

## Supporting information

# Catalysis of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by diazapyridinophane complexes of Fe, Co, and Ni: CO<sub>2</sub> binding triggered by combined frontier MO associations involving a SOMO

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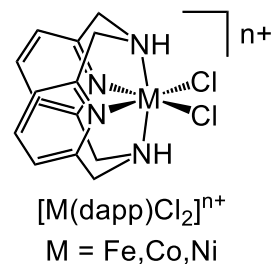
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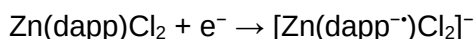
## Computational Method

Density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed using the Gaussian 09 software package.<sup>1</sup> The structures of M(dapp) derivatives and related compounds were fully optimized using the B3P86 density functional<sup>2</sup> with the effect of solvation in DMF taken into consideration using the conductor-like polarizable continuum model (C-PCM) method.<sup>3</sup> The B3P86/6-31+G(d,p) basis set was applied to all atoms. The use of B3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level of DFT was reported to show good consistency with theoretical and experimental results for first row transition metal complexes.<sup>4</sup> The redox potentials and  $pK_a$  values are calculated as described in Scheme S1. The graphical representations of geometry, molecular orbital, and Mulliken spin distribution were generated using GaussView 6.1.1.<sup>5</sup>

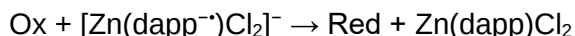


**Scheme S1.** Isodesmic reaction methods<sup>6,7</sup> for calculating redox potentials and  $pK_a$  values based on the experimentally determined values for the reduction potential of  $Zn(dapp)Cl_2$  ( $-2.36$  V vs.  $Fc/Fc^+$ ) and  $pK_a$  for benzoic acid ( $pK_a = 12.2$  in DMF), respectively.  $F$  is Faraday constant,  $R$  is the gas constant, and  $T$  is temperature (298.15 K). The solvent free energies of proton in DMF ( $\Delta G_{sol}(H^+)$ ) is 264.5 kcal/mol.<sup>8</sup>

(1) Determination of the redox potential for  $Ox + e^- \rightarrow Red$



$$\Delta G_{ref}^0 = -FE_{ref}^0 \quad E_{ref}^0 = -2.36 \text{ V vs. } Fc/Fc^+$$

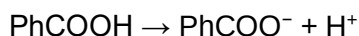


$$\Delta G_r^0 = G(Red)_{solv} + G(Zn(dapp)Cl_2)_{solv} - G(Ox)_{solv} - G([Zn(dapp^{--})Cl_2]^-)_{solv}$$

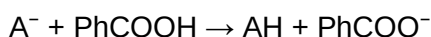
$$\Delta G_r^0 = -\Delta G_{ref}^0 + \Delta G^0 = FE_{ref}^0 - FE^0$$

$$E^0 = -\Delta G_r^0/F + E_{ref}^0$$

(2) Determination of  $pK_a$  value for  $AH \rightarrow A^- + H^+$



$$\Delta G_{ref}^0 = RT \ln(10) pK_{a,ref} \quad pK_{a,ref} = 12.2 \text{ in DMF}$$



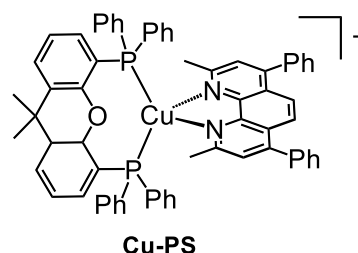
$$\Delta G_r^0 = G(AH)_{solv} + G(PhCOO^-)_{solv} - G(A^-)_{solv} - G(PhCOOH)_{solv}$$

$$\Delta G_r^0 = -RT \ln(10) pK_a + RT \ln(10) pK_{a,ref}$$

$$pK_a = -\Delta G_r^0/RT \ln(10) + pK_{a,ref}$$

### Photocatalytic Experiments.

In the photocatalytic experiments shown in Fig. 1B, a DMF:TEOA (4:1 v/v) mixed solution (5 mL) containing **Cu-PS**(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sup>9</sup> (0.5 mM), BIH (50 mM), xantphos (1.0 mM), and {[Fe<sup>III</sup>(dapp)Cl]<sub>2</sub>(μ-O)}Cl<sub>2</sub><sup>9</sup> (0.25 mM), [Co<sup>III</sup>(dapp)Cl<sub>2</sub>]Cl<sup>9</sup> (0.5 mM) or [Ni<sup>II</sup>(dapp)(μ-Cl)]<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub><sup>9</sup> (0.25 mM) was purged with CO<sub>2</sub> (purity ≥ 99.995 %) for 15 min prior to irradiation. Photoirradiation experiments were carried out by an ILC Technology CERMAX LX-300 Xe lamp (179 mW·cm<sup>-2</sup>) equipped with a CM-1 cold mirror which reflects lights in the range of 400 < λ < 800 nm. The photolysis vial (21 mL) was immersed in a 25 °C water bath to remove IR radiation and to eliminate the temperature effects.



The quantification of gases was done by using Shimadzu GC-14A equipped with a molecular sieve 13X-S Å column of 2 m x 3 mm *i.d.*, at 30 °C. The injection of the sample gas (200 μL) was performed manually using a gas-tight syringe and the output signal from the thermal conductivity detector of the gas chromatograph was analyzed using a Shimadzu C-R8A integrator. The CO peaks were determined using calibration curves which had been previously obtained using standard CO and H<sub>2</sub> gas.

**Table S1.** Comparisons of the redox potentials (V vs. Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>), the bond distances (Å), and angles (degree) of M<sup>II</sup>(dapp)Cl<sub>2</sub> (M = Fe, Co, Ni, and Zn) between computational and experimental values.<sup>9</sup>

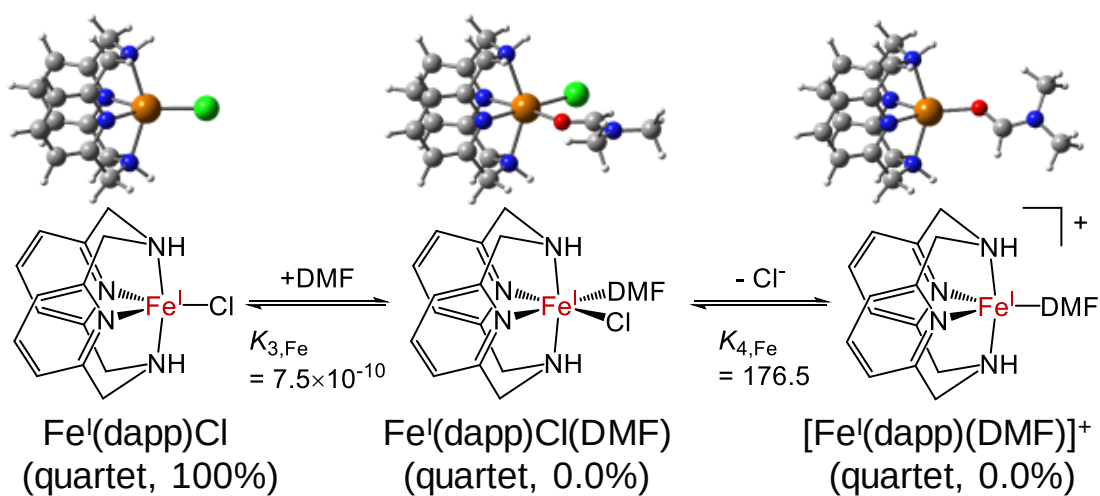
|                                     | B3P86        | B3LYP        | BP86   | M06    | B3P86<br>6-311+G** | Experimental |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------------|
|                                     | 6-31+G**     |              |        |        |                    |              |
| Fe <sup>II/I</sup>                  | -2.161       | -2.162       | -1.947 | -2.327 | -2.162             | -2.15        |
| Co <sup>II/I</sup>                  | -1.981       | -1.968       | -1.566 | -1.784 | -1.969             | -1.96        |
| Ni <sup>II/I</sup>                  | -2.059       | -2.047       | -1.774 | -1.869 | -2.058             | -2.01        |
| Sum( Δ <sub>potential</sub>  )      | <b>0.103</b> | <b>0.057</b> | 0.833  | 0.871  | 0.068              | -            |
| Zn-N <sub>py</sub>                  | 2.165        | 2.194        | 2.186  | 2.191  | 2.168              | 2.128(1)     |
| Zn-N <sub>amine</sub>               | 2.290        | 2.318        | 2.313  | 2.297  | 2.293              | 2.276(1)     |
| Zn-Cl                               | 2.393        | 2.432        | 2.147  | 2.373  | 2.394              | 2.386(1)     |
| Sum( Δ <sub>distance</sub>  )       | <b>0.040</b> | 0.090        | 0.249  | 0.068  | 0.044              | -            |
| N <sub>py</sub> -Zn-N <sub>py</sub> | 79.5         | 79.3         | 79.4   | 78.3   | 79.5               | 81.0(1)      |
| N <sub>am</sub> -Zn-N <sub>am</sub> | 142.5        | 141.5        | 142.4  | 142.0  | 142.1              | 144.3(1)     |
| Cl-Zn-Cl                            | 97.7         | 97.9         | 97.9   | 98.3   | 97.8               | 93.5(1)      |
| Sum( Δ <sub>angle</sub>  )          | <b>4.8</b>   | 5.5          | 5.1    | 6.0    | 5.1                | -            |

