks (toluene) are indicated by *. At 1 atm, the ¹H resonance for free H₂ is not observed, whereas a perturbed ¹H resonance for free H₂ (indicated by #) is observed at 4.0 ppm under 4 atm H₂ (free H₂ is 4.55 ppm in THF– d_8)⁴³. A bound H₂ resonance is not observed at either pressure.



Figure S18. ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum of **3** + 15 eq THF under 4 atm H₂ at room temperature (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). Residual solvent peaks (toluene and hexanes) are indicated by *. At 4 atm H₂, a perturbed ¹H resonance (indicated by #) for free H₂ is observed at 4.0 ppm (free H₂ is 4.50 ppm in toluene– d_8)⁴³. A bound H₂ resonance is not observed under these conditions.



Figure S19. ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum of **4** under 4 atm H₂ at room temperature in (top) THF– d_8 and (bottom) toluene– d_8 (400 MHz). Residual solvent peaks (benzene) are indicated by *. At 4 atm, a perturbed ¹H resonance for free H₂ (indicated by #) is observed at 4.45 ppm in THF– d_8 and at 4.43 ppm in toluene– d_8 (free H₂ is 4.55 ppm in THF–d and 4.50 ppm in toluene– d_8). A bound H₂ resonance is not observed at either pressure.



Figure S20. ³¹P NMR overlay of **3** under Ar, 1 atm H₂ and 4 atm H₂ at 298 K (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). Residual water in d_8 –toluene and H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh which can be seen at 4.22 ppm.



Figure S21. ³¹P NMR overlay of **3**–THF (**3** + 15 eq THF– d_8) under Ar, 1 atm H₂ and 4 atm H₂ at 298 K (400 MHz, toluene– d_8).



Figure S22. ³¹P NMR overlay of 3–1HF under Ar, 1 atm H₂ and 4 atm H₂ at 298 K (400 THF– d_8).



Figure S23. ³¹P NMR overlay of **4** under Ar, 1 atm H₂ and 4 atm H₂ at 298 K (400 MHz, toluene– d_8).



Figure S24. ³¹P NMR overlay of **3** under Ar, 1 atm H₂, and 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). Reported H₂ pressures are with respect to their initial pressures at room temperature. Residual water in d₈-toluene and H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh denoted by an asterisk (*).



Figure S25. Variable temperature ³¹P NMR of **3** under 4 atm H₂ at rt (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). Initially, the phosphorus resonance generally broadens upon cooling. At –83°C, the exchange becomes slower such that a slow exchange regime is achieved in which both **3** and **3**–(H₂) can be observed. In turn, a discrete bound **3**–(H₂) phosphorus resonance (9.6 ppm) appears at –83°C. Residual water in H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh denoted by an asterisk (*).



Figure S26. ¹H{³¹P} NMR overlay of **3** under Ar, 1 atm H₂, and 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, toluene–*d*₈). Reported H₂ pressures are with respect to their initial pressures at room temperature. Free H₂ is marked by an asterisk (*). A zoomed inset of **3** under 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K between 0 and -3.0 ppm shows the bound H₂ resonance of the **3**–(H₂) species. Reliable T₁ values could not be obtained due to the broadness of the bound H₂ resonance at 190 K.



Figure S27.Variable temperature proton NMR of **3** under 4 atm H₂ at rt (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). Though the bound H₂ resonance is not visible at rt, it appears at -83°C. The resonance of free H₂ (at 4.50 ppm) generally broadens and shifts slightly upfield upon cooling to -61°C. At -72°C, the resonance shifts back downfield to that of free H₂ (4.50 ppm).



Figure S28. ³¹P NMR overlay of **3**–THF (**3** + 15 eq THF– d_8) under Ar, 1 atm H₂, and 4 atm H₂ cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). Reported H₂ pressures are with respect to their initial pressures at room temperature. Residual water in THF– d_8 and H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh denoted by an asterisk (*). Overall, behavior of H₂ binding is similar to that of **3** in bulk THF– d_8 (Figure S29).



