## **Supporting Information**

## Modulating magnetic dynamics through tailoring the terminal ligands in Dy2 single-molecule magnets

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Figure S13. Labeled molecular structure of complexes 1 and 2.

| compound                                    | 1                             | 2                             |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Empirical formula                           | C64H42ClDy2F12N8O10           | C56H34Dy2F12N8O10S4           |
| Formula weight                              | 1636.06                       | 1660.19                       |
| Crystal system                              | triclinic                     | trigonal                      |
| Space group                                 | <i>P</i> -1                   | <i>P</i> 3 <sub>1</sub>       |
| <i>a /</i> (Å)                              | 13.5287(6)                    | 13.6044(4)                    |
| <i>b /</i> (Å)                              | 13.9447(6)                    | 13.6044(4)                    |
| <i>c /</i> (Å)                              | 18.7450(8)                    | 28.6443(8)                    |
| α / (°)                                     | 93.001(4)                     | 90                            |
| eta / (°)                                   | 100.392(4)                    | 90                            |
| γ / (°)                                     | 116.780(4)                    | 120                           |
| $V(Å^3)$                                    | 3069.1(3)                     | 4591.2(3)                     |
| Ζ   | 2                             | 3                             |
| $D_c/(\mathrm{gcm^{-3}})$                   | 1.770                         | 1.801                         |
| Absorption coeff.( $\mu$ )mm <sup>-1</sup>  | 2.519                         | 15.077                        |
| F(000)                                      | 1604.0                        | 2430.0                        |
| R(int)                                      | 0.0639                        | 0.0457                        |
| $\Theta$ range / (°)                        | 2.234 to 50.02                | 7.504 to 131.858              |
| Reflections collected / unique              | 14960                         | 9825                          |
| Parameters refined                          | 867                           | 844                           |
| Final <i>R</i> indices $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$ | $R_1 = 0.1329, wR_2 = 0.3205$ | $R_1 = 0.0417, wR_2 = 0.1022$ |
| R indices (all data)                        | $R_1 = 0.1585, wR_2 = 0.3479$ | $R_1 = 0.0453, wR_2 = 0.1058$ |
| Temp.(K)                                    | 100(2)                        | 150.00(10)                    |

 Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement details for 1 and 2.

Table S2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) for 1 and 2.

|             |           | 1               |          |                 |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Dy(1)-O(3)  | 2.34(2)   | N(5)-C(30)      | 1.28(4)  | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(6) | 68.13(15) |
| Dy(1)-O(1)  | 2.37(2)   | N(4)-C(44)      | 1.34(4)  | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(6) | 71.86(16) |
| Dy(1)-O(4)  | 2.34(2)   | C(1)-C(39)      | 1.40(6)  | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(6) | 74.1(7)   |
| Dy(1)-O(5)  | 2.376(19) | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(4) | 70.6(7)  | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(6) | 65.4(7)   |
| Dy(1)-O(2)  | 2.38(2)   | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 147.7(7) | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(6) | 139.7(7)  |
| Dy(1)-O(6)  | 2.45(2)   | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(1) | 95.4(7)  | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(6) | 117.1(7)  |
| Dy(1)-N(2)  | 2.52(3)   | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 84.9(7)  | N(2)-Dy(1)-N(6) | 147.7(8)  |
| Dy(1)-N(6)  | 2.67(2)   | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 136.1(7) | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 116.7(8)  |
| Dy(1)-N(1)  | 2.69(3)   | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(5) | 86.3(7)  | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 62.1(8)   |
| Dy(2)-O(6)  | 2.32(2)   | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 139.8(7) | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 78.0(8)   |
| Dy(2)-O(10) | 2.35(2)   | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(2) | 130.0(7) | O(5)-Dy(1)-N(1) | 157.7(8)  |

