

## Electronic Supplementary information (ESI)

### **Liquids intermediate between “ionic” and “molecular” liquids - Liquid Ion Pairs?**

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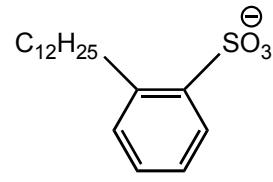
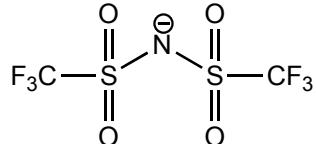
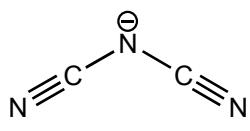
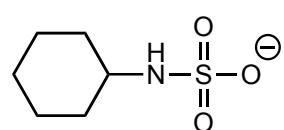
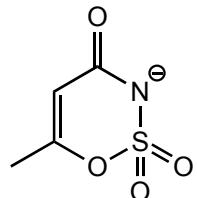
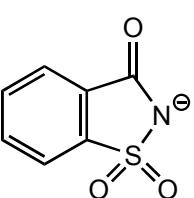
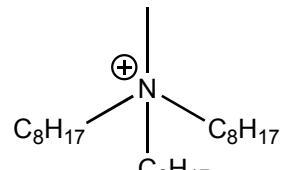
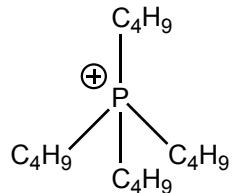
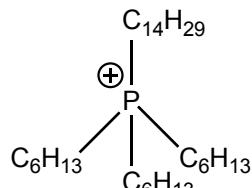
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## I. General

**Fig S1:** Structures of cations and anions investigated.



## II. Experimental

### Analysis

$^1\text{H}$ , and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 300 at 300MHz spectrometer for solutions in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . Positive and Negative ion electro spray mass spectra (ESMS) were recorded with a Micro mass Platform electro spray mass spectrometer for samples dissolved in methanol. Karl Fischer experiments were conducted on a 831 KF Coulometer which uses the coulometric titrator system. The titration solution used was Hydranal Coulomat AG. Ionode S10 ion selective electrodes  $[\text{Cl}]^-$  were used to measure the chloride content. Calibration curves were measured using standard solutions of  $[\text{Nme}_4]\text{[Cl]}$  in 100ml methanol over the concentration range 1 ppm to 1000 ppm.

**Thermal analysis:** Pyrolysis GC-MS was carried out using a Varian CP-3800 gas chromatograph. Attached was a Varian Saturn 2200 CG/MS/MS unit. The capillary column used was a Varian factor four capillary column (VF-5ms 30M x 0.25mm ID DF=0.25). The pyrolysis probe used was a CDS pyroprobe 1000 series. 2  $\mu\text{L}$  of sample (diluted into  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}_2$ ) was injected and held in the probe for 30 seconds at 500 °C. The sample was loaded onto the capillary column at 0 °C and then subjected to the following temperature ramp: heat at 8 °C/min to 80 °C; 80 °C to 200 °C at 10 °C/min, 200 °C to 325 °C at 15 °C/min and finally held at 325 °C for 5mins.

Thermal analysis and temperature dependent phase behaviour was studied in the range of -150 °C to 200 °C by differential scanning calorimetry (T.A Q100 series) with samples between 5 -10mg. Thermal scans below room temperature were calibrated using the cyclohexane solid-solid transition and melting point at -87.0 °C and 6.5 °C respectively. Thermal scans above room temperature were calibrated using the indium melting point of 156.6 °C. Transition temperatures were recorded as the peak maximum of the thermal transition.

Thermogravimetric analysis was conducted using a Perkin-Elmer Pyris TGA 1 in a flowing dry nitrogen atmosphere (50 mL/min.) between 25 and 500 °C with a heating rate of 10 °C/min. The instrument was calibrated using the curie points of four reference materials, Alumel, perkin-alloy, iron and nickel. Platinum pans were used in all experiments with samples between 5 - 10 mg.

**Transport properties:** Density measurements were carried out using an Anton Paar DMA 5000 density meter. The density meter uses the ‘oscillating U-tube principle’<sup>1</sup> to determine the density of the liquid. Viscosity measurements were carried out using an Anton Paar AMVn viscosity meter.

Conductance measurements were performed using a locally designed dip cell probe consisting of two platinum wires sheathed in glass. The cell constant was determined with a solution of 0.01 M KCl at 25 °C. Conductivities were obtained by measurement of the complex impedance spectra between 1 MHz and 0.01 Hz on a Solartron SI 1296 Dielectric interface. The temperature was controlled at 10 °C intervals ( $\pm 1$  °C) using a Eurotherm 2204e temperature controller interfaced to the Solatron and a cartridge heater set in a brass block with a cavity for the cell. A K-type thermocouple was set in the block adjacent to the cell. The conductance was determined from the first real axis touchdown point in the Nyquist plot of the impedance data.

**Theoretical calculations:** Standard *ab initio* molecular orbital theory and density functional theory (DFT) calculations were carried out using GAUSSIAN 03<sup>2</sup>. All ion pairs were optimised at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d)<sup>3</sup> level of theory. Binding energies (BE) were calculated using the second order Møller-Plesset perturbation theory (MP2) and a 6-311+G(2df,p) basis set. BE is defined as the difference of the total energies of the ion pair and the corresponding ions. The binding energies were corrected for the zero-point vibrational energies computed using scaled B3LYP/6-31+G(d) frequencies<sup>4</sup>.

### III. Synthesis

#### **Tetradecyl(trihexyl)-phosphonium saccharinate [ $P_{6,6,6,14}$ ][Sacc]**

To a solution of tetradecyl(trihexyl)phosphonium chloride (7.78 g, 15 mmol) in 50 mL anhydrous acetone was added solid sodium saccharinate (3.07 g, 15 mmol) suspension stirred at 25 °C for 6 hrs. Precipitated sodium chloride was removed by filtration and solvent removed in vacuo, yielding a yellowish viscous liquid . The ionic liquid was decolorized by redissolution in 30 mL of acetone followed by treatment with activated charcoal (Darco-G60, Aldrich) at 40 °C overnight. Carbon was removed by filtration through alumina (acidic, Brockmann I, Aldrich) and solvent removed in vacuo to yield Tetradecyl(trihexyl)phosphonium saccharinate [ $P_{6,6,6,14}$ ][Sacc] as a colourless liquid (9.2 g, 92%).  $^1H$  NMR  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.84-7.94 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.0-2.3 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.4-1.5 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.2-1.3 (32H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.  $^{13}C$  NMR  $\delta_c$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 131.6, 131.0, 123.3, 119.7, 32.0, 31.21, 31.19, 30.9 30.79, 30.65, 30.46, 29.8, 29.6, 29.5, 29.0, 22.46, 21.9, 19.5, 18.9, 14.2, 14.0, ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 483 [ $P_{6,6,6,14}$ ]<sup>+</sup>. ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 181 [Sacc]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-fischer): 230ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm

#### **Tetradecyl(trihexyl)-phosphonium cyclamate [ $P_{6,6,6,14}$ ][Cyc]**

See previous. [ $P_{6,6,6,14}$ ][Cl] (7.79g, 15 mmol) and sodium cyclamate (3.039 g, 15 mmol) afforded the title compound as a colourless liquid (9.0 g, 91%).  $^1H$  NMR  $\delta_H$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.6-3.8 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.2-3.4 (H, m CH), 2.2-2.3 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.1 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.6 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.4-1.5 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.2-1.3 (32H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>), ppm.