Figure S29. ³¹P NMR overlay of **3**–THF under Ar, 1 atm H₂, and 4 atm H₂ cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). Reported H₂ pressures are with respect to their initial pressures at room temperature. Residual water in d₈-THF and H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh denoted by an asterisk (*).



Figure S30.Variable temperature ³¹P NMR of **3**–THF under **4** atm H₂ at rt (400 MHz, THF– d_8). Initially, the phosphorus resonance generally broadens upon cooling indicating an intermediate exchange regime between **3**–THF and **3**–(H₂)THF. At –61°C, the exchange becomes slower such that a slow exchange regime is achieved.⁴⁴ In turn, a discrete bound H₂ –**3**–THF phosphorus resonance appears at –72°C. Residual water in H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh, denoted by *, which can be seen at –1.4 ppm.



Figure S31. Proton ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum of **3**–THF under 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). At this temperature, a slow exchange regime is achieved between H2-**3**-THF and **3**-THF, thus the NMR is a combination of **3**–(H₂)THF and **3**–THF. Residual solvent peaks (toluene, hexanes) are indicated by *.



Figure S32. Variable temperature proton NMR of **3**–THF under 4 atm H₂ at rt (400 MHz, THF– d_8). Though the bound H₂ resonance is not visible at rt, appearing at –42°C, the bound H₂ resonance generally sharpens and shifts upfield upon cooling. Residual solvent peaks in spectra for toluene and THF are denoted with * in –30°C spectrum.



Figure S33. Plot of T₁ relaxation time of bound H₂ resonances of $\mathbf{3}$ -(H₂)THF at various temperatures from 243 K to 210 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). T₁ values for $\mathbf{3}$ -(H₂)THF above 243 K could not be reliably obtained due to the broadness of the bound H₂ resonance at those temperatures.



Figure S34. ³¹P NMR overlay of **4** under Ar and 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). A bound H₂ ³¹P resonance is not visible even at 190 K, though the broadness of the ³¹P resonance at 4 atm indicates the binding of H₂ to **4** is very fluxional in this case.



Figure S35. Proton ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR spectrum of 4 under 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, toluene–*d*₈). Residual solvent peaks (benzene) are indicated by *. A bound H₂ resonance is not visible even at 190 K, though the absence of a free H₂ resonance indicates the binding of H₂ is very fluxional in this case. T₁ values could not be obtained due to the inability to observe a bound H₂ resonance at low temperatures.



Figure S36. ³¹P NMR overlay of **4** under Ar, 1 atm H₂ and 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). A bound H₂ ³¹P resonance is not visible even at 190 K, though the broadness of the ³¹P resonance at 4 atm indicates the binding of H₂ to **4** is very fluxional in this case.



Figure S37. Proton ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR spectrum of 4 under 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). Residual solvent peaks (benzene) are indicated by *. A bound H₂ resonance is not visible even at 190 K, though the absence of a free H₂ resonance indicates the binding of H₂ is very fluxional in this case. T₁ values could not be obtained due to the inability to observe a bound H₂ resonance at low temperatures.



Figure S38. ³¹P NMR overlay of Ni(N(o-(NHCH₂PⁱPr₂)C₆H₄)₃) under Ar and 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). With no change in the chemical shift upon cooling, a related trigonal monometallic Ni(0) species Ni(N(o-(NHCH₂PⁱPr₂)C₆H₄)₃) shows no indication of H₂ binding. This experiment highlights the importance of the presence of a supporting Lu^{III} ion in promoting the binding of H₂ at a Ni(0) metal center in **3**, **3**–THF and **4**.



Figure S39. Proton ${}^{1}H{}^{31}P{}$ NMR spectrum of Ni(N(o-(NHCH₂PⁱPr₂)C₆H₄)₃) under 4 atm H₂ at rt and cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). Residual solvent peaks (benzene) are indicated by *. Free H₂ resonance indicated by #.⁴³ With no change in the chemical shift upon cooling, the a related trigonal monometallic Ni(0) species Ni(N(o-(NHCH₂PⁱPr₂)C₆H₄)₃) shows no indication of H₂ interaction. This experiment highlights the importance of the presence of a supporting Lu^{III} ion in promoting the binding of H₂ at a Ni(0) metal center in **3**, **3**–THF and **4**.



