

## Supplementary Material

### Facile photogeneration of a charge separated state in a cyanoacetylide bridged Fe(II)-Re(I) heterobimetallic complex.

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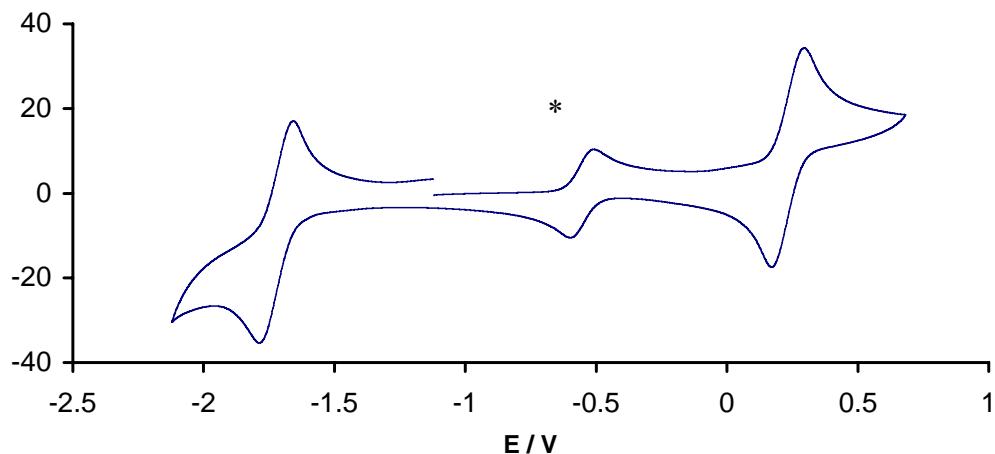
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**Figure S1** The cyclic voltammogram of [3]PF<sub>6</sub> (0.1 M NBu<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> / thf, -50°C).<sup>a</sup>



\* Decamethylferrocene internal reference, -0.56 V vs ferrocene.