| Dy(2)-O(7)  | 2.350(19) | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(2)  | 71.5(7)  | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(1)  | 68.0(8)  |
|-------------|-----------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| Dy(2)-O(8)  | 2.36(2)   | O(5)-Dy(1)-O(2)  | 92.1(7)  | O(6)-Dy(1)-N(1)  | 118.2(7) |
| Dy(2)-O(9)  | 2.38(2)   | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(6)  | 69.8(7)  | O(5)-Dy(1)-O(6)  | 61.8(6)  |
| Dy(2)-O(5)  | 2.403(19) | O(4)-Dy(1)-O(6)  | 133.5(7) | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(6)  | 73.6(7)  |
| Dy(2)-N(5)  | 2.49(3)   | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(6)  | 131.0(7) | O(6)-Dy(2)-O(10) | 87.4(7)  |
|             |           | 2                |          |                  |          |
| Dy(1)-O(2)  | 2.350(6)  | O(2)-Dy(1)-O(4)  | 132.6(2) | O(10)-Dy(2)-N(5) | 78.7(3)  |
| Dy(1)-O(4)  | 2.367(7)  | O(1)-Dy(1)-O(2)  | 72.4(3)  | O(7)-Dy(2)-O(10) | 143.4(2) |
| Dy(1)-O(6)  | 2.412(6)  | O(4-Dy(1)-O(6)   | 119.5(6) | O(7)-Dy(2)-O(5)  | 75.1(2)  |
| Dy(1)-O(1)  | 2.330(6)  | O(3)-Dy(1)-O(4)  | 70.3(2)  | O(7)-Dy(2)-N(4)  | 66.8(3)  |
| Dy(1)-O(3)  | 2.364(7)  | N(2)-Dy(1)-N(1)  | 62.0(3)  | O(8)-Dy(2)-O(4)  | 142.7(3) |
| Dy(1)-O(5)  | 2.359(6)  | O(2)-Dy(1)-N(2)  | 72.4(3)  | O(8)-Dy(2)-O(6)  | 84.5(3)  |
| Dy(1)-N(2)  | 2.501(9)  | O(1)-Dy(1)-N(2)  | 132.6(3) | O(7)-Dy(2)-O(6)  | 88.9(2)  |
| Dy(1)-N(6)  | 2.600(8)  | O(4)-Dy(1)-N(2)  | 116.0(8) | O(7)-Dy(2)-N(3)  | 132.7(3) |
| Dy(2)-O(10) | 2.392(7)  | O(3)-Dy(1)-N(2)  | 75.4(3)  | O(7)-Dy(2)-N(5)  | 74.7(3)  |
| Dy(2)-O(8)  | 2.319(7)  | C(5)-O(2)-Dy(1)  | 136.5(6) | O(8)-Dy(2)-O(7)  | 72.3(3)  |
| Dy(2)-O(5)  | 2.434(6)  | O(9)-Dy(2)-O(8)  | 92.5(3)  | O(8)-Dy(2)-O(5)  | 134.5(3) |
| Dy(1)-N(1)  | 2.650(10) | O(9)-Dy(2)-O(5)  | 133.0(2) | O(8)-Dy(2)-N(3)  | 67.1(3)  |
| Dy(2)-O(9)  | 2.302(7)  | O(9)-Dy(2)-N(4)  | 64.3(3)  | O(8)-Dy(2)-N(5)  | 134.9(3) |
| Dy(2)-O(7)  | 2.338(7)  | O(10)-Dy(2)-O(5) | 70.1(2)  | O(6)-Dy(2)-O(5)  | 63.8(2)  |
| Dy(2)-O(6)  | 2.353(6)  | O(10)-Dy(2)-N(4) | 120.5(2) | O(6)-Dy(2)-N(4)  | 153.0(2) |
| Dy(2)-N(3)  | 2.588(9)  | O(9)-Dy(2)-O(6)  | 137.2(2) | O(5)-Dy(2)-N(3)  | 119.0(2) |
| Dy(2)-N(4)  | 2.686(9)  | O(9)-Dy(2)-N(3)  | 75.1(3)  | O(8)-Dy(2)-N(4)  | 77.3(3)  |
| Dy(2)-N(5)  | 2.505(8)  | O(9)-Dy(2)-N(5)  | 86.3(3)  | O(6)-Dy(2)-O(10) | 86.0(2)  |
| S(1)-C(1)   | 1.652(9)  | O(10)-Dy(2)-N(3) | 76.3(3)  | O(6)-Dy(2)-N(3)  | 64.5(2)  |