Figure S40. ³¹P NMR overlay of **3** in presence of (red trace) 0.37 M styrene and (blue trace) 0.37 M styrene and 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, toluene– d_8). At these low temperatures, there is evidence for substrate binding between styrene and **3** as shown by new ³¹P peaks being present in the catalytic mixture (denoted by #) which share similarities with that of **3** with only styrene in the mixture. Residual water in H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh, denoted by *.



Figure S41. ³¹P NMR overlay of **3**–THF in presence of (red trace) 0.37 M styrene and (blue trace) 0.37 M styrene and 4 atm H₂ (at rt) cooled to 190 K (400 MHz, THF– d_8). At these low temperatures, H₂ binding seems favored with no observable styrene binding. Residual water in H₂ gas results in the formation of a small amount of Pr₂PCH₂NHPh, denoted by *.

Electrochemical Studies



Figure S42. Stacked cyclic voltammograms of the *in situ* generation of **3**–THF prepared by the addition of 320 equiv THF to a solution of **3** in 0.1M [$^{n}Pr_{4}N$][BAr^F₄] in difluorobenzene with FeCp₂ as an internal reference. The dotted lines represent the E_{pa} values for **3** (-1.00 V) and **3**–THF (-1.05 V). (scan rate of 100 mV/s; collected under Ar)



Figure S43. Overlay of cyclic voltammograms of **3** under varying electrolyte conditions (blue: 0.1 M [$^{n}Pr_{4}N$][BAr^F₄] in THF; blue and green: 0.1 M [$^{n}Pr_{4}N$][BAr^F₄] in difluorobenzene). Of note, when the applied voltage does exceed ca. -0.75 V, then the oxidative process for **3** is stable over multiple scans (green trace). (scan rate of 100 or 250 mV/s; collected under Ar)



Figure S44. Stacked CVs of **3** in 0.1 M [${}^{n}Pr_{4}N$][BAr^F₄] in DFB with FeCp₂ as an internal reference. In the experiment, 5 continuous scans were performed, and then the electrode was polished and the original sample of **3** was remeasured in two consecutive scans. The asterisk marks the first oxidative process. (scan rate of 100 mV/s; collected under Ar)



Figure S45. Overlay of cyclic voltammograms of **4** under varying electrolyte conditions (red: 0.1 M $[Pr_4N][BAr^F_4]$ in THF; black: 0.1 M $[^nPr_4N][BAr^F_4]$ in difluorobenzene). (scan rate of 100 mV/s; collected under Ar)



Figure S46. Cyclic voltammogram of Ni $\{N(o-(NCH_2P^iPr_2)C_6H_4)_3\}$ in 0.1 M [ⁿPr₄N][BAr^F₄] in difluorobenzene. (scan rate of 100 mV/s; collected under Ar)



Figure S47. Comparative cyclic voltammograms of **3**–THF and **4** with 0.1 M [ⁿBu₄N][PF₆] electrolyte in THF (scan rate of 250 mV/s; collected under Ar). With a widened reduction window, complex **3**–THF shows the presence of a reduction event at $E_{pc} \sim -3$ V. In contrast, no such event can be observed in **4**.



Figure S48. Cyclic voltammetry study of **3**–THF showing there is no scan rate dependence between 50 - 1000 mV/s (0.1 M [ⁿBu₄N][PF₆] in THF). The current values were normalized by dividing the measured current by the square root of the scan speed. (collected under Ar)



Figure S49. Cyclic voltammetry study of **3**–THF demonstrating a scan rate dependence between $50 - 1000 \text{ mV/s} (0.1 \text{ M} [\text{^n}\text{Pr}_4\text{N}][\text{BAr}^{\text{F}}_4] \text{ in THF})$. The current values were normalized by dividing the measured current by the square root of the scan speed. (collected under Ar)



Figure S50. Cyclic voltammograms of ⁱ**Pr₂PCH₂NKPh** (blue) and **1** (green) in 0.1 M [ⁿPr₄N][BAr^F₄] in THF. (scan rate of 100 mV/s; collected under Ar)