**Table S2.** Comparison of the bond distances (Å) and angles (degree) of [Co<sup>III</sup>(dapp)Cl<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> between DFT-optimized and crystal structures.<sup>9</sup>

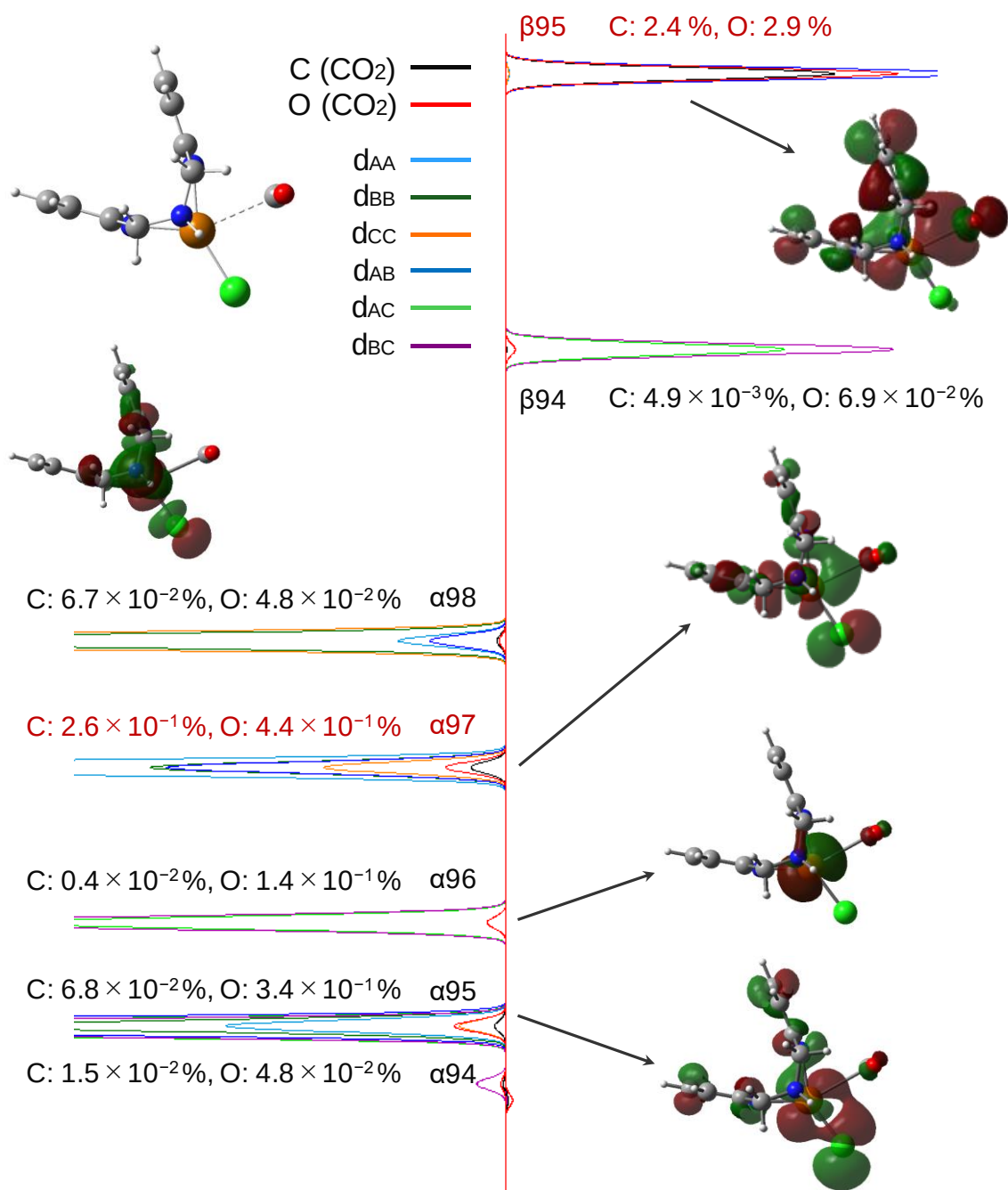
|                                           | Structure optimized by DFT | Crystal structure    |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Co-N <sub>py</sub>                        | 1.868                      | 1.875(1)<br>1.873(1) |
| Co-N <sub>amine</sub>                     | 1.977                      | 1.987(1)<br>1.978(1) |
| Co-Cl                                     | 2.250                      | 2.263(1)<br>2.255(1) |
| N <sub>py</sub> -Co-N <sub>py</sub>       | 89.84                      | 89.8(1)              |
| N <sub>amine</sub> -Co-N <sub>amine</sub> | 164.2                      | 163.3(1)             |
| Cl-Co-Cl                                  | 92.4                       | 91.5(1)              |

**Table S3.** Comparison of the geometries around the M-C bonds (M = Fe, Co, Ni) in the optimized structures of the species involved in the proposed photocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> reduction cycle. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (degree) are listed.

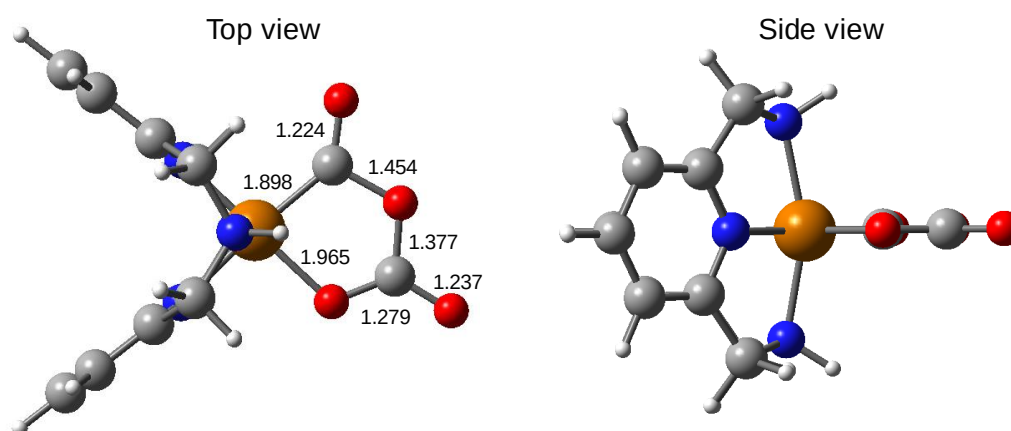
| Compound                                                   | Bond distance (Å)                                      | Angle (°)               | Geometry         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Fe <sup>III</sup> (dapp)(CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>2-</sup> )Cl | Fe35-C37 = 1.962<br>C37-O38 = 1.246<br>C37-O39 = 1.228 | O38-C37-O39<br>= 137.33 | <b>Table S11</b> |
| HCOO <sup>-</sup><br>(deprotonated formate)                | C1-O2 = 1.258<br>C1-O3 = 1.257                         | O2-C1-O3<br>= 128.17    |                  |
| Co <sup>III</sup> (dapp)(CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>2-</sup> )Cl | Co1-C37 = 1.951<br>C37-O38 = 1.235<br>C37-O39 = 1.219  | O38-C37-O39<br>= 140.46 | <b>Table S28</b> |
| Ni <sup>III</sup> (dapp)(CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>2-</sup> )Cl | Ni1-C37 = 2.000<br>C37-O38 = 1.230<br>C37-O39 = 1.230  | O38-C37-O39<br>= 137.20 | <b>Table S48</b> |