## Computational details

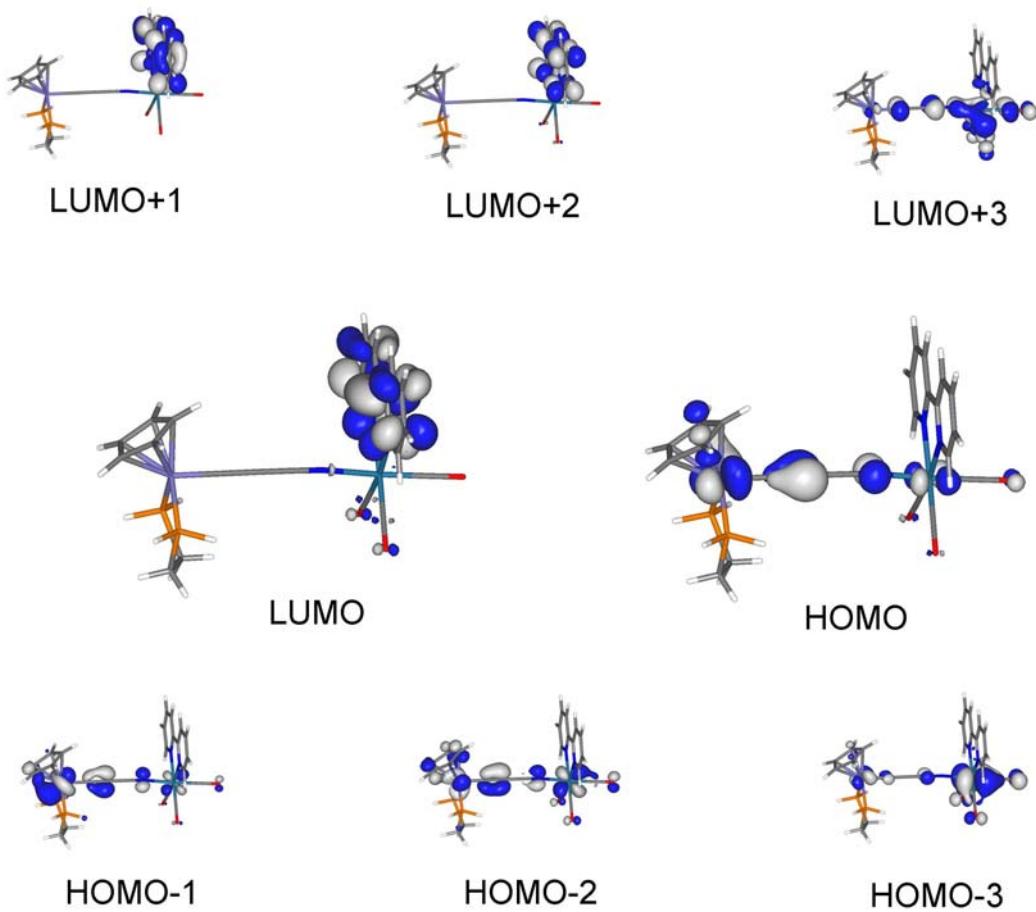
All computations were carried out with the Gaussian 03 package<sup>1</sup> using models which employ a Fe(dHpe)<sub>2</sub>Cp fragment rather than the Fe(dppe)Cp moiety to reduce computational effort, for the experimental geometries [3]<sup>n+</sup> (n = 0, 1, 2) and are denoted [3-H]<sup>n+</sup>. The model geometries of the bimetallic species, [3-H]<sup>n+</sup> (n = 0, 1, 2), were optimized using the PBE1PBE<sup>2</sup> functionals with no symmetry constraints using the 6-31G\*<sup>3</sup> basis set for the O atoms and the pseudopotentials LANL2DZ<sup>4</sup> for all other atoms. Frequencies were calculated on these optimized geometries. No imaginary frequencies were obtained which indicates that the computed geometries are true minima of the potential energy surface. A scaling factor of 0.95 was applied to the calculated IR frequencies.<sup>5</sup> Small energy differences were found between geometries where the metal fragments in [3-H]<sup>n+</sup> (n = 0, 1, 2) are disposed in either a *cisoid* and *transoid* fashion, and indeed both conformations are found as true minima. The more stable *cisoid* forms of [3-H]<sup>n+</sup> (n = 0, 1, 2) geometries have total energy values of -1492.86858, -1492.71820 and -1492.40561 hartrees respectively whereas the *transoid* forms have corresponding values of -1492.86352, -1492.71615 and -1492.40373 hartrees. The *cisoid* conformations of [3-H]<sup>n+</sup> (n = 0, 1, 2) are examined in detail here. Electronic structure calculations and TD-DFT calculations were also carried out at the same level of theory.

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**Table 1.** Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) for experimental and computed geometries

	Experimental [3]BF <sub>4</sub>	Computed [3-H] <sup>+</sup>
Fe-C(1)	1.828(3)	1.829
Fe(1)-P(1)	2.1803(8)	2.249
Fe(1)-P(2)	2.2033(7)	2.250
C(1)-C(2)	1.235(4)	1.257
C(2)-C(3)	1.348(4)	1.345
C(3)-N(1)	1.161(3)	1.185
N(1)-Re(1)	2.120(2)	2.096
Re(1)-N(2)	2.180(2)	2.151
Re(1)-N(3)	2.172(2)	2.151
P(1)-Fe(1)-P(2)	87.59(3)	86.91
P(1)-Fe(1)-C(1)	85.84(8)	88.32
P(2)-Fe(1)-C(1)	86.32(8)	90.45
Fe(1)-C(1)-C(2)	177.9(2)	179.7
C(1)-C(2)-C(3)	170.1(3)	179.5
C(2)-C(3)-N(1)	179.6(3)	179.2
C(3)-N(1)-Re(1)	169.2(2)	176.3
N(1)-Re(1)-N(2)	81.36(9)	85.69
N(2)-Re(1)-N(3)	74.61(8)	75.76
N(1)-Re(1)-C(10)	177.1(1)	177.8

**Figure S1.** Selected frontier orbitals for the cation  $[\{\text{Cp}(\text{dHpe})\text{Fe}\}(\mu-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}\equiv\text{N})\{\text{Re}(\text{bpy})(\text{CO})_3\}]^+ \quad [\mathbf{3}\text{-H}]^+$



**Table 2.** Comparison of selected IR vibrational frequencies for  $[\mathbf{3}]^+$  and  $[\mathbf{3}]^{2+}$ , calculated frequencies ( $[\mathbf{3}\text{-H}]^+$ ) and photoexcited  $[\mathbf{3}]^{+*}$ .