Figure S51. Full window cyclic voltammograms of ⁱ Pr_2PCH_2NKPh (black), and 1 (purple), in 0.1 M [ⁿ Pr_4N][BAr^F₄] in diffuorobenzene. (scan rate of 100 mV/s; collected under Ar)



Figure S52. Cyclic voltammogram of difluorobenzene solvent window (1.3 to -2.8 V) with 0.1 M [ⁿPr₄N][BAr^F₄] electrolyte with reference to the internal standard FeCp₂^{+/0}. (scan rate of 100 mV/s; collected under Ar) Of note, a literature value of +2.0 V to -2.2 V vs SSCE for the solvent window of difluorobenzene have been previously reported by Sullivan and Meyer employing a Pt electrode in 0.1 M solutions of tetraalkylammonium salts of the anions ClO₄⁻, BF₄⁻, and PF₆^{-,45}

UV-Visible Spectroscopy



Figure S48. Expanded UV-Vis spectra of complexes **3** (red) and **4** (green) in DFB and **3**–THF (blue) in THF at 298 K.



Figure S49. UV–Visible spectra of **4** in DFB (green) and in THF (black) at 298 K (0.019 mM). The spectra serve as a control for possible solvent effects resulting from dielectric constant differences between difluorobenzene and THF on the resulting UV–Visible spectrum. Any possible solvent effects resulting from dielectric constant differences are minimal and do not impact the wavenumber of a transition observed if there is no solvent binding in the complex. **Table S3.** UV-Vis Model Parameters

0.025 mM UV-VIS MODEL PARAMETERS

PEAK	Energy (cm ⁻¹)	nr	n	$\epsilon (M^{-1} cm^{-1})$	eV	Amplitude
1	1	8908	528.9)	2.3443	0.01753
2	3	3703	296.7	7	4.1786	0.1189
3	3	5319	283.1		4.379	1.022
4	2	4651	405.7	7	3.0563	0.08322
5	2	2196	450.5	5	2.7519	0.04327
0.103 mM UV-V	IS MODEL PAR	AMETE	RS			
0.103 mM	Energy (cm ⁻¹)	nr	n	$\epsilon (M^{-1} cm^{-1})$	eV Am	plitude
1	1	8242	548.19	345.34	2.2617	0.03557
2	2	2425	450.54	707.48	2.7519	0.07287
3	2	4558	407.2	3312.62	3.0448	0.3412



Figure S50. UV–Visible spectrum of **3**–THF (black trace) and the modeled spectrum (red trace) (0.025mM in THF).



Figure S51. UV–Visible spectrum of **3**–THF (black trace) and the modeled spectrum (red trace) (0.103 mM in THF).

	gui ogenution of styrene to Ethylist	enizene mi		
entry	catalyst	<i>T</i> (°C)	% conversion	overall rate (h ⁻¹)
1	1	100	<1 °	0
2	2	100	<1 °	0
3	3	100	94(4) ^c	18.8(9)
4	4	100	24(3) ^c	4.7(2)
5	3	63	>99 ^d	4.1(1)
6^b	3 –THF	63	$35(2)^d$	1.4(1)

Catalysis Tables

Table S4. Hydrogenation of Styrene to Ethylbenzene Mediated by 1–4^a

^{*a*}Catalytic conditions: 2.5 mol % catalyst, 0.37 M olefin in ca. 600 μ L of *d*₈-toluene, 4 atm H₂. Conversion are based on triplicate runs using ¹H NMR integration. ^{*b*}In ca. 600 μ L of *d*₈-THF. ^{*c*}*t* = 2 h. ^{*d*}*t* = 10 h.

entry	substrate	conversion $(\%)^b$	time to $>90\%$ conversion (h) ^b
1	styrene	>99	2 h
2	1-octene	>99	<1 h
3	cis-cyclooctene	>99	1.5 h
4	allylbenzene	>99	2 h
5	trans-2-octene	68°	-
6	trans-4-octene	<1	-
7	cis-stilbene	>99 (93:7 trans:bibenzyl)	6 h
8	trans-stilbene	2 (bibenzyl product only)	-

Table S5. Substrate Scope for Olefin Hydrogenation for 3^{*a*}

^{*a*}See Table 2 for catalytic conditions. ^{*b*} if >90% conversion not reached reaction was stopped at 24 h. ^{*c*}Trace isomerization products were observed.