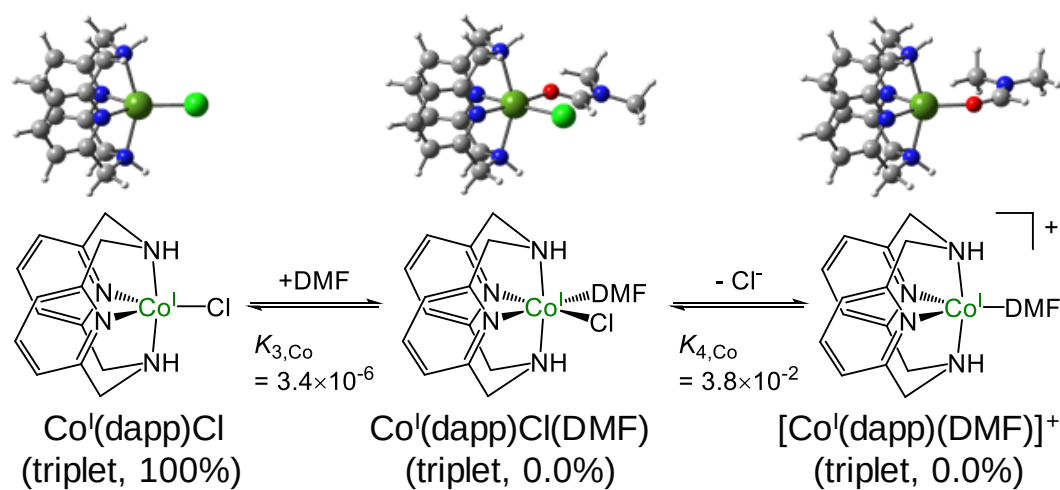
**Fig. S1** Ligand substitution profile of Fe<sup>I</sup>(dapp) derivatives at [DMF] = 10.4 M.



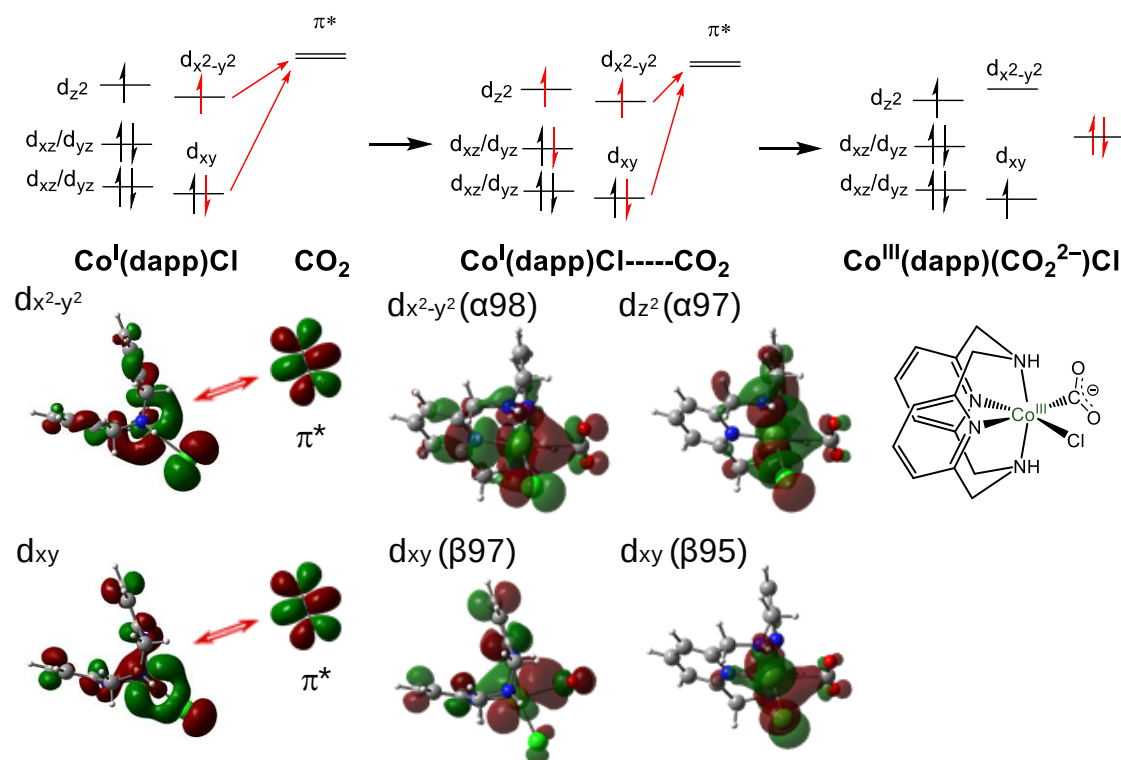
**Fig. S2** The projected density of states clarifying the contributions of each atomic orbital (AO) in the transition state of CO<sub>2</sub> binding for the Fe<sup>I</sup>(dapp) derivative, [Fe<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl---CO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>‡</sup> (quartet, S = 3/2). Contributions of all the AOs for C atom (black) and two O atoms (red) in CO<sub>2</sub>, and all the d-based AOs for Fe atom (light blue, green, orange, blue, light green, purple) are shown. A, B, and C in the description of d-based orbitals (i.e., d<sub>AA</sub>, d<sub>BB</sub>, d<sub>CC</sub>, d<sub>AB</sub>, d<sub>AC</sub>, d<sub>BC</sub>) correspond to the x, y, and z axes, respectively, on the basis of the definition by its DFT calculation.



**Fig. S3** The structure of  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C,O})$  (singlet). The selected bond distances (Å) are also shown.