## **Table S3.** Dy<sup>III</sup> ion geometry analysis of 1 and 2 by SHAPE 2.1 software.

|   | ABO    | XIY, 1 | ABO    | XIY, 2 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Configuration                                   | Dy(1)  | Dy(2)  | Dy(1)  | Dy(2)  |
| Heptagonal bipyramid (D7h)                      | 17.476 | 17.078 | 17.202 | 17.158 |
| Johnson triangular cupola J3 (C <sub>3v</sub> ) | 15.405 | 15.063 | 15.802 | 14.946 |
| Capped cube J8 (C4v)                            | 8.539  | 8.289  | 8.468  | 8.890  |
| Spherical-relaxed capped cube $(C_{4v})$        | 7.714  | 7.363  | 7.341  | 7.808  |
| Capped square antiprism J10 (C4v)               | 3.025  | 2.850  | 2.749  | 2.917  |
| Spherical capped square antiprism $(C_{4v})$    | 2.365  | 2.233  | 2.205  | 2.261  |

| Tricapped trigonal prism J51 (D <sub>3h</sub> )       | 2.412  | 2.163  | 2.466  | 2.222  |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Spherical tricapped trigonal prism (D <sub>3h</sub> ) | 2.579  | 1.928  | 2.291  | 2.303  |
| Tridiminished icosahedron J63 ( $C_{3v}$ )            | 10.463 | 11.587 | 11.095 | 10.412 |
| Hula-hoop $(C_{2v})$                                  | 7.512  | 8.177  | 7.410  | 7.901  |
| Muffin (Cs)   | 2.268  | 2.120  | 1.779  | 2.235  |

| <i>T</i> (K) | $\chi^{_{ m T}}$ | χs    | α     |
|--------------|------------------|-------|-------|
| 2            | 9.845            | 0.422 | 0.149 |
| 3            | 7.437            | 0.402 | 0.125 |
| 4            | 5.896            | 0.392 | 0.086 |
| 4.2          | 5.574            | 0.361 | 0.085 |
| 4.5          | 5.191            | 0.352 | 0.068 |
| 4.8          | 4.893            | 0.354 | 0.053 |
| 5            | 4.726            | 0.360 | 0.046 |
| 5.2          | 4.552            | 0.343 | 0.041 |
| 5.5          | 4.341            | 0.341 | 0.033 |
| 5.8          | 4.152            | 0.353 | 0.028 |
| 6            | 4.024            | 0.368 | 0.020 |
| 6.5          | 3.753            | 0.401 | 0.017 |
| 7            | 3.526            | 0.391 | 0.031 |
| 7.5          | 3.324            | 0.892 | 0.010 |
| 8            | 3.138            | 1.067 | 0.015 |
| 14.5         | 0.330            | 0.025 | 0.025 |
| 15           | 0.320            | 0.018 | 0.023 |
| 15.5         | 0.309            | 0.024 | 0.024 |
| 16           | 0.300            | 0.021 | 0.018 |
| 16.5         | 0.291            | 0.019 | 0.016 |
| 17           | 0.284            | 0.011 | 0.010 |
| 17.5         | 0.276            | 0.011 | 0.009 |
| 18           | 0.270            | 0.005 | 0.021 |