Entry	Loading (mol %)	Solvent	T (°C)	P H ₂ (atm) ^b	Time to >90% Conversion (h)	Conversion (%)	Overall rate (h ⁻¹)
1	10	THF	20	1	-	-	-
2	10	toluene	63	1	7	>99	1.4
3	2.5	toluene	100	4	2	94	18.8
4	2.5	toluene	63	4	10	>99	4.1
5	5	toluene	63	4	5.75	>99	3.5
6	5	toluene	100	4	1.5	99	13.3

Table S6. Optimization Conditions for 3^a

^aConversion are based on singe runs using ¹H NMR integration. ^bPressure at room temperature

Computational Details

	Exp.	PBE	PBE-D3	PBE0	PBE0D3	B3LYP-D3	B97-D3	M06L	B3P86	B3PW91
Lu-Ni	2.977	3.03	2.97	3.03	2.97	2.96	2.96	2.94	3.05	3.07
Ni-P1	2.156	2.18	2.17	2.17	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.17	2.17	2.18
NI-P2	2.158	2.19	2.18	2.18	2.17	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.19
Ni-P3	2.163	2.22	2.21	2.21	2.20	2.20	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.22
Avg Lu-tacn	2.562	2.60	2.59	2.57	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.57	2.59
Avg Lu-amide	2.309	2.30	2.29	2.28	2.28	2.29	2.29	2.29	2.28	2.29
Total angle-N	348.7	349.0	350.5	348.8	350.3	350.5	350.7	351.3	348.1	347.8
Total angle-P	358.9	359.9	360.0	359.8	359.9	359.9	359.9	359.9	359.9	359.9
FSR	1.10	1.12	1.10	1.12	1.10	1.09	1.09	1.09	1.13	1.13
MUE (M-L)		0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
MUE (MM)		0.06	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.09
MUE (Total)		0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04

Table S7. Calculated bond lengths (Å) and angles for **4** with different functionals and mean unsigned error(MUE) with respect the crystal structure.

Note: MUE (Total) is mean unsigned error over M-L and MM

Table S8.	Calculated	charges at	the metal	centers of th	e ground spin state.
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2	Lu	I	Ni		
	Mulliken	LoProp	Mulliken	LoProp	
CASSCF	2.45	1.00	-0.18	0.22	
DFT	1.14	N/A	-0.22	N/A	
2 THE	Lu	l	Ni	l	
3–1111	Mulliken	LoProp	Mulliken	LoProp	
CASSCF	2.64	1.06	-0.16	0.20	
DFT	1.05	N/A	-0.25	N/A	
4	Lu	l	Ni	l	
4	Mulliken	LoProp	Mulliken	LoProp	
CASSCF	2.54	1.03	-0.22	0.19	
DFT	1.27	N/A	-0.14	N/A	



Figure S52. Figure showing the natural orbitals for 3 resulting from CASSCF calculations. The complete active space of 10 electrons in 11 orbitals is shown, with the occupancies of the MOs.



Figure S53. Figure showing the natural orbitals for **3**–THF resulting from CASSCF calculations. The complete active space of 10 electrons in 11 orbitals is shown, with the occupancies of the MOs.



Figure S54. Figure showing the natural orbitals for **4** resulting from CASSCF calculations. The complete active space of 10 electrons in 11 orbitals is shown, with the occupancies of the MOs.