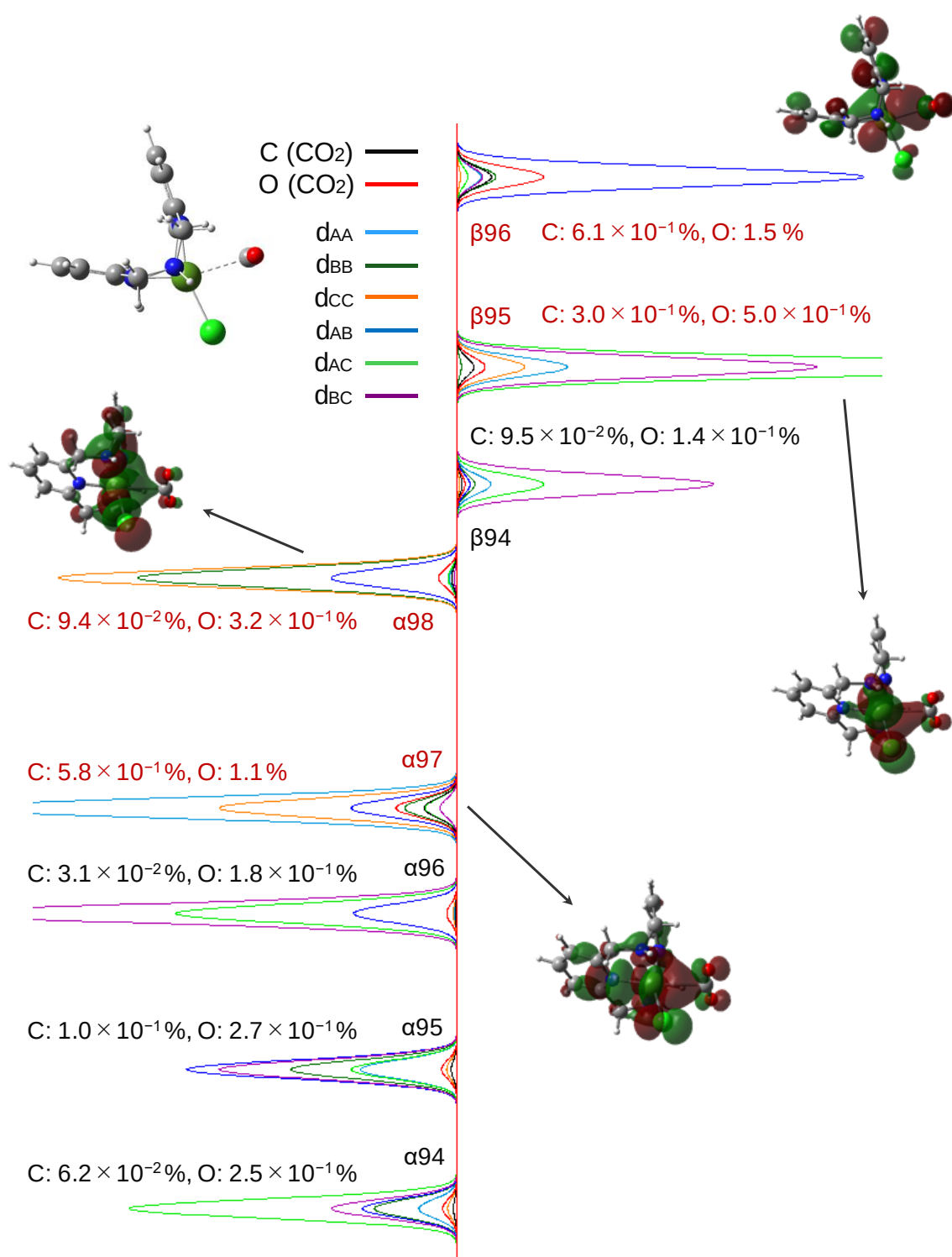


**Fig. S4** Ligand substitution profile of  $\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})$  derivatives at  $[\text{DMF}] = 10.4 \text{ M}$ .

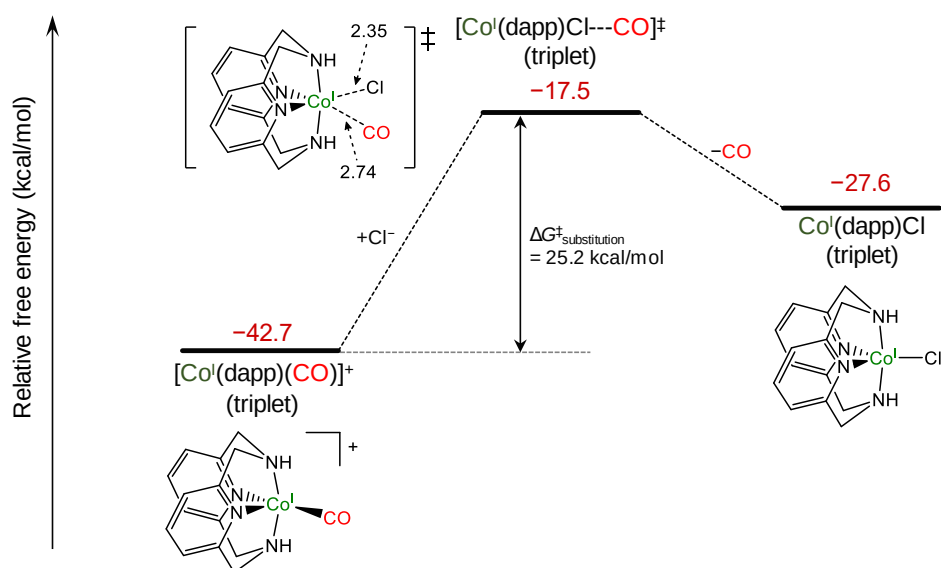


**Fig. S5** Molecular orbital (MO) diagrams correlated with the  $\text{CO}_2$  binding into  $\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl}$  (triplet).

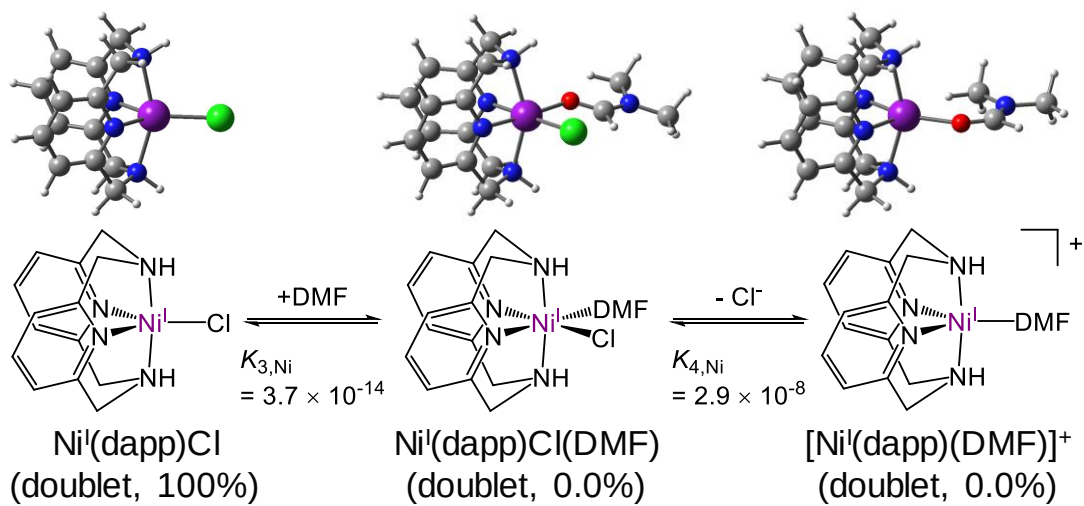




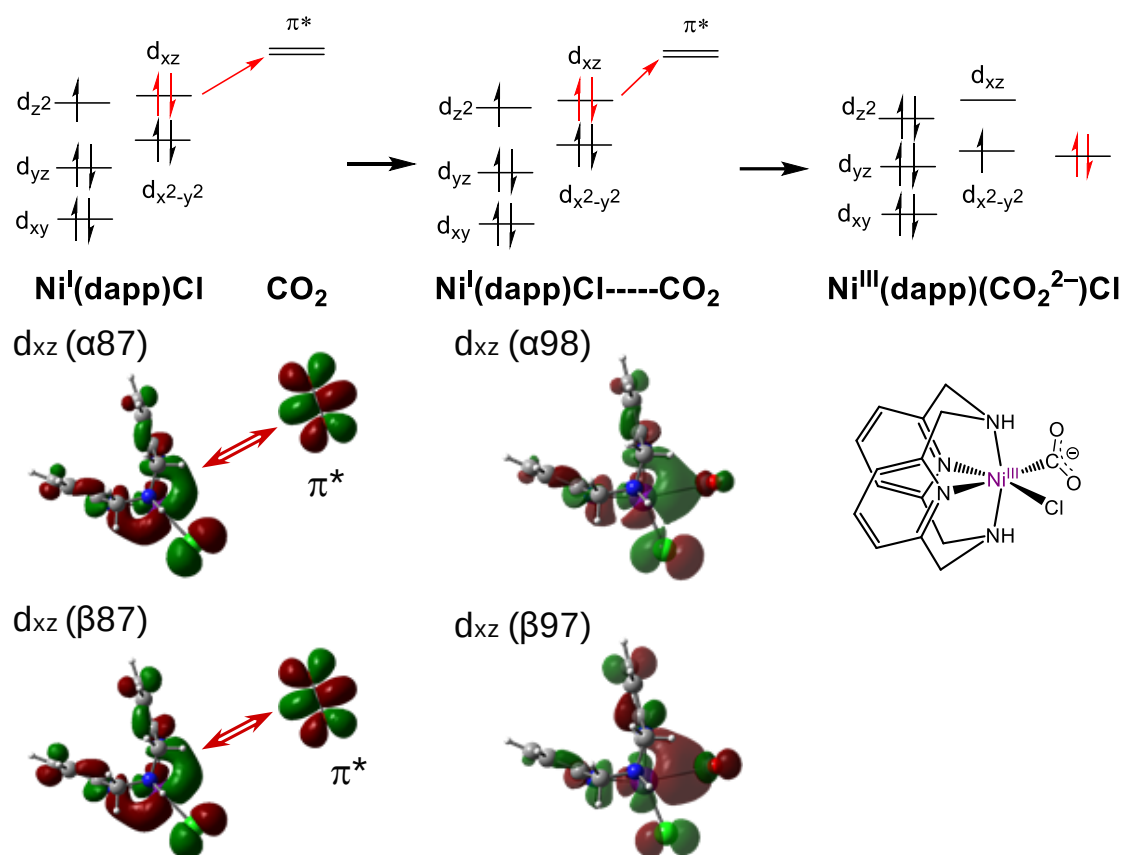
**Fig. S6** The projected density of states clarifying the contributions of each atomic orbital (AO) in the transition state of CO<sub>2</sub> binding for the Co<sup>I</sup>(dapp) derivative, [Co<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl---CO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>‡</sup> (triplet, S = 1). Contributions of all the AOs for C atom (black) and two O atoms (red) in CO<sub>2</sub>, and all the d-based AOs for Co atom (light blue, green, orange, blue, light green, purple) are shown. A, B, and C in the description of d-based orbitals (i.e., d<sub>AA</sub>, d<sub>BB</sub>, d<sub>CC</sub>, d<sub>AB</sub>, d<sub>AC</sub>, d<sub>BC</sub>) correspond to the x, y, and z axes, respectively, on the basis of the definition by its DFT calculation.