0.002

0.028

0.263

18.5

**Table S4.** Relaxation fitting parameters from least-squares fitting of  $\chi(f)$  data under 0 dc field of 1.

| <i>T</i> (K) | χт     | χs    | α     |
|--------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 2            | 13.788 | 3.152 | 0.333 |
| 3            | 10.442 | 2.364 | 0.205 |
| 4            | 8.641  | 1.915 | 0.100 |
| 4.2          | 8.356  | 1.840 | 0.087 |
| 4.5          | 7.948  | 1.739 | 0.071 |
| 4.8          | 7.561  | 1.643 | 0.061 |
| 5            | 7.335  | 1.600 | 0.052 |
| 5.2          | 7.114  | 1.542 | 0.049 |
| 5.5          | 6.816  | 1.478 | 0.042 |
| 5.8          | 6.541  | 1.429 | 0.036 |
| 6            | 6.351  | 1.408 | 0.030 |
| 6.5          | 5.963  | 1.359 | 0.027 |
| 7            | 5.617  | 1.154 | 0.022 |
| 7.5          | 5.324  | 0.297 | 0.043 |
| 8            | 5.038  | 0.535 | 0.084 |

**Table S5.** Relaxation fitting parameters from least-squares fitting of  $\chi(f)$  data under 1200 Oe dc field of 1.

**Table S6.** Relaxation fitting parameters from least-squares fitting of  $\chi(f)$  data under 1200 Oe dc field of **2**.

| <i>T</i> (K) | χт    | χs    | α     |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2            | 4.220 | 1.642 | 0.253 |
| 2.5          | 3.716 | 1.384 | 0.206 |
| 3            | 3.330 | 1.226 | 0.170 |
| 3.2          | 3.193 | 1.194 | 0.154 |
| 3.5          | 2.992 | 1.183 | 0.120 |
| 3.8          | 2.837 | 1.052 | 0.133 |
| 4            | 2.730 | 1.009 | 0.126 |
| 4.5          | 2.494 | 0.877 | 0.115 |
| 5            | 2.291 | 0.694 | 0.108 |
| 5.5          | 2.116 | 0.279 | 0.102 |

**Table S7.** Calculated energy levels (cm<sup>-1</sup>), *g* ( $g_x$ ,  $g_y$ ,  $g_z$ ) tensors and  $m_J$  values of the lowest eight Kramers doublets (KDs) of individual Dy<sup>III</sup> fragments of complex **1** using CASSCF/RASSI with MOLCAS 8.2.

|   |             | <b>1</b> (Dy1) |           |             | <b>1</b> (Dy2) |            |  |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------|--|
|   | $E/cm^{-1}$ | g              | тj        | $E/cm^{-1}$ | g              | тj         |  |
|   |             | 0.226          |           |             | 0.032          |            |  |
| 1 | 0.0         | 0.309          | ±15/2     | 0.0         | 0.047          | $\pm 15/2$ |  |
|   |             | 19.574         |           |             | 19.741         |            |  |
|   |             | 1.099          |           |             | 0.312          |            |  |
| 2 | 61.6        | 1.446          | $\pm 5/2$ | 132.8       | 0.647          | $\pm 13/2$ |  |
|   |             | 16.943         |           |             | 16.219         |            |  |
|   |             | 1.060          |           |             | 2.449          |            |  |
| 3 | 104.2       | 2.148          | ±13/2     | 191.6       | 3.083          | $\pm 7/2$  |  |
|   |             | 13.742         |           |             | 12.443         |            |  |
|   |             | 4.758          |           |             | 8.076          |            |  |
| 4 | 144.2       | 6.829          | ±11/2     | 233.4       | 6.527          | $\pm 11/2$ |  |
|   |             | 9.451          |           |             | 2.441          |            |  |
|   |             | 0.228          |           |             | 0.255          |            |  |
| 5 | 192.4       | 2.762          | $\pm 7/2$ | 285.8       | 3.938          | $\pm 5/2$  |  |
|   |             | 13.830         |           |             | 13.452         |            |  |
|   |             | 0.566          |           |             | 1.810          |            |  |
| 6 | 233.4       | 3.505          | $\pm 9/2$ | 314.8       | 4.522          | $\pm 9/2$  |  |
|   |             | 12.275         |           |             | 11.192         |            |  |
|   |             | 0.371          |           |             | 0.171          |            |  |
| 7 | 294.5       | 2.667          | $\pm 3/2$ | 385.6       | 2.787          | $\pm 3/2$  |  |
|   |             | 13.533         |           |             | 13.858         |            |  |
|   |             | 0.802          |           |             | 0.765          |            |  |
| 8 | 324.1       | 2.361          | $\pm 1/2$ | 419.3       | 2.345          | $\pm 1/2$  |  |
|   |             | 16.258         |           |             | 16.627         |            |  |