$^{13}C$  NMR  $\delta_c$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 193.6, 53.4, 31.9, 31.3, 31.1, 30.9, 30.8, 30.7, 30.5, 30.4, 29.6-29.7 29.5, 29.3, 29.0, 22.7, 22.5, 22.4, 22.0, ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 483 [ $P_{6,6,6,14}$ ]<sup>+</sup>. ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 178 [Cyc]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 170ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm

### Tetrabutyl- phosphonium saccharinate [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ][Sacc]

[ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ][Cl] was recrystallized from a solution of acetone / hexane before use. [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ][Cl], 6.78 g, 23 mmol) and sodium saccharinate (4.720 g, 23 mmol) afforded the title compound as a colourless liquid (9.2g, 91%).  $^1H$  NMR  $\delta_H$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.84-7.94 (4H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.1-2.2 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.36-1.41 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.8-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>), ppm.

$^{13}C$  NMR  $\delta_c$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 143.3, 134.3, 130.8, 122.4, 120.5, 118.6, 22-23, 18.2, 17.5, 12.4, ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 259 [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ]<sup>+</sup>. ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 181 [Sacc]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 600ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm

### Tetrabutyl- phosphonium acesulfamate [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ][Ace]

See previous. [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ][Cl] (7.07g, 24 mmol) and potassium acesulfamate (4.833 g, 24 mmol) afforded the title compound as a white solid (9.3 g, 91%).  $^1H$  NMR  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 5.5 (H, s, CH). 2.1-2.2 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.99 (3H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.36-1.41 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.8-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>), ppm.

$^{13}C$  NMR  $\delta_c$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 168.7, 159.9, 100.7, 22-23, 18.8, 17.8, 17.2, 12.3, ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 259 [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ]<sup>+</sup> ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 162 [Ace]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 374ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm

### Tetrabutyl- phosphonium cyclamate [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ][Cycl]

Same procedure as for [ $P_{6,6,6,14}$ ][Sacc]. [ $P_{4,4,4,4}$ ][Cl] (6.78 g, 23 mmol) and sodium cyclamate (4.60 g, 23 mmol) afforded the title compound as a colourless liquid (9.4 g, 93%).  $^1H$  NMR  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.25 (H, s, CH), 2.2-2.26 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.1-2.2 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.36-1.41 (20H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.18 (5H, m, CH), 0.8-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>), ppm.

$^{13}C$  NMR  $\delta_c$ (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 53.1, 52.9, 51.7, 49.6, 33.2, 29.6, 26.2, 24.7, 22-23, 18.0, 17.3, 12.4, ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 259 [P<sub>4,4,4,4</sub>]<sup>+</sup> ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 178 [Cyc]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 293ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm.

**Tetradecyl(trihexyl)-phosphonium chloride [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>][Cl]**

Purchased from Cytec Industries. The ionic liquid was decolorized by redissolution in 30 mL of acetone followed by treatment with activated charcoal (Darco-G60, Aldrich) at 40 °C overnight. Carbon was removed by filtration through alumina (acidic, Brockmann I, Aldrich) and solvent removed in vacuo at 60 °C for 24hrs at 0.1 Torr.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.0-2.3 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.4-1.5 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.2-1.3 (32H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 483 [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>]<sup>+</sup> ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 35.5 [Cl]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 189ppm.

**Tetradecyl(trihexyl)-phosphonium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>][NTf<sub>2</sub>]**

Purchased from Cytec Industries. Clean up as with [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>][Cl]

<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.0-2.3 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.4-1.5 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.2-1.3 (32H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 483 [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>]<sup>+</sup> ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 279 [NTf<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 141ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm.

**Tetradecyl(trihexyl)-phosphonium dodecylbenzenesulfonate [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>][dbsa]**

Purchased from Cytec Industries. Clean up as with [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>][Cl].

<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.8 (H, s, CH), 7.44 - 7.40 (2H, m, CH), 2.0-2.3 (7H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.4 -1.8 (24H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.16-1.3 (48, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.69-0.87 (15H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 483 [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>]<sup>+</sup> ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 325 [dbsa]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 172ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm.

**Tetradecyl(trihexyl)-phosphonium dicyanamide [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>][dca]**

Purchased from Cytec Industries. Clean up as with [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>][Cl]

<sup>1</sup>H NMR δ<sub>H</sub>(300 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 2.0-2.3 (8H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.4-1.5 (16H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.2-1.3 (32H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.79-0.85 (12H, m, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

ES-MS: ES<sup>+</sup> m/z 483 [P<sub>6,6,6,14</sub>]<sup>+</sup> ES<sup>-</sup> m/z 66 [dca]<sup>-</sup>.

Water content (Karl-Fischer): 186ppm

Cl content: < 100ppm.