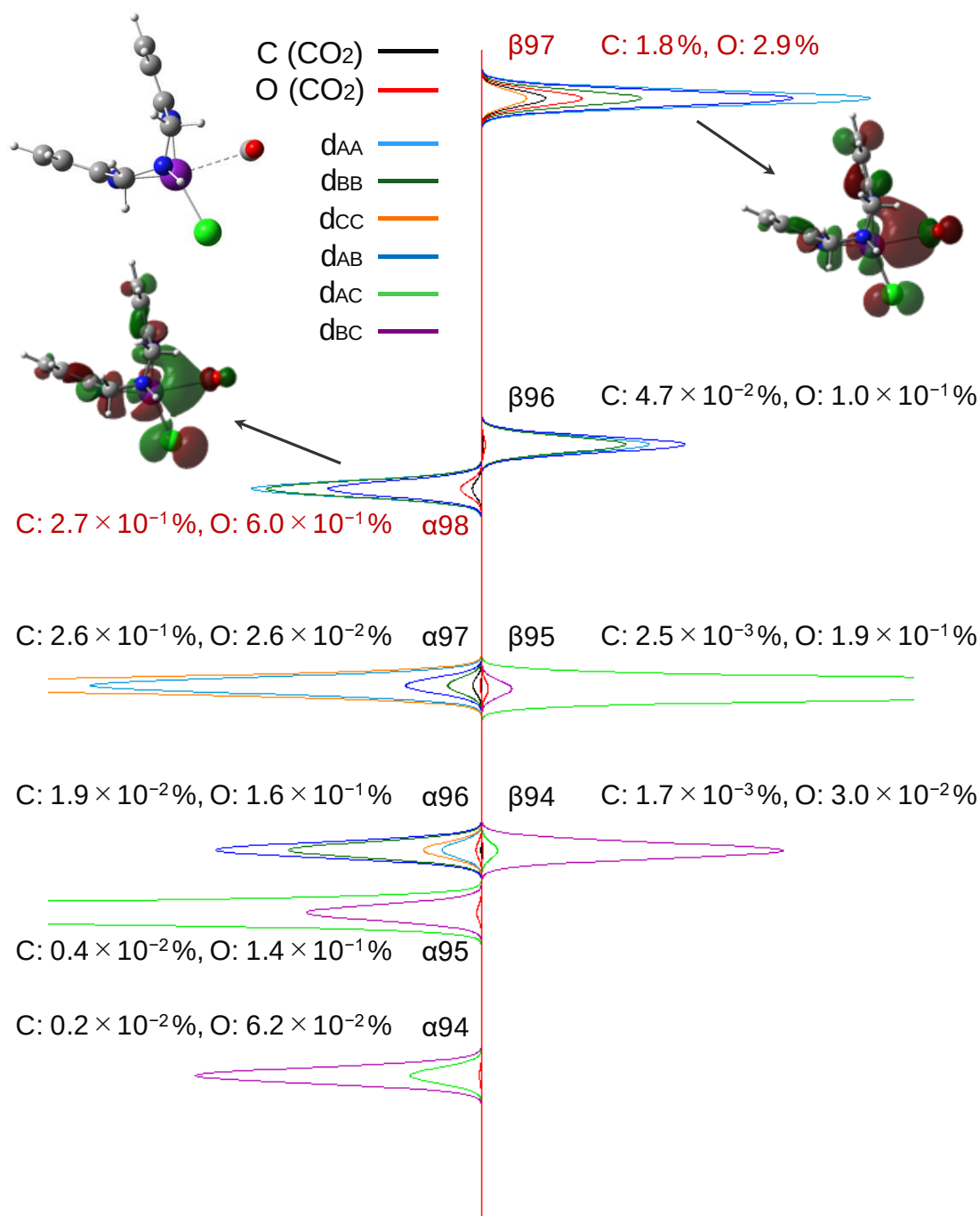
**Fig. S7** Free energy diagram computed by DFT for the CO releasing step of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})]^+$ .



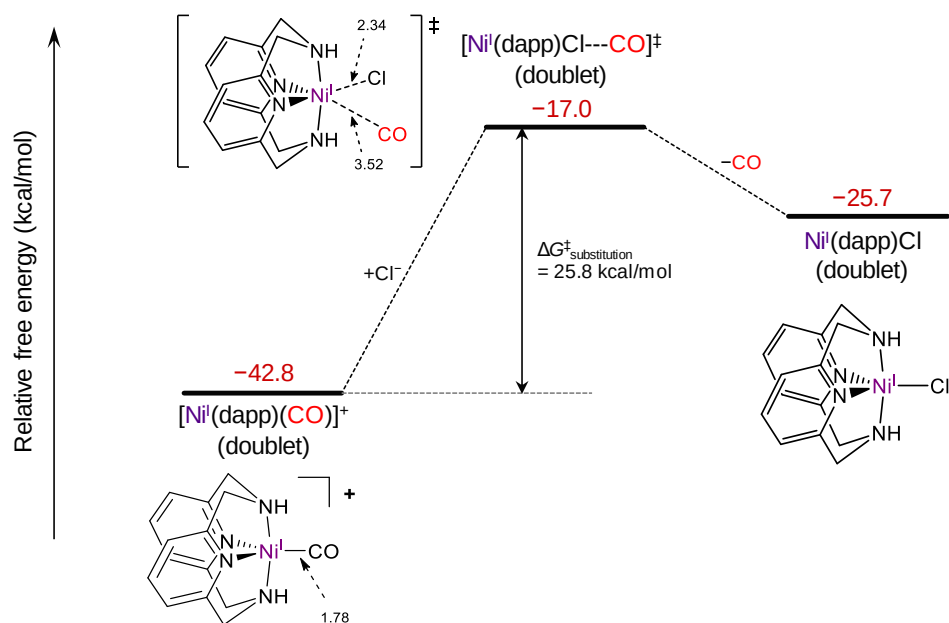
**Fig. S8** Ligand substitution profile of  $\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})$  derivatives at  $[\text{DMF}] = 10.4 \text{ M}$ .