Table S9. Percentage of Metal Character (% Lu and %Ni) in Ni-Lu Bonding Orbitals From CASSCF Calculations at DFT-Optimized Geometries (PBE-D3)

Complex	Orbital	% Ni	% Lu	total electrons	Electron Ni	Electron Lu
3	$3dz^2(Ni)$ -5 $dz^2(Lu)$	90.66	9.33	1.94	1.76	0.18
5	$4dz^2(Ni)-6\ dz^2(Lu)$	43.60	32.76	0.06	0.03	0.02
2 THE	$3dz^2(Ni)$ -5 $dz^2(Lu)$	90.36	8.50	1.94	1.75	0.17
J-1 ПГ	$4dz^2(Ni)$ -6 $dz^2(Lu)$	42.38	31.38	0.06	0.03	0.02
4	$3dz^2(Ni)$ -5 $dz^2(Lu)$	94.05	5.95	1.95	1.83	0.12
	$4dz^2(Ni)-6\ dz^2(Lu)$	52.42	26.17	0.05	0.03	0.01



Figure S55. 3d orbital splitting (Ni) for 3 as predicted by DFT calculations.

Table S10. Front	ier molecular o	rbitals and th	ne orbital	energies f	or $3 c$	alculated	using DF.	Ľ
calculations.								
-						-		

Orbital	Orbital Character	Energy (eV)
LUMO	Ligand*	-2.15
НОМО	Ligand	-3.89
НОМО-3	$3d_{xy}$ (Ni), $3d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Ni)	-4.49
HOMO-5	3d _{xz} (Ni), 3d _{yz} (Ni)	-5.22
HOMO-7	3d _{z²} (Ni)	-5.31



Figure S56. 3d orbital splitting of Ni for 3–THF as predicted by DFT calculations.

Orbital	Orbital Character	Energy (eV)
LUMO	Ligand*	-1.74
НОМО	Ligand-Ni	-3.86
НОМО-2	Ligand-Ni	-3.89
НОМО-3	$3d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Ni)	-3.92
HOMO-4	3d _{xy} (Ni)	-4.14
HOMO-5	3d _{xz} (Ni)	-4.63
HOMO-6	3d _{yz} (Ni)	-4.68
HOMO-7	3d _{z²} (Ni)	-4.73

Table S11. Frontier molecular orbitals and the orbital energies for **3**–THF calculated using DFT calculations.



Figure S57. 3d orbital splitting of Ni for 4 as predicted by DFT calculations.

Orbital	Orbital Character	Energy (eV)			
LUMO	Ligand*	-1.42			
НОМО	$3d_{x^2-y^2}$ (Ni)	-3.46			
HOMO-1	3d _{xy} (Ni)	-3.59			
НОМО-2	3d _{z²} (Ni)	-3.67			
НОМО-3	3d _{xz} (Ni)	-3.86			
HOMO-4	3d _{yz} (Ni)	-3.89			

Table S12. Frontier molecular orbitals and the orbital energies for **4** calculated using DFT calculations.

Table S13. Composi	tions of LUMO fr	om the DFT calculations
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Complex	Ni	Lu	three P
3	24 % (4pz)	21 % (6s 13%, 5d 8%)	21 % (3p)
3 –THF	20 % (4pz)	16% (6s 10%, 5d 6%)	23 % (3p)
4	18 % (4pz)	21 % (6s 11%, 5d 10%)	20 % (3p)

Complex	DFT	CASSCF	
3	-5453.747075	-18768.445718	
3 –THF	-5685.852714	-19000.678130	
4	-5851.494687	-19165.433623	

Table S14. Absolute DFT and CASSCF energies in atomic units

Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometries of bimetallic systems **3**, **3**–THF, and **4**. > Cartesian coordinate of **3** species. Units are presented in Å.