	$[\mathbf{3}\text{-H}]^+$	$[\mathbf{3}]^+$	$[\mathbf{3}]^{+*} \ddagger$	$[\mathbf{3}]^{2+}$
v(CN)	2204	2190	<sup>a</sup>	2210
v(CO)	2016	2035	2011	2040
v(CC)	1980	1970	<sup>a</sup>	2000
v(CO)	1941	1930br	1908	1940br
v(CO)(eq)	1934	1930br	1908	1940br

<sup>‡</sup> Transient feature centroids become less accurate as time delay progression evolves and signal amplitude decreases.

<sup>a</sup> masked by bleach

**Table 3.** The orbital numbers, orbital type and composition (%) of selected orbitals for **[3-H]<sup>+</sup>**

[3-H] <sup>+</sup>		MO	eV	Cp	Fe	dppe	C(1)	C(2)	C(3)	N	Re	CO	(CO) <sub>2</sub>	bpy
132	L+9	-2.45	1	7	6	2	1	0	1	21	19	41	2	
131	L+8	-2.54	0	2	1	8	2	5	6	10	1	38	27	
130	L+7	-2.56	0	1	0	3	1	2	2	3	0	13	74	
129	L+6	-2.74	19	54	16	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
128	L+5	-3.26	23	51	21	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	
127	L+4	-3.30	0	7	5	27	4	21	18	7	12	0	0	
126	L+3	-3.37	0	6	5	19	2	17	12	15	12	11	0	
125	L+2	-3.97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	97	
124	L+1	-4.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	98	
123	LUMO	-5.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	94	
122	HOMO	-8.17	7	40	3	3	16	0	8	15	4	3	1	
121	H-1	-8.51	2	35	2	6	13	1	7	23	5	4	3	
120	H-2	-8.79	17	54	6	4	1	1	1	12	2	2	2	
119	H-3	-8.98	4	20	1	1	2	4	0	47	8	8	4	
118	H-4	-9.15	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	27	1	
117	H-5	-9.38	3	37	2	1	10	2	3	27	4	5	5	
116	H-6	-10.02	47	39	4	4	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	
115	H-7	-10.13	60	28	2	2	4	0	2	1	0	0	1	
114	H-8	-10.30	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96
113	H-9	-10.49	5	25	13	20	18	0	9	3	0	1	5	
112	H-10	-10.85	18	31	6	20	13	0	8	2	0	1	3	

**Table 4** Excitation energies and oscillator strengths from TD-DFT computations (PBE1PBE//LANL2DZ/6-31G\*) for  $[3\text{-H}]^+$ . See Table 3 for details on orbital numbers listed in the transitions.

Excitation energies and oscillator strengths for  $[3\text{-H}]^+$ :