**Table S8.** Calculated energy levels (cm<sup>-1</sup>),  $g(g_x, g_y, g_z)$  tensors and  $m_J$  values of the lowest eight Kramers doublets (KDs) of individual Dy<sup>III</sup> fragments of complex **2** using CASSCF/RASSI with MOLCAS 8.2.

|   |             | <b>2</b> (Dy1) |            |             | <b>2</b> (Dy2) |            |  |
|---|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------|----------------|------------|--|
|   | $E/cm^{-1}$ | g              | тj         | $E/cm^{-1}$ | g              | тj         |  |
|   |             | 0.072          |            |             | 0.075          |            |  |
| 1 | 0.0         | 0.097          | $\pm 15/2$ | 0.0         | 0.128          | $\pm 15/2$ |  |
|   |             | 19.713         |            |             | 19.670         |            |  |
|   |             | 2.579          |            |             | 1.180          |            |  |
| 2 | 100.0       | 5.648          | $\pm 13/2$ | 111.2       | 3.007          | $\pm 13/2$ |  |
|   |             | 13.066         |            |             | 14.810         |            |  |
|   |             | 9.661          |            |             | 4.475          |            |  |
| 3 | 128.3       | 5.214          | $\pm 3/2$  | 151.9       | 5.056          | $\pm 11/2$ |  |
|   |             | 0.216          |            |             | 11.823         |            |  |

|   |       | 3.052  |           |       | 0.155  |           |
|---|-------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|-----------|
| 4 | 166.0 | 4.868  | ±11/2     | 171.3 | 1.516  | $\pm 1/2$ |
|   |       | 10.702 |           |       | 13.378 |           |
|   |       | 0.281  |           |       | 0.482  |           |
| 5 | 230.9 | 2.031  | $\pm 5/2$ | 239.9 | 1.448  | $\pm 9/2$ |
|   |       | 14.719 |           |       | 14.683 |           |
|   |       | 1.375  |           |       | 2.693  |           |
| 6 | 270.1 | 2.549  | $\pm 9/2$ | 286.7 | 4.391  | $\pm 7/2$ |
|   |       | 13.205 |           |       | 10.383 |           |
|   |       | 1.783  |           |       | 3.180  |           |
| 7 | 317.1 | 2.565  | ±7/2      | 327.7 | 3.959  | $\pm 5/2$ |
|   |       | 14.876 |           |       | 10.949 |           |
|   |       | 0.415  |           |       | 0.796  |           |
| 8 | 378.2 | 0.606  | $\pm 1/2$ | 370.7 | 1.721  | $\pm 3/2$ |
|   |       | 18.192 |           |       | 16.546 |           |

**Table S9.** Wave functions with definite projection of the total moment  $|m_J\rangle$  for the lowest two KDs of individual Dy<sup>III</sup> fragments for **1** and **2** using CASSCF/RASSI-SO with MOLCAS 8.2.