	o Sir	nglet, cha	rge=0				
Lu	0.71058000	0.06993000	0.06672600	Н	-1.94102000	1.13186000	-5.04080400
Ni	-1.74735500	0.09284800	-0.17076800	Н	-3.17926600	1.63095100	-3.85019500
Р	-1.83336400	0.15059600	2.06604500	Н	-2.23220000	0.13948500	-3.57727700
P	-1.40713300	1.96030700	-1.35553200	Ċ	0.31572800	1.44846800	-3.53427100
P	-1.42379300	-1.93782400	-1.06499500	Ĥ	0.45493000	0.39769400	-3.21682200
N	0.69877100	-0.91613400	2.04580400	Н	1.11375600	2.03577700	-3.03977200
N	1.04021500	2 24191100	-0 17667500	Н	0 49285700	1 49705800	-4 62842200
N	1.17469300	-1.28203100	-1.61468500	Ċ	-0.00397100	3.05335600	-0.77108600
C	-3.35834900	-0.74294700	2.71875900	Ĥ	0.34656500	3.66304100	-1.64019400
н	-3.08004100	-1 79715400	2 51020200	Н	-0 43933800	3 78462600	-0.04180400
C	-4 60685000	-0.42832000	1 88585900	C II	2 15870000	2 89573500	0.31331600
н	-5 45426200	-1 07912100	2 18805000	C	3 11718100	2 14421900	1.06066200
н	-4 41766500	-0.60128100	0.80671400	Ч	2 93682000	1 07481700	1 28719400
н	-4 93870200	0.62263300	2 00407500	II C	4 28097600	2 72782700	1.56497300
C	-3 60506600	-0.61718500	4 22650300	н	4.28097000	2.12782700	2 13369200
U U	-3.00500000	-0.01/18500	4.22050500		4.98950800	2.10349900	2.15509200
п u	-3.93000900	0.40333300	4.31204300	U U	4.55651600	4.09814000	1.30308100
п	-2.70490100	-0.80/30100	4.62313600		2 50702400	4.30004200	1.70473400
н С	-4.41189400	-1.31301900	4.53852100	U U	3.39/02400	4.80140900	0.03820100
U U	-0.46981400	-0.85152/00	2.89808200	H	3.//341600	5.95//5400	0.50015600
H	-0.2634/000	-0.3538/100	3.88/53400	C	2.42638200	4.282/8900	0.14246500
Н	-0.88936900	-1.84338100	3.13336700	H	1./1691500	4.91519600	-0.40962100
С	1.78760800	-1.62298300	2.53864400	C	0.07206800	-2.03/58100	-2.17493500
С	1.89982000	-2.10937700	3.87132300	Н	0.31850300	-3.10969600	-2.35271600
Н	1.08347500	-1.94603600	4.58879000	Н	-0.25941200	-1.63262800	-3.16634600
С	3.05364700	-2.78682300	4.29730400	С	2.37394900	-1.30645600	-2.31318400
Н	3.10788300	-3.14323800	5.33873900	C	3.44235000	-0.46683800	-1.87558000
С	4.13042800	-3.01272800	3.42671200	Н	3.30068600	0.21279700	-1.01496800
Н	5.03078900	-3.54282300	3.77087600	С	4.67770900	-0.44776300	-2.52587700
С	4.02697700	-2.56128200	2.09672100	Н	5.46942700	0.21924300	-2.15016800
Н	4.84324000	-2.74542300	1.38058400	С	4.90635400	-1.25860400	-3.65440800
С	2.87990500	-1.89522800	1.65969800	Н	5.87870200	-1.24311300	-4.16855300
Н	2.80991600	-1.62476300	0.59001000	С	3.86326400	-2.07566800	-4.11466000
С	-1.75609900	1.72442300	3.09082000	Н	4.01578400	-2.71058500	-5.00240400
Н	-1.85667600	1.38133900	4.14335200	С	2.61761100	-2.10251500	-3.46730000
С	-0.39074400	2.40423900	2.93805700	Н	1.82719700	-2.75543700	-3.86313400
Н	-0.21258300	2.73369100	1.89655000	С	-2.75860900	-2.45080500	-2.28644700
Н	0.45256900	1.73790700	3.20815900	Н	-2.52642700	-1.75922100	-3.12630100
Н	-0.33181500	3.29791600	3.59291800	С	-4.16460100	-2.08986400	-1.79114700
C	-2.90680700	2.68355400	2.77601000	H	-4.91271800	-2.25132400	-2.59552700
Ĥ	-2.80871600	3.61560000	3.37075900	Н	-4.21674200	-1.02275200	-1.49081400
Н	-3.90112200	2.24973200	2,99917700	Н	-4.47564100	-2.70232500	-0.92214500
н	-2 90082700	2 97101300	1 70538900	C II	-2 66195100	-3 88312600	-2 82667400
C	-2 89640000	3 08980300	-1 13789400	н	-2 89743200	-4 63677500	-2 04993000
н	-2 72072600	3 46246000	-0.10561200	Н	-1 65559700	-4 11374700	-3 22754500
C	4 20263300	2 28513100	1 11600000	и И	3 380//00	4.02752100	3 653//600
ч	5 05820500	2.28515100	0.82115800		-3.38944900	3 33381800	0 1751/200
и п	-3.03820300	1 45011800	-0.82113800	U U	-1.13343800	-3.33331800	0.17514200
п	-4.14003900	1.43011800	-0.38/30300	П	-0.00552400	-2.//515400	0.97493000
П	-4.44148200	1.84852/00	-2.10/26/00	U U	-0.20381300	-4.4/000800	-0.25094800
U U	-2.95949200	4.30295400	-2.0/142500	П	-0.08306400	-5.18425700	0.59582600
H	-5.1/541400	4.01012900	-3.11904600	H	0.80936800	-4.10916300	-0.506/4400
H	-2.01663400	4.8860/100	-2.06/94600	H	-0.59807000	-5.05430500	-1.11062800
Н	-3.7/350000	4.98/62500	-1./5222200	C	-2.455/9600	-3.85232400	0./560/300
C	-1.09117700	1.96356300	-3.20709700	H	-2.97409200	-4.53937400	0.05730300
Н	-1.14548100	3.03220300	-3.50773000	H	-3.15856500	-3.02949300	0.99360100
С	-2.17271700	1.18049600	-3.95649900	Н	-2.27041000	-4.41720100	1.69310700