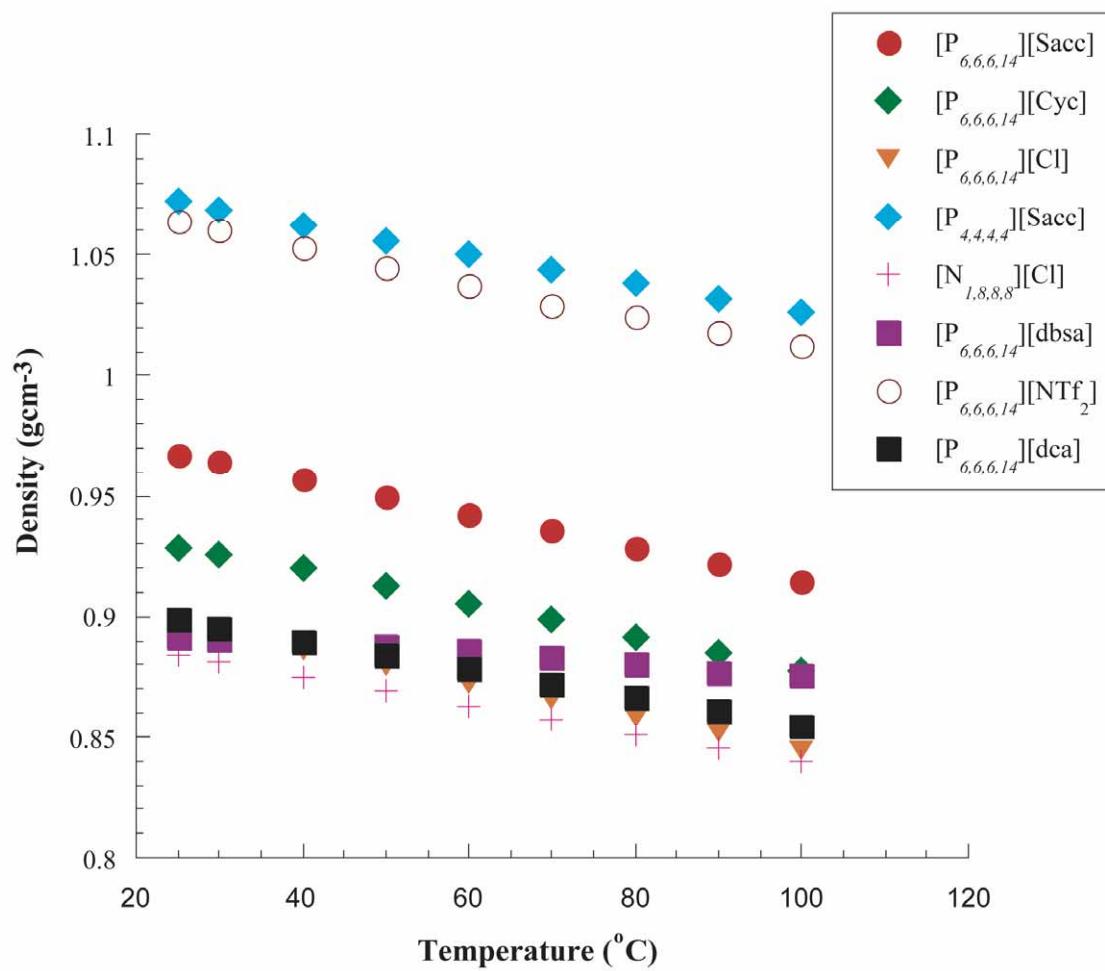
## IV. Thermal behaviour

**Table S1:** Phase transitions and decomposition temperatures for the salts.

IL	T <sub>g</sub> / °C	T <sub>dec</sub> / °C	
[P <sub>6,6,6,14</sub> ][Sacc]	-56	197	T <sub>g</sub> = Glass transition (onset), T <sub>dec</sub> =
[P <sub>6,6,6,14</sub> ][Cyc]	-53	194	decomposition temperature measured by
[P <sub>6,6,6,14</sub> ][NTf <sub>2</sub> ]*	-76	400	the step tangent method
[P <sub>6,6,6,14</sub> ][dca]*	-67	395	* Taken from Del Sesto <i>et al.</i> <sup>5</sup>
[P <sub>6,6,6,14</sub> ][dbsa]	-70	--	
[P <sub>4,4,4,4</sub> ][Sacc]	-34	300	
[P <sub>4,4,4,4</sub> ][Ace]	-47 (T <sub>g</sub> ) 5 (crystallisation) 42 (melt, ΔS <sub>f</sub> = 43(10) JK <sup>-1</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> )	280	
[P <sub>4,4,4,4</sub> ][Cyc]	-32	280	
[N <sub>1,8,8,8</sub> ][Cl]	--	202	