|       | $E/cm^{-1}$ | wave functions                          |
|-------|-------------|---|
| 1 D-1 | 0.0         | 97%j±15/2>                              |
| I_Dyi | 61.6        | 10% ±7/2>+18% ±5/2>+23% ±3/2>+30% ±1/2> |
| 1 D-2 | 0.0         | 98%j±15/2>                              |
| I_Dy2 | 132.8       | 84%==================================== |
| 1 D-1 | 0.0         | 98%j±15/2>                              |
| 2_Dy1 | 100.0       | 64% ±13/2>+12% ±11/2>+12% ±1/2>         |
| 1 D-1 | 0.0         | 97% ±15/2>                              |
| 2_Dy2 | 111.2       | 75% ±13/2>+12% ±9/2>                    |

**Table S10.** Natural Bond Order (NBO) charges per atoms in the ground state of complexes 1 and**2** using CASSCF/RASSCI with MOLCAS 8.2.

|    | 1(Dy1)  | 1(Dy2)  | 2(Dy1)  | 2(Dy2)  |
|----|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Dy | 2.5189  | 2.5198  | 2.5183  | 2.5166  |
| Lu | 1.4795  | 1.4488  | 1.4490  | 1.4426  |
| 01 | -0.7144 | -0.7062 | -0.7192 | -0.7353 |
| 02 | -0.6395 | -0.7005 | -0.7037 | -0.6869 |
| 03 | -0.6945 | -0.7468 | -0.6809 | -0.6824 |
| 04 | -0.7427 | -0.7057 | -0.7440 | -0.7198 |
| 05 | -0.7649 | -0.7356 | -0.7312 | -0.7172 |
| O6 | -0.7234 | -0.7344 | -0.6980 | -0.7179 |
| N1 | -0.2341 | -0.2145 | -0.2295 | -0.2355 |
| N2 | -0.3076 | -0.3308 | -0.3061 | -0.3171 |
| N3 | -0.3174 | -0.3270 | -0.3189 | -0.3327 |



**Figure S1.** Calculated model structures of individual Dy<sup>III</sup> fragments of complexes 1–2; H atoms are omitted



Figure S2. Molecular stacking chart of 1.



Figure S3. Molecular stacking chart of 2.



Figure S4. PXRD curves of 1 (a) and 2 (b)



Figure S5. *M* vs *H* curves for compounds 1 (a) and 2 (b) at 2 K.



**Figure S6.** Temperature dependence of the in-phase  $(\chi')$  and out-of-phase  $(\chi'')$  of the ac susceptibilities for **2** under zero dc field.



**Figure S7.** Temperature dependence of the in-phase ( $\chi'$ ) and out-of-phase ( $\chi''$ ) ac susceptibilities for **1** under zero dc field.



**Figure S8.** Plot of relaxation time (ln  $\tau$ ) vs  $T^{-1}$  for complexes 1 at zero dc field. The red lines and blue lines represent the Arrhenius fit and multiple relaxation processes, respectively.



Figure S9. Field dependence of the magnetic relaxation time at 2 K for 1 (a) and 2 (b).



**Figure S10.** Temperature dependence of in-phase ( $\chi'$ ) and out-of-phase ( $\chi''$ ) ac susceptibilities for 1 at applied dc fields of 1200 Oe.



**Figure S11.** Temperature dependence of in-phase ( $\chi'$ ) and out-of-phase ( $\chi''$ ) ac susceptibilities for **2** at applied dc fields of 1200 Oe



**Figure S12.** Magnetization blocking barriers for individual Dy<sup>III</sup> fragments in complexes **1** (top) and **2** (bottom). The thick black lines represent the KDs as a function of their magnetic moment along the magnetic axis. The green lines correspond to the diagonal matrix element of the transversal magnetic moment; the blue lines represent Orbach relaxation processes. The path shown by the red arrows represents the most probable path for magnetic relaxation in the corresponding compounds. The numbers at each arrow stand for the mean absolute value of the corresponding matrix element of transition magnetic moment.



Figure S13. Labeled molecular structure of complexes 1 and 2.