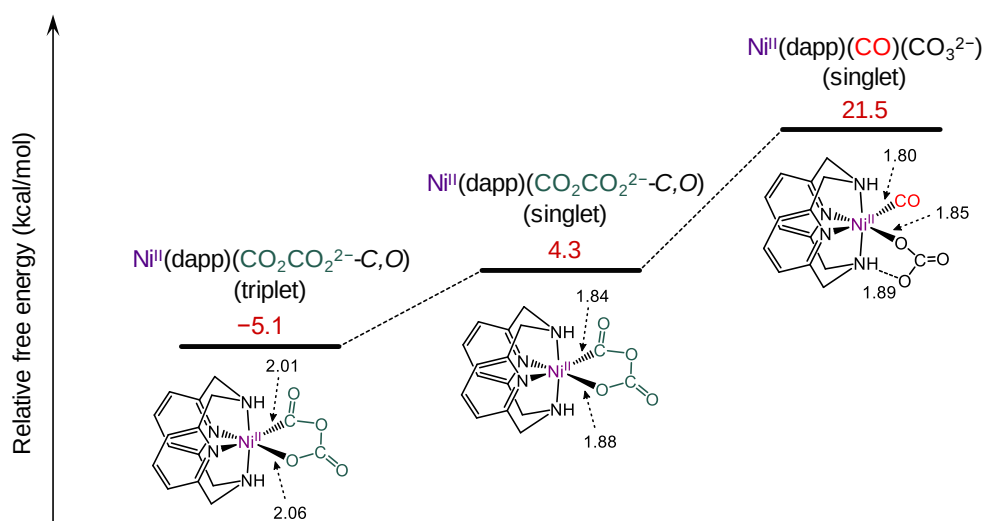
**Fig. S9** MO diagrams correlated with the CO<sub>2</sub> binding into Ni<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl (doublet).



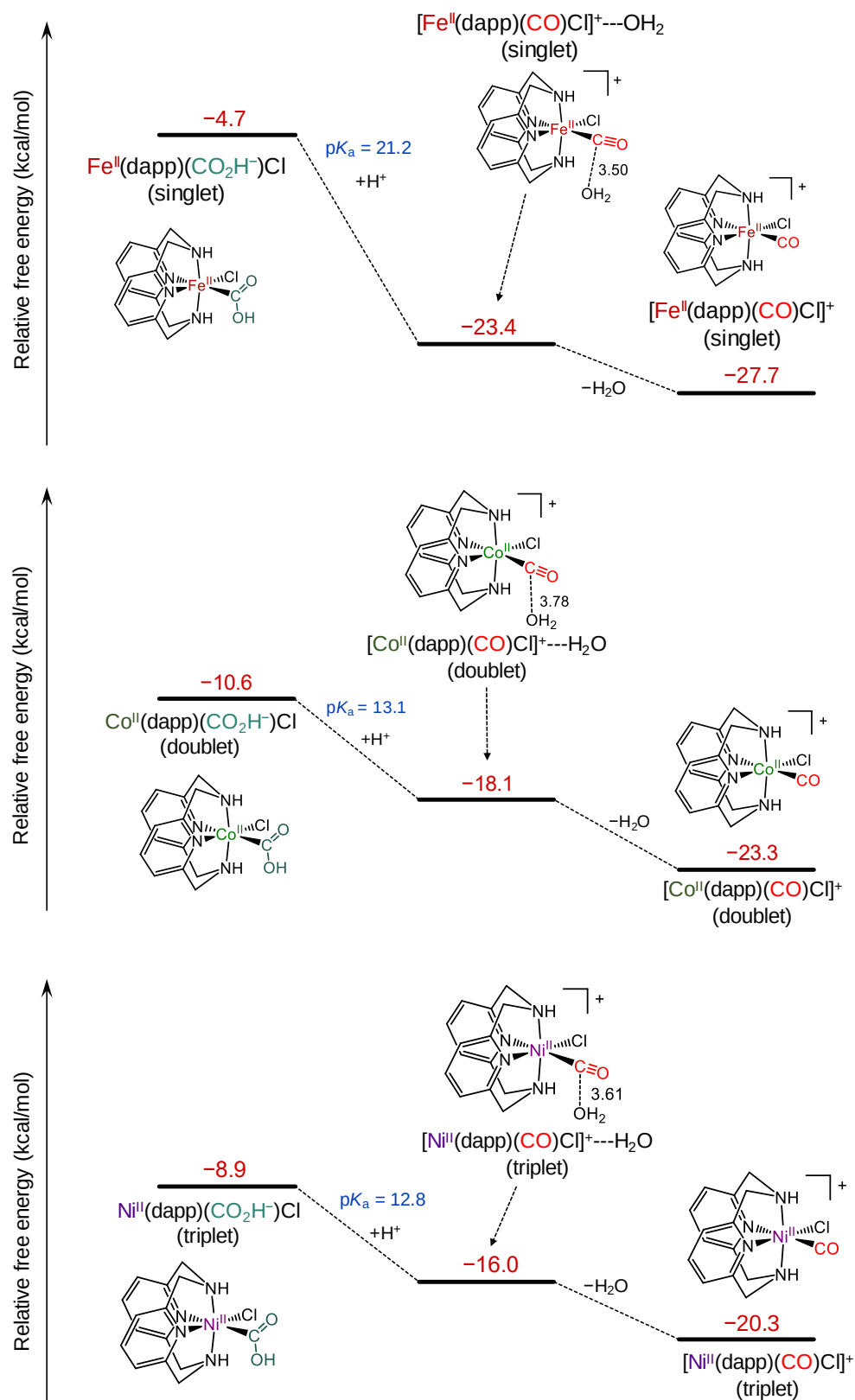
**Fig. S10** The projected density of states clarifying the contributions of each atomic orbital (AO) in the transition state of CO<sub>2</sub> binding for the Ni<sup>I</sup>(dapp) derivative, [Ni<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl---CO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>‡</sup> (doublet, S = 1/2). Contributions of all the AOs for C atom (black) and two O atoms (red) in CO<sub>2</sub>, and all the d-based AOs for Ni atom (light blue, green, orange, blue, light green, purple) are shown. A, B, and C in the description of d-based orbitals (i.e., d<sub>AA</sub>, d<sub>BB</sub>, d<sub>CC</sub>, d<sub>AB</sub>, d<sub>AC</sub>, d<sub>BC</sub>) correspond to the x, y, and z axes, respectively, on the basis of the definition by its DFT calculation.



**Fig. S11** Free energy diagram computed by DFT for the CO releasing step of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})]^+$ .

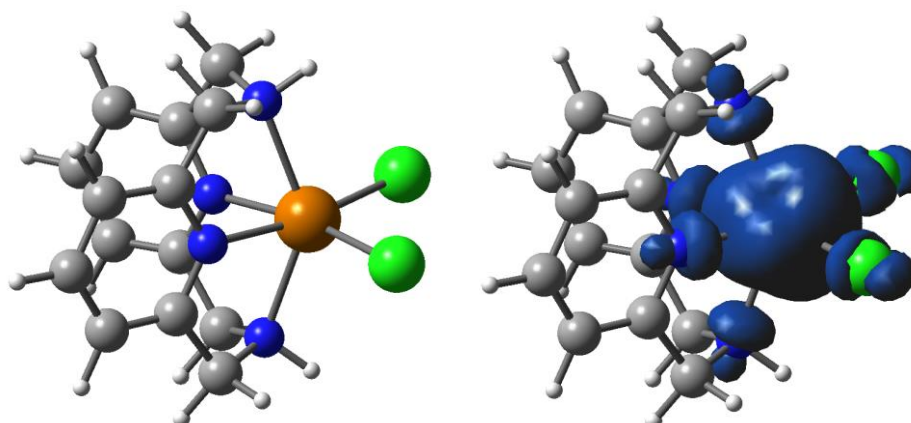


**Fig. S12** Free energy diagram computed by DFT for the spin state and structural change from  $\text{Ni}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C,O})$  (triplet) into  $\text{Ni}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})(\text{CO}_3^{2-})$  (singlet).



**Fig. S13** Free energy diagram for the OH<sup>-</sup> dissociation coupled with protonation to release H<sub>2</sub>O, computed for all the M(dapp) catalysts (M = Fe, Co, and Ni), revealing that these steps can be ruled out as the paths limiting the overall kinetic rate.