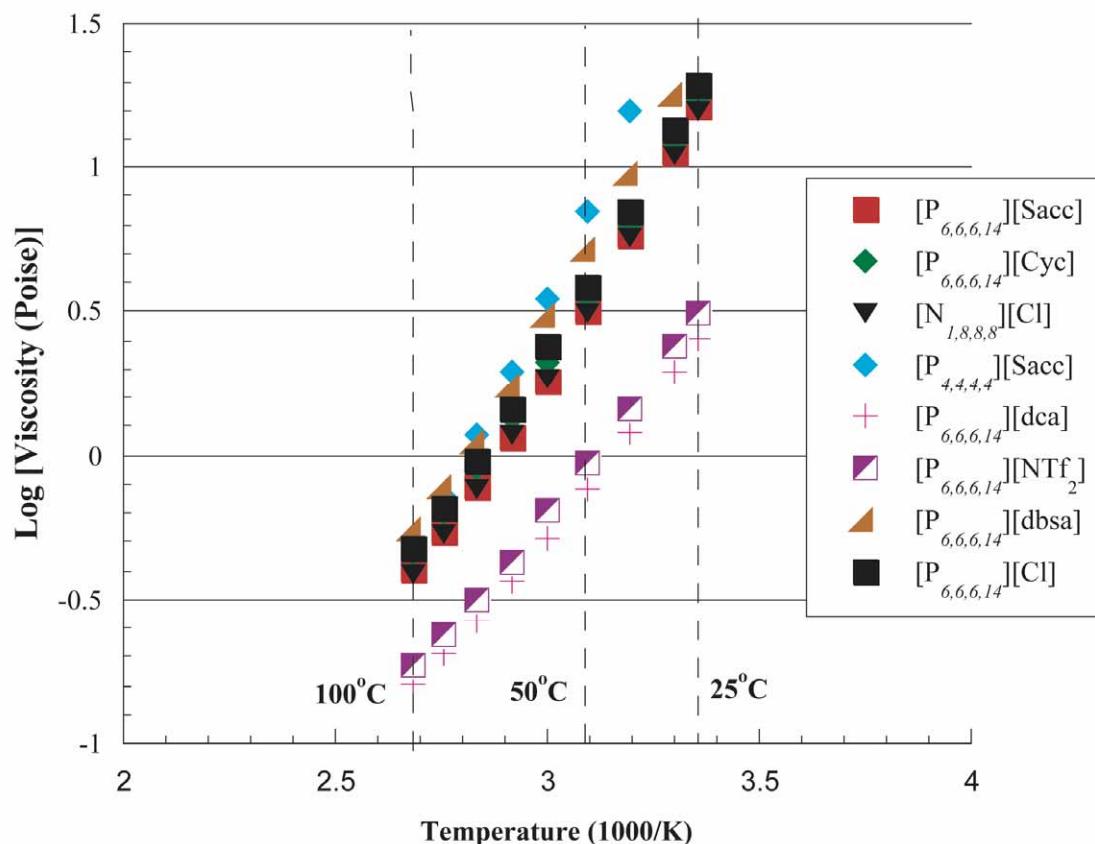
## V. Density

**Fig S2:** Density of phosphonium salts and  $[N_{1,8,8,8}][Cl]$  ranging from 25 – 100 °C



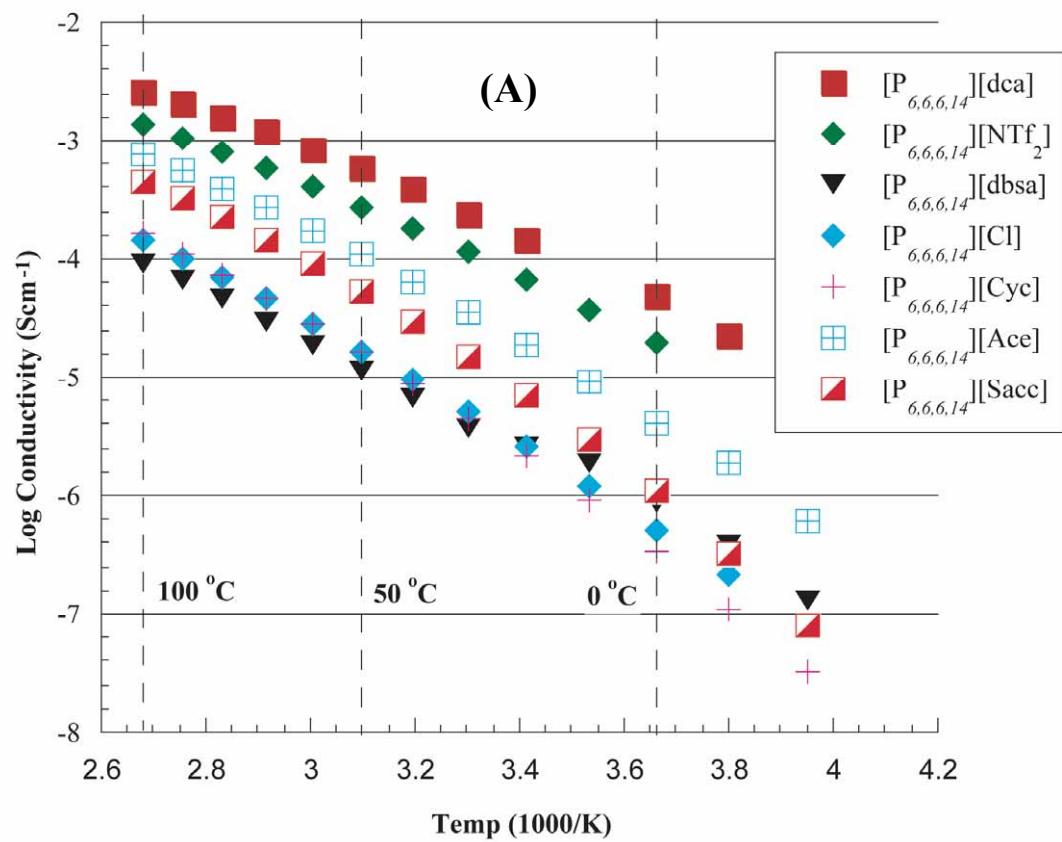
## VI. Viscosity

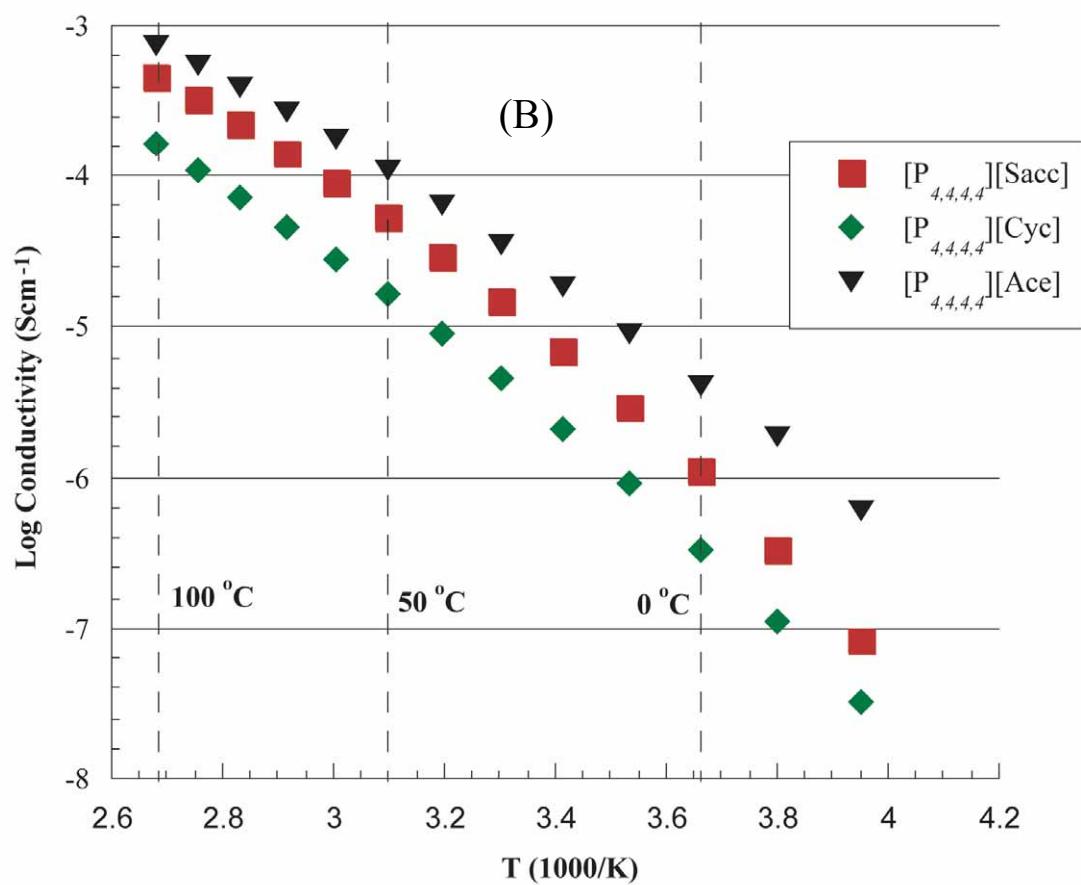
**Fig S3:** Viscosity Vs Temp over the range 25 – 100 °C for phosphonium based ILs.



## VII. Conductivity

**Fig S4:** Conductivity in the temp range  $-20 - 100$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for A:  $[\text{P}_{6,6,6,14}]^+$  family and B:  $[\text{P}_{4,4,4,4}]^+$  family





## VII. Theoretical calculations.

**Table S2.** B3-LYP/6-31+G(d) optimised geometries in the form of Gaussian archive entries for all ionic liquid ion pairs and the corresponding ions used to calculate interaction energies.