Excited State 1: Singlet-A	2.2062 eV	
561.97 nm f=0.0000		Excited State 8: Singlet-A 3.0321 eV
116 ->128    0.19742		408.90 nm f=0.0001
117 ->128    0.11784		118 ->123    0.67820
120 ->128    0.49138		120 ->123    -0.11649
121 ->128    -0.33509		
122 ->129    0.16889		Excited State 9: Singlet-A 3.1176 eV
Excited State 2: Singlet-A	2.3057 eV	397.69 nm f=0.0095
537.72 nm f=0.0016		117 ->123    -0.11278
119 ->123    0.18576		118 ->123    0.12173
122 ->123    0.67813		120 ->123    0.63748
Excited State 3: Singlet-A	2.3288 eV	121 ->123    -0.24149
532.39 nm f=0.0036		
113 ->128    0.15867		Excited State 10: Singlet-A 3.1402 eV
119 ->128    -0.23377		394.83 nm f=0.0004
122 ->128    0.54828		112 ->128    0.11470
Excited State 4: Singlet-A	2.5365 eV	117 ->128    0.25477
488.79 nm f=0.0001		119 ->129    -0.13531
112 ->128    -0.12412		121 ->128    0.36353
113 ->129    0.11146		122 ->129    0.33727
116 ->128    -0.17883		122 ->130    -0.10601
117 ->128    -0.30312		
119 ->129    -0.16578		Excited State 11: Singlet-A 3.3303 eV
120 ->128    -0.18310		372.29 nm f=0.0017
121 ->128    -0.22351		119 ->124    0.14627
122 ->129    0.37564		122 ->124    0.68346
122 ->130    -0.11893		
Excited State 5: Singlet-A	2.6886 eV	Excited State 12: Singlet-A 3.4654 eV
461.15 nm f=0.0492		357.77 nm f=0.0072
120 ->123    0.22629		117 ->123    -0.22667
121 ->123    0.64696		119 ->125    0.12407
Excited State 6: Singlet-A	2.9088 eV	121 ->127    0.10359
426.23 nm f=0.0071		122 ->125    0.52823
112 ->129    0.13621		122 ->126    -0.14773
117 ->129    0.18717		122 ->127    -0.24369
120 ->129    -0.23654		
121 ->129    0.49053		Excited State 13: Singlet-A 3.4717 eV
121 ->130    -0.15590		357.13 nm f=0.0005
121 ->133    -0.10148		122 ->125    0.26471
Excited State 7: Singlet-A	3.0252 eV	122 ->127    0.59693
409.84 nm f=0.0016		
119 ->123    0.66643		Excited State 14: Singlet-A 3.5194 eV
122 ->123    -0.19040		352.29 nm f=0.0248
		116 ->129    0.16552
		117 ->129    0.24711
		120 ->129    0.29919
		121 ->127    0.19603
		122 ->125    -0.24853

122 ->126	-0.28012		Excited State 21: Singlet-A	4.0834 eV
122 ->127	0.12332		303.63 nm f=0.0030	
Excited State 15: Singlet-A	3.5785 eV		118 ->124	-0.21644
346.47 nm f=0.0284			120 ->124	0.60915
117 ->123	0.59857		121 ->124	-0.25385
120 ->123	0.10498		Excited State 22: Singlet-A	4.1355 eV
121 ->124	0.19705		299.80 nm f=0.0004	
122 ->125	0.20869		117 ->124	-0.12556
Excited State 16: Singlet-A	3.6662 eV		118 ->124	0.65928
338.18 nm f=0.0309			120 ->124	0.19797
117 ->123	-0.16175		Excited State 23: Singlet-A	4.2059 eV
120 ->124	0.22060		294.79 nm f=0.0092	
121 ->124	0.61448		118 ->125	-0.25742
122 ->125	-0.13302		120 ->125	0.41636
Excited State 17: Singlet-A	3.7592 eV		120 ->126	-0.36988
329.82 nm f=0.0073			120 ->127	-0.13063
117 ->125	-0.10373		121 ->125	-0.21162
120 ->125	0.23175		121 ->127	0.10923
121 ->125	0.58383		121 ->131	-0.10526
121 ->126	-0.25700		Excited State 24: Singlet-A	4.2240 eV
Excited State 18: Singlet-A	3.7747 eV		293.52 nm f=0.0197	
328.46 nm f=0.0423			118 ->125	0.57564
116 ->129	0.10665		120 ->126	-0.23843
117 ->129	0.15678		120 ->127	-0.17680
120 ->129	0.23731		121 ->127	0.14266
121 ->127	-0.31595		Excited State 25: Singlet-A	4.2274 eV
122 ->126	0.45848		293.29 nm f=0.0514	
Excited State 19: Singlet-A	3.8531 eV		118 ->125	-0.12745
321.78 nm f=0.0017			119 ->125	0.64829
120 ->125	0.11462		122 ->125	-0.14222
120 ->126	0.11031		Excited State 26: Singlet-A	4.2459 eV
121 ->125	0.24275		292.01 nm f=0.0419	
121 ->126	0.59462		117 ->125	-0.10729
121 ->131	-0.13585		118 ->125	0.24334
Excited State 20: Singlet-A	4.0476 eV		119 ->125	0.11708
306.32 nm f=0.0001			119 ->126	-0.13667
114 ->123	0.13170		120 ->125	0.33177
119 ->124	0.66728		120 ->127	0.36109
122 ->124	-0.15484		121 ->125	-0.14824
			121 ->127	-0.23851
			122 ->126	-0.13124
			122 ->131	-0.12681