**Table S4.** DFT-optimized geometry of Fe<sup>II</sup>(dapp)Cl<sub>2</sub> (quintet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -2.15055 | -2.55793 | -0.98937 | -0.31127        | -0.01015     |
| C2   | -0.97469 | -1.81249 | -1.00695 | -0.12153        | 0.001078     |
| C3   | -0.99885 | -1.58701 | 1.308143 | -0.07126        | 0.007558     |
| C4   | -2.17644 | -2.32351 | 1.409371 | -0.22596        | -0.01065     |
| C5   | -2.74827 | -2.82205 | 0.241113 | -0.25549        | 0.003712     |
| H6   | -2.59417 | -2.90832 | -1.91525 | 0.185458        | 0.000841     |
| H7   | -2.63989 | -2.48952 | 2.376005 | 0.185521        | 0.000867     |
| H8   | -3.66938 | -3.39416 | 0.28705  | 0.189332        | -0.00015     |
| C9   | -2.17658 | 2.323424 | -1.40934 | -0.22601        | -0.01065     |
| C10  | -0.99899 | 1.586918 | -1.30813 | -0.07117        | 0.007556     |
| C11  | -0.97481 | 1.812415 | 1.006968 | -0.12147        | 0.001074     |
| C12  | -2.15067 | 2.557858 | 0.989398 | -0.31136        | -0.01015     |
| C13  | -2.7484  | 2.821961 | -0.24108 | -0.25547        | 0.003711     |
| H14  | -2.64004 | 2.489444 | -2.37597 | 0.185521        | 0.000867     |
| H15  | -2.59427 | 2.908255 | 1.91528  | 0.185459        | 0.000841     |
| H16  | -3.66951 | 3.394076 | -0.28701 | 0.189332        | -0.00015     |
| N17  | -0.4194  | -1.37011 | 0.124959 | 0.348429        | 0.027712     |
| N18  | -0.41954 | 1.370026 | -0.12495 | 0.348455        | 0.027715     |
| N19  | 0.50124  | -0.19191 | -2.14924 | -0.41125        | 0.008461     |
| H20  | 1.314987 | -0.23418 | -2.75421 | 0.382672        | 0.00021      |
| N21  | 0.501267 | 0.191901 | 2.149211 | -0.41126        | 0.008461     |
| H22  | 1.315045 | 0.234226 | 2.754131 | 0.382674        | 0.00021      |
| C23  | -0.27672 | 1.006373 | -2.50155 | -0.06687        | -0.01322     |
| H24  | -0.99038 | 0.807782 | -3.31089 | 0.173849        | 0.001206     |
| C25  | -0.27658 | -1.00645 | 2.501558 | -0.06679        | -0.01322     |
| H26  | -0.99021 | -0.80793 | 3.310947 | 0.173849        | 0.001206     |
| C27  | -0.22554 | -1.4661  | -2.2714  | -0.0224         | 0.004432     |
| H28  | 0.520219 | -2.24828 | -2.44923 | 0.211139        | 0.000092     |
| H29  | -0.91142 | -1.46692 | -3.12771 | 0.173439        | 0.001048     |
| C30  | -0.22562 | 1.466043 | 2.2714   | -0.02246        | 0.004434     |
| H31  | -0.91148 | 1.466787 | 3.127716 | 0.173441        | 0.001048     |
| H32  | 0.520084 | 2.248274 | 2.449231 | 0.21114         | 0.000092     |

|      |          |          |          |          |          |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H33  | 0.427198 | 1.759241 | -2.87293 | 0.206343 | -0.00003 |
| H34  | 0.427432 | -1.75925 | 2.872884 | 0.206342 | -0.00003 |
| Fe35 | 1.271808 | 0.000038 | -1.7E-05 | 0.028263 | 3.823716 |
| Cl36 | 2.867298 | 1.815018 | 0.058193 | -0.58434 | 0.065115 |
| Cl37 | 2.867402 | -1.81482 | -0.05821 | -0.58432 | 0.06512  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2949.93552848 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 6.0086, after 6.0000

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 41.8476 | 43.0983 | 50.2021 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.1756  | 16.7738 | 8.5681  |

Zero-point correction= 0.292824 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.312141

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.313085

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.242981

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2949.642704

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2949.623387

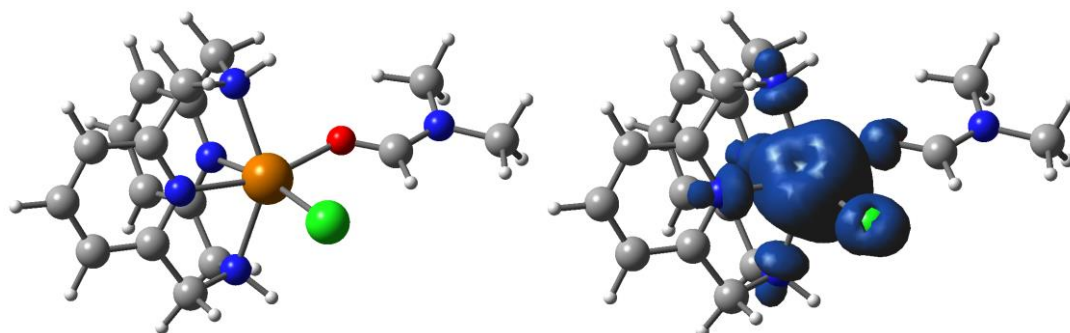
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2949.622443

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2949.692547

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000013 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000004 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S5.** DFT-optimized geometry of [Fe<sup>II</sup>(dapp)(DMF)Cl]<sup>+</sup> (quintet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Fe1  | -0.39587 | -0.66407 | -0.00962 | 0.092821        | 3.920764     |
| C2   | 0.874407 | 1.635342 | 1.542253 | -0.04603        | -0.00316     |
| N3   | 0.377638 | 1.329078 | 0.340046 | 0.315991        | 0.03201      |
| N4   | 0.007291 | 0.164516 | -2.09248 | -0.40079        | 0.009474     |
| H5   | -0.76226 | -0.1196  | -2.69014 | 0.382251        | -0.00021     |
| C6   | 1.565601 | 2.824947 | 1.754584 | -0.21441        | -0.01941     |
| H7   | 1.967912 | 3.058435 | 2.734514 | 0.186524        | 0.000809     |
| N8   | 1.707755 | -1.01479 | -0.32297 | 0.116801        | 0.018992     |
| C9   | 1.74214  | 3.691485 | 0.678304 | -0.24747        | 0.003573     |
| H10  | 2.281725 | 4.623468 | 0.812388 | 0.19068         | -0.000052    |
| C11  | 1.254445 | 3.340324 | -0.57844 | -0.5346         | -0.01863     |
| H12  | 1.410793 | 3.980102 | -1.44029 | 0.187259        | 0.00076      |
| N13  | 0.493267 | -0.74468 | 2.095402 | -0.46653        | 0.004962     |
| H14  | -0.16109 | -1.26192 | 2.673449 | 0.3856          | 0.000111     |
| C15  | 0.576946 | 2.131561 | -0.71134 | 0.101909        | -0.0133      |
| C16  | 0.007259 | 1.636143 | -2.01862 | -0.0258         | 0.008983     |
| H17  | 0.545966 | 2.087968 | -2.86034 | 0.176348        | 0.001332     |
| H18  | -1.03546 | 1.963476 | -2.08556 | 0.208208        | 0.000159     |
| C19  | 1.244935 | -0.43756 | -2.61637 | -0.05275        | -0.01492     |
| H20  | 1.714386 | 0.195341 | -3.37928 | 0.176612        | 0.001392     |
| C21  | 2.237486 | -0.74585 | -1.52016 | -0.05251        | 0.003087     |
| C22  | 3.614566 | -0.77719 | -1.72123 | -0.29557        | -0.00927     |
| H23  | 4.032334 | -0.55401 | -2.69708 | 0.187564        | 0.000816     |
| C24  | 4.436166 | -1.08175 | -0.63826 | -0.19608        | 0.005415     |
| H25  | 5.513855 | -1.10735 | -0.76309 | 0.190693        | -0.000035    |
| C26  | 3.871659 | -1.32085 | 0.612655 | -0.42546        | -0.02059     |
| C27  | 2.486052 | -1.26906 | 0.734372 | 0.094274        | -0.00476     |
| C28  | 0.614169 | 0.62063  | 2.63086  | -0.03231        | -0.01064     |
| H29  | 1.392035 | 0.690405 | 3.401051 | 0.176954        | 0.00156      |
| H30  | 4.491964 | -1.52587 | 1.478487 | 0.187364        | 0.000743     |
| C31  | 1.750435 | -1.50973 | 2.030399 | -0.12036        | 0.010143     |
| H32  | 1.484583 | -2.57127 | 2.079795 | 0.215913        | -0.000005    |
| H33  | 2.406085 | -1.29558 | 2.883202 | 0.175958        | 0.001217     |
| H34  | -0.33746 | 0.871596 | 3.112049 | 0.203757        | -0.00006     |