$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{SO}_3\text{N}^-] ([\text{P}_{4,4,4,4}][\text{Cyc}])$

```
1\1\GINC-AC16\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C22H48N1O3P1S1\EXI501\17-Nov-2006\
0\\#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt maxdisk=67108864
00\\opt\\0,1\C,0.4533502542,-0.6370959872,-1.6760749523\C,1.1392516097
,0.3566361873,-0.7232473614\C,2.6681750899,0.2856196131,-0.860639716\C
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6\C,-1.986444621,-2.1697752374,-2.4596085975\C,-1.2533165467,-2.62295
09991,-3.7336810775\C,-1.8669755342,-3.9124883449,-4.3016591319\C,-1.1
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18,1.3009520425,0.7079177595\H,-2.7315286404,1.6056793584,-0.003121211
4\H,-1.2805171908,-1.8388450313,-4.5058715929\H,-0.2001112494,-2.80982
78331,-3.4937911659\H,-3.8194253913,0.4263800263,1.9301091024\H,-2.235
9928556,0.1242307204,2.6319523331\H,-1.8416825598,-4.685512453,-3.5231
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5791,3.8372593132\C,2.012149821,-4.9658829513,4.1665080972\C,1.9656049
333,-6.4700570204,4.4833657477\C,1.2898387891,-7.2604144194,3.35017685
95\C,-0.1085713129,-6.7045562978,3.0349112961\H,-0.0117254994,-4.47109
6341,4.7395952269\H,0.6732062711,-3.3515527596,3.5544341995\H,2.443741
3956,-4.4108483759,5.0103307919\H,2.6935247746,-4.7950182044,3.3181473
176\H,2.9788286133,-6.8536413584,4.6660200838\H,1.3997223954,-6.623264
4594,5.415836144\H,1.2178368623,-8.3231674609,3.6181289785\H,1.9147423
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092\H,-0.5607814343,-7.243411957,2.1946268817\H,-1.1209333428,-4.85088
90643,2.6176702051\Version=IA64L-G03RevD.01\State=1-A\HF=-1887.248235
2\RMSD=4.764e-09\RMSF=2.563e-06\Thermal=0.\Dipole=-1.3630457,3.3117949
,-1.7924827\PG=C01 [X(C22H48N1O3P1S1)]\\@
```



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1\1\GINC-AC6\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C23H40N1O3P1S1\EXI501\12-Jun-2007\0
  \#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt freq=noraman maxd
  isk=5368709120\\opt\\0,1\C,-0.054130348,-0.1445492513,-0.0478493915\C,
  -0.0368720297,-0.2211646569,1.4892152236\C,1.4021428862,-0.3193205412,
  2.0222042764\C,1.4598741694,-0.4541829626,3.5477352401\P,-1.7039292945
  ,-0.0172891499,-0.8170550764\C,-2.5531942654,1.5152482444,-0.244723264
  8\C,-1.8120794886,2.8358180915,-0.5174446686\C,-2.600019191,4.05521027
  39,-0.0122661283\C,-1.8758304819,5.3805525873,-0.2745096911\C,-1.48965
  4723,0.0366319647,-2.6295699317\C,-2.7687384409,-0.1291193331,-3.46929
  39077\C,-2.4666317525,-0.0057136874,-4.9723822003\C,-3.7122163476,-0.2
  139441201,-5.8405185754\C,-2.8057945374,-1.3849189632,-0.2830406287\C,
  -2.302716816,-2.8203325329,-0.5187188547\C,-3.3269693717,-3.8576435708
  ,-0.0333581064\C,-2.8426056489,-5.2957667179,-0.2547597825\H,-3.762079
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  0796198,-2.8513173432\H,0.4405666785,-1.0329443561,-0.4760574827\H,0.5
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  2041455072,-1.1182949064,-3.2786192407\H,-3.527101016,0.6173669079,-3.
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1\1\GINC-AC51\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C16H36Cl1P1\EXI501\10-Jun-2007\0\\
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  isk=5368709120\\opt\\0,1\C,-0.0921967434,0.1949497952,-0.1544342428\P,-0
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  80725691\C,2.115150605,-1.3814059749,2.1956597776\C,3.4913631691,-1.39
  68237253,2.881130085\C,4.241671857,-2.7176231413,2.6775804687\C,0.7403
  475679,1.3696871382,-0.6968304319\C,0.8320294651,1.3544217607,-2.23114
  82291\C,1.6572434472,2.51965122,-2.7888829269\C,-1.0489905472,1.631834

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$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-SO}_3^-]$  ([P<sub>4,4,4,4</sub>][dbsa])

1\\1\GINC-AC54\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C28H53O3P1S1\EXI501\08-Aug-2007\0\\  
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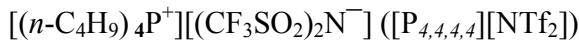
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][(\text{CN})_2\text{N}^-] ([\text{P}_{4,4,4,4}]\text{[dca]})$