**Synthetic details:** A Schlenk flask was charged with  $[\text{Fe}(\text{C}\equiv\text{CC}\equiv\text{N})(\text{dppe})\text{Cp}]$  (50 mg, 0.088 mmol),  $[\text{Re}(\text{NCMe})(\text{CO})_3(\text{bpy})]\text{PF}_6^-$  (54 mg, 0.088 mmol) and thf (25 mL). The mixture was warmed to *ca.* 50°C and stirred for 48 h. The solvent was removed and the residue extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Hexane was added and the solution concentrated to give a yellow precipitate which was collected, washed with hexane, pentane and air-dried. Yield = 75 mg (75 %). Found C 49.86, H 3.43, N 3.63.  $\text{C}_{47}\text{H}_{37}\text{F}_6\text{FeN}_3\text{O}_3\text{P}_3\text{Re}$  requires C 49.48, H 3.27, N 3.68.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.71 (dd, 4H, bpy), 8.29 (t, 2H, bpy), 7.56-7.09 (m, 22H, dppe + bpy), 4.30 (s, 5H, Cp), 2.37 (m, 4H, dppe).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  102.6 (s, dppe), -143.0 (ht,  $J_{\text{PF}} = 713$  Hz,  $[\text{PF}_6^-]$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): d 194.5 (s, 2 x CO), 190.3 (s, CO), 180.4 (t,  $J_{\text{CP}} = 36$  Hz,  $\text{C}_a$ ), 155.8 (C1 bpy), 152.4 (C3 bpy), 141.2 (C5 bpy), 139.2, 134.5 (m,  $\text{C}_{i,i'}$  dppe) 132.9, 131.4 (dd,  $^2J_{\text{CP}}$ ,  $^4J_{\text{CP}} \sim 5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_{o,o'}$  dppe), 130.3, 129.9 (s,  $\text{C}_{p,p'}$  dppe), 128.5, 128.1 (dd,  $^3J_{\text{CP}}$ ,  $^5J_{\text{CP}} \sim 5$  Hz,  $\text{C}_{m,m'}$  dppe), 127.6, 125.3 (C2, C4 bpy), 104.5 (s, CN), 84.0 (s,  $\text{C}_b$ ), 81.7 (s, Cp), 28.4 (m,  $\text{CH}_2$  dppe).  $^{19}\text{F}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) d -73.3 (d,  $J_{\text{PF}} = 713$  Hz,  $\text{PF}_6^-$ ). MALDI-MS  $m/z$  996,  $[\mathbf{3}]^+$ . IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{N})$  2188  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{C})$  1970  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\nu(\text{C}\equiv\text{O})$  2035, 1930(br)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The analogous compound  $[\mathbf{3}]\text{BF}_4^-$  was obtained from a similar reaction between  $[\text{Fe}(\text{C}\equiv\text{CC}\equiv\text{N})(\text{dppe})\text{Cp}]$  and  $[\text{Re}(\text{OTf})(\text{CO})_3(\text{bpy})]$ , carried out in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing one molar equivalent of  $\text{NaBF}_4$ , and, in contrast to the  $\text{PF}_6^-$  salt, crystallized in a form suitable for X-ray diffraction by slow diffusion of methanol in a  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution of the complex.

## Crystallography

There is a disorder (1:1) of the ethylene bridge and two benzene rings at P(1) phosphorus atom, which corresponds to a racemic mixture of  $\lambda$ - and  $\delta$ -conformers of [3]BF<sub>4</sub>. The P(1) atom is also slightly disordered, however the attempts to model this disorder did not improve the refinement indicators. As a result the variation of observed P(1)-C bond lengths is rather high.