> Cartesian coordinate of **3**–THF species. Units are presented in Å.

 Singlet, charge=0 	
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Lu	0.63520400 - 0.02595300 - 0.04632000	Н	0.09022200 -1.72761800 -4.49598100
Ni	-1.98937500 -0.03872600 -0.10043600	С	-0.44850900 1.90472100 -2.45017200
Р	-1.98078800 1.50495500 1.51608300	Н	-0.00815800 1.75060600 -3.46622900
Р	-1.79802200 0.64066800 -2.18441700	Н	-0.93563000 2.91011400 -2.49105500
Р	-1.80146300 -2.17949700 0.42574400	С	1.40877600 2.87341900 -1.28476600
0	2.92591300 0.17502800 -0.49734400	С	2.11689700 3.09916300 -0.06388000
Ν	0.54899900 0.58557500 2.06561700	Н	1,90331300 2,45314000 0,80277000
N	0.51200900 1.82142700 -1.36575900	C	3 05066700 4 12956900 0 07102000
N	0.51200000 - 1.02142700 - 1.00375700 0.78516900 - 2.26938400 - 0.41324400	н	3 56556500 4 26081700 1 03657300
C	2.02662500 0.07485400 2.00470500	II C	2 21082500 5 00224400 1 0006000
U U	-5.02002500 0.97465400 $2.994795002.41407400$ 0.11805400 2.25641700	U U	4 05016000 5 0100334400 -1.00090000
п	-2.4149/400 0.11893400 5.53041/00	П	4.03010000 5.81892300 -0.89340400
C H	-4.388/0500 0.42185500 2.55/06200	C II	2.61556500 4.82111900 -2.20145600
Н	-4.87294900 -0.14249100 3.38270900	Н	2./9901800 5.49850000 -3.05134800
Н	-4.27814700 -0.26297200 1.69375000	С	1.67683600 3.78763300 -2.34794600
Н	-5.08946800 1.22603200 2.25861800	Н	1.15777700 3.67669900 -3.31042500
С	-3.16340500 1.98336200 4.14121700	С	-0.47625000 -2.97350900 -0.59971900
Н	-3.80532500 2.84375400 3.86263700	Н	-0.37912700 -4.05286500 -0.33936700
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Cartesian coordinate of **4** species. Units are presented in Å.

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