1\1\GINC-AC47\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C18H36N3P1\EXI501\23-May-2007\0\\#  
P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt maxdisk=5368709120\\  
opt\\0,1\C, -0.0490704085, -0.2089239795, 0.0163916742\C, -0.0721518344, -0.1686116052, 1.554597711\C, 1.3486458664, -0.2539764753, 2.13689064\C, 1.3636463359, -0.2174440782, 3.6690064375\P, -1.682989264, -0.1258860278, -0.7962257296\C, -2.543844433, 1.4252359529, -0.3195536231\C, -1.8419249498, 2.7219171144, -0.7684421109\C, -2.5924986613, 3.9716724974, -0.2829350791\C, -1.9173374615, 5.2738780985, -0.7289779932\C, -1.4785694401, -0.1947249562, -2.6099303605\C, -2.7813270282, -0.1297503139, -3.426485045\C, -2.4960688954, -0.1764736146, -4.936937769\C, -3.7729624705, -0.1172799071, -5.7825591382\C, -2.7365286413, -1.520190743, -0.229355022\C, -2.1426437238, -2.9217409155, -0.4710303232\C, -3.105934117, -4.0322307535, -0.0241497252\C, -2.5287245454, -5.435513032, -0.2433965101\H, -3.7026480237, -1.4180497505, -0.7412015867\H, -2.9340820274, -1.3629033272, 0.8393108787\H, -0.8033740454, 0.6320962206, -2.8674165241\H, -0.920160907, -1.1171185913, -2.8179938167\H, 0.4228954535, -1.128966117, -0.3530160571\H, 0.5380278615, 0.6214236816, -0.3975945611\H, -3.5589836853, 1.3721587757, -0.734886709\H, -2.654748788, 1.4055692511, 0.7727547755\H, -0.5463842117, 0.7580004962, 1.9075754052\H, -0.6709651982, -1.0003542083, 1.952035429\H, -3.4417809963, -0.9678854855, -3.1630579462\H, -3.334497791, 0.7919273547, -3.1964530511\H, -0.8104730903, 2.7443263251, -0.3974060656\H, -1.761371039, 2.7451861132, -1.8618047035\H, -1.8959276149, -3.052821305, -1.5313185097\H, -1.1926109402, -3.0238889456, 0.0670729273\H, -3.6262525771, 3.9452779702, -0.6579306216\H, -2.6624469271, 3.9505131966, 0.8145245367\H, -3.3508643212, -3.896468595, 1.0395971906\H, -4.0538798804, -3.9342484743, -0.5732670046\H, 1.8265886444, -1.1768899695, 1.7824939074\H, 1.9492240277, 0.5749143095, 1.7394515775\H, -1.8350838514, 0.6590587576, -5.2030156188\H, -1.9393137146, -1.0942209561, -5.1682495491\H, -2.4702431075, 6.1478921499, -0.3658181098\H, -0.8920017051, 5.340443942, -0.3460295282\H, -1.865081517, 5.3393754766, -1.8224527069\H, -3.2374998179, -6.2069620174, 0.0790848125\H, -2.299432268, -5.609305738, -1.3015038993\H, -1.5994254885, -5.5751520422, 0.3219878516\H, 2.3881902423, -0.2799969621, 4.0528243413\H, 0.9220662801, 0.7120402911, 4.0511531456\H, 0.7977973343, -1.0563038769, 4.0946140389\H, -3.537040172, -0.1520248068, -6.8521744479\H, -4.4383166265, -0.9619744577, -5.5616900755\H, -4.3336126843, 0.8078818065, -5.59606529\N, 2.4278378177, -0.446179733, -2.9716420719\H, C, 1.7353539608, -1.5181894794, -2.669070923\C, 1.8912139183, 0.7201010756,

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-2.7032233984\N,1.420081009,1.7732723385,-2.4499203175\N,1.1293153788,
-2.4917299521,-2.3859588198\\Version=IA64L-G03RevD.01\State=1-A\HF=-12
13.2208217\RMSD=3.635e-09\RMSF=2.650e-04\Thermal=0.\Dipole=-4.303665,0
.3391266,2.3411607\PG=C01 [X(C18H36N3P1)]\\@

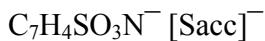
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1\1\GINC-AC51\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C18H36F6N1O4P1S2\EXI501\08-Jun-200
7\0\\#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt maxdisk=536870
9120\\opt\\0,1\C,-0.0003305918,0.0042023341,-0.0002215796\C,-0.0000224
106,0.0021782971,1.5390172989\C,1.4341433321,0.0041971912,2.0947672506
\C,1.4739814842,0.0312713581,3.6265272079\P,-1.6505824172,-0.056225488
8,-0.7786295197\C,-1.5149683046,0.0887525765,-2.5938695682\C,-2.851399
6505,0.066464383,-3.3575000134\C,-2.6273022781,0.1926736261,-4.8739428
897\C,-3.9368999887,0.1601100228,-5.6692720166\C,-2.4896056868,-1.6315
553762,-0.344642223\C,-1.7266744314,-2.9048373492,-0.7602215017\C,-2.5
239091622,-4.1783531033,-0.4369562598\C,-1.7723064167,-5.4569340003,-0
.825031979\C,-2.6934445491,1.306704398,-0.1226126056\C,-2.1573415851,2
.7219870162,-0.4112412423\C,-3.0573426614,3.8113181687,0.1932351186\C,
-2.5425988463,5.2270006956,-0.0911890614\N,1.7306623716,-0.0675973138,
-2.7444643043\S,2.0519192214,-1.4333283199,-3.5563019309\O,0.766631744
3,-2.152012109,-3.6512919971\S,2.6640131586,1.2583435828,-2.6757905186
\O,4.1021297513,1.0729074515,-2.8626268391\C,2.1009710355,2.2833508603
,-4.1625090211\F,2.3491590603,1.6577587495,-5.3162387191\O,2.164230299
6,2.0430157151,-1.532267163\F,0.7706673946,2.5249983889,-4.0900842143\
F,2.7378534542,3.4630633123,-4.1598601053\C,3.022570667,-2.4800038132,
-2.3151836155\F,2.3081026904,-2.640207303,-1.1750239732\O,2.9187882797
,-1.332812757,-4.7290350179\F,3.2514883461,-3.6948196885,-2.8341995943
\F,4.1901666999,-1.9146927505,-1.9991159352\H,-3.4808297652,-1.6055025
051,-0.8159599696\H,-2.6600583148,-1.6210500673,0.739899363\H,-0.96237
81947,1.0137424687,-2.7927267309\H,-0.8545243575,-0.7199897214,-2.9290
410672\H,0.55894999,-0.8495336898,-0.3968274121\H,0.5174766818,0.88598
7282,-0.3971501923\H,-3.6974283096,1.1813090856,-0.5483041661\H,-2.790
7336547,1.1457769732,0.9588157066\H,-0.5305346185,0.8855417944,1.92103
24682\H,-0.533699071,-0.8774729313,1.9272721918\H,-3.3900510899,-0.869
9484895,-3.1557042784\H,-3.5049886119,0.8845570896,-3.0222482657\H,-1.
1403140961,2.8279996046,-0.0126958256\H,-2.0798051628,2.8772684563,-1.
4950024212\H,-1.4965824818,-2.8791913487,-1.8323019178\H,-0.7593787329
,-2.9428359801,-0.2436519799\H,-4.0764844133,3.7022062953,-0.204831625
3\H,-3.1318809414,3.6575510077,1.2793652041\H,-2.7581778158,-4.1991554
506,0.6374146864\H,-3.4890063881,-4.1445628489,-0.9629247199\H,1.96303
5525,-0.8846418757,1.725634516\H,1.9733418856,0.8704861943,1.690576330
7\H,-2.0907255579,1.128322143,-5.0810837406\H,-1.9678190774,-0.6191597
194,-5.2063933256\H,-3.2014403436,5.9812373411,0.3537163417\H,-1.53726
89917,5.374920433,0.321465501\H,-2.490900123,5.4222371888,-1.169321842
7\H,-2.3659120304,-6.3477994788,-0.5902081371\H,-1.54766734,-5.4751519
614,-1.8980949594\H,-0.8203233533,-5.5370679657,-0.2862568358\H,2.5072
706613,0.029106778,3.9912078197\H,0.9842731876,0.9300057333,4.02329821
86\H,0.9679838805,-0.8429819785,4.0565356138\H,-3.7445576576,0.2533703
781,-6.7439776781\H,-4.4777349509,-0.7816359148,-5.5098031675\H,-4.603
5655612,0.982420191,-5.3783076595\\Version=IA64L-G03RevD.01\State=1-A\
HF=-2799.9816008\RMSD=3.086e-09\RMSF=1.007e-06\Thermal=0.\Dipole=-5.52
37915,0.0689009,3.2174794\PG=C01 [X(C18H36F6N1O4P1S2)]\\@

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1\1\GINC-AC2\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C7H4N1O3S1(1-)\EXI501\11-Jun-2007\0
\\#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt freq=noramman maxd
isk=2684354560\\opt\\-1,1\C,0.0666432013,0.0015216274,-0.0959711638\C,
0.021886292,-0.0372730524,1.2904812471\C,1.1674896874,-0.0475719493,2.
0758683847\C,2.4039642537,-0.016857046,1.4160715239\C,2.4658612654,0.0

```

225218476, 0.0144511476\|C, 1.2947389837, 0.0319941173, -0.7540024343\|H, 1.1  
070914272, -0.0782465797, 3.1606587625\|H, 3.324772643, -0.0236474301, 1.996  
3152153\|H, 3.4366336781, 0.0458503124, -0.4773941114\|H, 1.3210516032, 0.062  
2320166, -1.8400942741\|C, -1.3273839731, 0.0044203182, -0.7149222953\|N, -2.  
3217960924, -0.0312198216, 0.2080436042\|S, -1.734246241, -0.0682722657, 1.7  
405040921\|O, -1.4703758823, 0.0371646146, -1.9470926641\|O, -2.0593670623, 1  
.1614221039, 2.5026851521\|O, -2.0325364849, -1.3458529569, 2.4317048139\|V  
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2.509e-05\Thermal=0.\Dipole=3.4704724, 0.0232619, 0.4589096\PG=C01 [X(C7  
H4N1O3S1)]\\@

C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>N<sup>-</sup> [Cyc]<sup>-</sup>

1\1\GINC-AC6\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C6H12N1O3S1(1-)\EXI501\15-Nov-2006\  
0\\#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt freq=noram  
disk=6710886400\opt\|-1,1\|C, -0.018899022, -0.1928520528, 0.0939041376\|C  
, 0.1704213505, -0.4005916958, 1.6070694923\|C, 1.6340799461, -0.1962440159,  
2.0350334802\|C, 2.165084678, 1.1722845395, 1.574248918\|C, 1.984095401, 1.36  
14233598, 0.0592468781\|C, 0.5167513834, 1.1776885694, -0.3878144669\|H, 0.52  
53886544, -0.9885794797, -0.44177788\|H, -1.074822804, -0.2689696517, -0.184  
2344428\|H, -0.1734886741, -1.4048350711, 1.8945586432\|H, -0.4688099531, 0.3  
045803975, 2.1604217031\|H, 1.7342638014, -0.2995250439, 3.1260156517\|H, 2.2  
535392547, -0.9905952564, 1.5866308949\|H, 3.2253564086, 1.2797667929, 1.847  
5481044\|H, 1.6264405224, 1.9722233068, 2.1037342389\|H, 2.6084278443, 0.6205  
829225, -0.4677048182\|H, 2.322787325, 2.3576126476, -0.2481536958\|H, 0.4907  
365302, 1.2003708734, -1.4825188358\|N, -0.2813900878, 2.336446169, 0.045206  
1078\|S, -1.6706304571, 2.7347041595, -0.9507276118\|H, -0.6422155295, 2.2345  
078353, 0.9927105572\|O, -2.287045978, 3.8412014581, -0.1729251794\|O, -1.061  
5958395, 3.1123120589, -2.2530697774\|O, -2.5204460498, 1.5048584526, -1.027  
5429351\Version=IA64L-G03RevD.01\State=1-A\HF=-914.5264643\RMSD=4.888  
e-09\RMSF=3.419e-05\Thermal=0.\Dipole=2.8913056, -2.4554524, 2.0992025\PG=C01 [X(C6H12N1O3S1)]\\@

C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> [dbsa]<sup>-</sup>

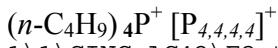
1\1\GINC-AC28\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C12H17O3S1(1-)\EXI501\22-Aug-2007\  
0\\#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt freq=noram  
disk=1342177280\opt\|-1,1\|C, 0.0037836063, -0.0093723439, -0.008816951\|C  
, -0.0026841235, -0.0020274308, 1.3925041629\|C, 1.2356106724, 0.0024565842,  
2.0565371928\|C, 2.4361066885, 0.0045915298, 1.3454807319\|C, 2.4251744592, 0  
.0012505227, -0.0535282205\|C, 1.2041434142, -0.0072297553, -0.7283779542\|C  
, -1.3030774571, 0.0408854329, 2.1689697746\|C, -1.7796002677, 1.4722348907,  
2.4909935984\|C, -3.0955385881, 1.5127275875, 3.2796074986\|C, -3.5768142725  
, 2.9344419092, 3.6013957382\|C, -4.8926253375, 2.9780796156, 4.3907277766\|C  
, -5.3652771883, 4.4025854511, 4.70701037\|S, 4.0060638105, -0.0112191226, -0  
.9739802967\|O, 4.7229558225, 1.1990726267, -0.4757152238\|O, 4.6462363669, -  
1.299109133, -0.5755043516\|O, 3.5991046663, 0.0576328449, -2.407612045\|H, 3  
.3882561634, 0.0060510362, 1.868672507\|H, 1.2120694947, -0.0144976967, -1.8  
142848374\|H, -0.9440469429, -0.0214639371, -0.5477965691\|H, 1.257276503, -0  
.0006114026, 3.1466679499\|H, -1.1898595092, -0.5135959986, 3.1122876071\|H,  
-2.0906729751, -0.4735152642, 1.5990880316\|H, -0.9931445408, 1.991328577, 3  
.0572500794\|H, -1.8946977017, 2.0293629371, 1.5502509967\|H, -3.8774935497,  
0.9865330493, 2.7097037488\|H, -2.974076402, 0.9506492749, 4.2189861324\|H, -  
2.7960398644, 3.4615224775, 4.1709774024\|H, -3.6993398725, 3.4969808256, 2.  
663112345\|H, -5.6737194808, 2.4523366756, 3.8215955998\|H, -4.7703966718, 2.  
4173189882, 5.3293627557\|H, -6.3067328922, 4.3991554843, 5.2710378209\|H, -4  
.6199808533, 4.9432482132, 5.3050215293\|H, -5.5296601539, 4.9784785533, 3.7  
86833432\Version=IA64L-G03RevD.01\State=1-A\HF=-1091.4439511\RMSD=3.8  
48e-09\RMSF=1.310e-05\Thermal=0.\Dipole=-7.0961826, 1.5750408, 4.2154714  
\PG=C01 [X(C12H17O3S1)]\\@

(CN)<sub>2</sub>N<sup>-</sup> [dca]<sup>-</sup>

```
1\1\GINC-AC14\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C2N3(1-)\EXI501\22-Apr-2006\0\\#P
gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt freq=noram maxdisk=2
68435456\opt\-\-1,1\N,0.2603274818,0.,0.1840793277\C,0.1075240642,0.,1
.4877246243\C,1.4384815819,0.,-0.3945335481\N,-0.1648302316,0.,2.63719
95432\N,2.4314321633,0.,-1.0344699471\Version=IA64L-G03RevD.01\State=
1-A1\HF=-240.5141545\RMSD=3.081e-09\RMSF=1.180e-04\Thermal=0.\Dipole=-
0.3219748,0.,-0.2276706\PG=C02V [C2(N1),SGV(C2N2)] \\@
```



```
1\1\GINC-AC13\Freq\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C2F6N1O4S2(1-)\EXI501\11-Sep-2006\
1\\#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) scf=tight freq=noram
an maxdisk=1342177280\freq\-\-1,1\C\F,1,fc2\F,1,fc3,2,fcf3\F,1,fc4,2,f
cf4,3,dih4,0\S,1,sc5,2,scf5,4,dih5,0\N,5,ns6,1,ns6,2,dih6,0\S,6,sn7,5
,sn7,1,dih7,0\O,7,os8,6,osn8,5,dih8,0\O,5,os9,1,osc9,3,dih9,0\O,5,os1
0,1,osc10,3,dih10,0\O,7,os11,6,osn11,5,dih11,0\C,7,cs12,6,csn12,5,dih1
2,0\F,12,fc13,7,fcs13,6,dih13,0\F,12,fc14,7,fcs14,6,dih14,0\F,12,fc15,
7,fcs15,6,dih15,0\fc2=1.343127\fc3=1.345942\fcf3=108.131\fc4=1.350893
\fcf4=107.984\dih4=-116.339\sc5=1.891746\scf5=111.695\dih5=-120.634\ns
6=1.618826\nsc6=102.59\dih6=-61.468\sn7=1.618616\sns7=125.166\dih7=93.
192\os8=1.46802\osn8=107.986\dih8=-158.604\os9=1.467998\osc9=102.985\d
ih9=-52.469\os10=1.468159\osc10=104.117\dih10=-177.582\os11=1.468159\o
sn11=117.343\dih11=-20.337\cs12=1.891736\csn12=102.619\dih12=93.05\fc1
3=1.350851\fcs13=109.643\dih13=178.88\fc14=1.343174\fcs14=111.696\dih1
4=-61.459\fc15=1.346023\fcs15=111.491\dih15=59.634\Version=IA64L-G03R
evD.01\State=1-A\HF=-1827.2834748\RMSD=5.257e-09\RMSF=2.645e-05\ZeroPo
int=0.0521495\Thermal=0.066795\Dipole=-0.0988222,0.0415404,0.0672431
\Polar=88.3197745,1.1471676,109.2771419,1.1304714,-11.4903053,95.5044291
\PG=C01 [X(C2F6N1O4S2)] \\@
```



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1\1\GINC-AC42\FOpt\RB3LYP\6-31+G(d)\C16H36P1(1+)\EXI501\15-Nov-2006\0\
\\#P gfinput B3LYP/6-31+G(d) INT(grid=ultrafine) opt freq=noram maxdi
sk=6710886400\opt\1,1\C,-0.0005856837,-0.0003289317,0.000485731\P,-0
.0000023703,-0.0000228127,1.8345428573\C,1.7475609234,0.0003109549,2.3
911296095\C,1.961896222,0.0003655598,3.917451296\C,3.4565383956,0.0007
915776,4.2815541031\C,-1.3900939041,-0.0004227974,-0.6664959311\C,-1.2
839317388,-0.0008150246,-2.2011801381\C,-0.8736967568,1.4807735961,2.4
730305719\C,-0.2861426286,2.8393572779,2.0433469247\C,-1.0868041069,4.
0154890392,2.6283098098\C,-0.8732878923,-1.4808466418,2.4735256197\C,-
0.285676544,-2.8394109812,2.0438588546\C,-1.0858163277,-4.0155694359,2
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,-5.3776487753,2.214954361\H,-1.0935449667,-3.9364162071,3.7254406364\
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\H,-0.7098135626,0.8790165821,-2.5232618552\H,-0.7099247675,-0.8808789
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,-0.5315333349,5.5009253813,1.1239096042\H,-2.5448501646,-0.0011841652
,-3.9755568856\H,-3.2393006524,-0.8875171746,-2.6114955707\H,-3.239181
```

4957, 0.8859401289, -2.6119501595\H, 4.7651360196, 0.001144086, 6.021065623  
5\H, 3.2547118806, 0.8874286503, 6.2693186376\H, 3.2552293498, -0.886028644  
7, 6.2692896977\\Version=IA64L-G03RevD.01\\State=1-A\\HF=-972.5939709\\RMS  
D=4.340e-09\\RMSF=3.202e-05\\Thermal=0.\\Dipole=0.0000017, 0.0000046, 0.000  
0024\\PG=C01 [X (C16H36P1)]\\@

**Table S3. MP2/6-311+G(2df,p) total electronic energies ( $E_{\text{tot}}$ , in Hartree) and B3-LYP/6-31+G(d) scaled zero-point vibrational energies (ZPVE, in Hartree) of the ions pairs and the corresponding ions used to calculate binding energies of the ion pairs.**

Ionic species	$E_{\text{tot}}$	ZPVE
$(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+$	-970.500208	0.487302
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{SO}_3\text{N}^-$	-913.085914	0.186420
$\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{SO}_3\text{N}^-$	-946.340202	0.100793
$\text{Cl}^-$	-459.759138	0.0
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-SO}_3^-$	-1089.547004	0.267628
$(\text{CN})_2\text{N}^-$	-240.0626223	0.020474
$(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2\text{N}^-$	-1824.998197	0.051138
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{SO}_3\text{N}^-]$	-1883.728723	0.675335
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][\text{C}_7\text{H}_4\text{SO}_3\text{N}^-]$	-1916.976481	0.589307
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][\text{Cl}^-]$	-1430.399051	0.486987
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-SO}_3^-]$	-2060.188186	0.756369
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][(CN)_2\text{N}^-]$	-1210.691977	0.508823
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{P}^+][(CF_3\text{SO}_2)_2\text{N}^-]$	-2795.621855	0.539379

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