|      |          |          |          |          |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Cl35 | -1.16744 | -2.91469 | 0.072797 | -0.54478 | 0.071686  |
| H36  | 0.971814 | -1.37949 | -3.10452 | 0.206484 | -0.00014  |
| O37  | -2.34321 | 0.148564 | -0.1507  | -0.5518  | 0.002515  |
| C38  | -3.4414  | -0.41794 | 0.047104 | 0.317804 | 0.013051  |
| H39  | -3.47911 | -1.48268 | 0.304405 | 0.156838 | 0.001379  |
| N40  | -4.61938 | 0.189006 | -0.03518 | 0.087982 | -0.00066  |
| C41  | -4.73266 | 1.597225 | -0.37207 | -0.35928 | 0.000055  |
| C42  | -5.85437 | -0.53479 | 0.213236 | -0.27779 | 0.000705  |
| H43  | -5.32659 | 1.712462 | -1.28327 | 0.185301 | 0.000022  |
| H44  | -5.22787 | 2.133747 | 0.442382 | 0.184499 | 0.000004  |
| H45  | -3.73686 | 2.007844 | -0.5289  | 0.198764 | 0.000015  |
| H46  | -5.6314  | -1.57507 | 0.452989 | 0.178734 | -0.000003 |
| H47  | -6.39061 | -0.08236 | 1.052214 | 0.187162 | 0.000089  |
| H48  | -6.49303 | -0.50215 | -0.67397 | 0.187258 | 0.000019  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2738.47089068 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 6.0123, after 6.0000

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 15.9704 | 21.9312 | 28.3521 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.5978  | 3.1803  | 4.3197  |

Zero-point correction= 0.396570 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.421693

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.422638

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.337525

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2738.074321

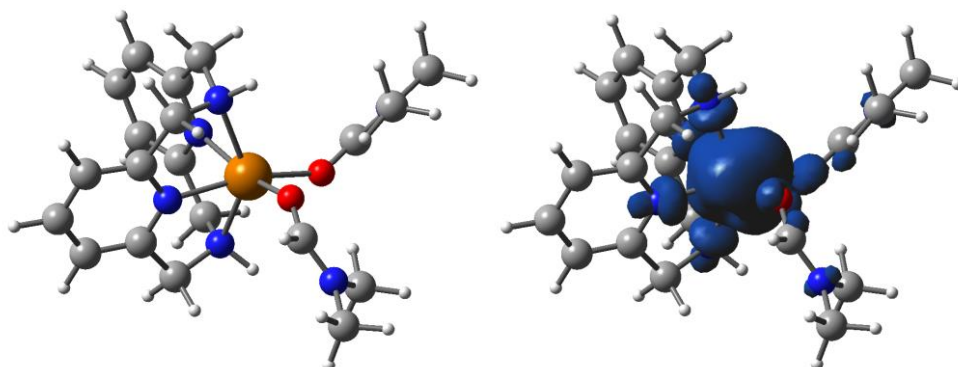
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2738.049197

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2738.048253

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2738.133366

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000016 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S6.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{DMF})_2]^{2+}$  (quintet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Fe1  | -0.321759 | 0.000603  | -0.000591 | 0.155342        | 3.97672      |
| C2   | 1.861925  | -1.461925 | -1.489841 | 0.209847        | -0.014049    |
| N3   | 1.301294  | -1.368606 | -0.278279 | 0.203873        | 0.022132     |
| N4   | 0.396966  | -0.430373 | 2.107474  | -0.426526       | 0.010804     |
| H5   | -0.419491 | -0.566623 | 2.694981  | 0.387089        | -0.000096    |
| C6   | 3.044365  | -2.169311 | -1.684343 | -0.454185       | -0.011419    |
| H7   | 3.488963  | -2.235067 | -2.671452 | 0.18825         | 0.000656     |
| N8   | 1.302305  | 1.368142  | 0.278253  | 0.202469        | 0.02228      |
| C9   | 3.648387  | -2.767043 | -0.580491 | -0.27662        | -0.002291    |
| H10  | 4.574662  | -3.319739 | -0.699092 | 0.192139        | 0.000214     |
| C11  | 3.077629  | -2.622607 | 0.681879  | -0.428208       | -0.011336    |
| H12  | 3.548726  | -3.046315 | 1.562297  | 0.188864        | 0.000726     |
| N13  | 0.398479  | 0.430633  | -2.107983 | -0.426864       | 0.010788     |
| H14  | -0.417431 | 0.567549  | -2.696101 | 0.387149        | -0.000093    |
| C15  | 1.893048  | -1.901264 | 0.796115  | 0.093639        | -0.008219    |
| C16  | 1.181105  | -1.677601 | 2.108754  | -0.090465       | -0.004485    |
| H17  | 1.901196  | -1.702521 | 2.935084  | 0.179385        | 0.001606     |
| H18  | 0.482539  | -2.506183 | 2.267532  | 0.205303        | -0.000206    |
| C19  | 1.111196  | 0.764194  | 2.59817   | -0.0874         | 0.005198     |
| H20  | 1.790791  | 0.521125  | 3.423219  | 0.178793        | 0.001452     |
| C21  | 1.862251  | 1.461035  | 1.490151  | 0.209984        | -0.01398     |
| C22  | 3.045115  | 2.167538  | 1.685337  | -0.453656       | -0.011272    |
| H23  | 3.489201  | 2.232953  | 2.6727    | 0.188247        | 0.000656     |
| C24  | 3.650201  | 2.76485   | 0.58184   | -0.276467       | -0.002303    |
| H25  | 4.576813  | 3.316865  | 0.700985  | 0.192131        | 0.000214     |
| C26  | 3.080062  | 2.620888  | -0.680872 | -0.426228       | -0.011334    |
| C27  | 1.89503   | 1.900401  | -0.795793 | 0.093277        | -0.008227    |
| C28  | 1.112145  | -0.764449 | -2.59832  | -0.086064       | 0.005288     |
| H29  | 1.792495  | -0.521774 | -3.422861 | 0.178828        | 0.00145      |
| H30  | 3.551965  | 3.044315  | -1.560992 | 0.188868        | 0.000726     |
| C31  | 1.1836    | 1.677293  | -2.108808 | -0.090489       | -0.004474    |
| H32  | 0.485744  | 2.506403  | -2.267956 | 0.205321        | -0.000205    |
| H33  | 1.904116  | 1.70163   | -2.934778 | 0.179406        | 0.001605     |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | 0.355838  | -1.452548 | -2.990282 | 0.213788  | -0.000093 |
| H35 | 0.355107  | 1.452909  | 2.98946   | 0.21377   | -0.000093 |
| O36 | -1.763202 | -1.222109 | -0.871779 | -0.464836 | 0.001709  |
| C37 | -2.323591 | -2.337666 | -0.773912 | 0.221939  | 0.004848  |
| H38 | -2.156474 | -3.104468 | -1.539395 | 0.157823  | 0.001637  |
| N39 | -3.1554   | -2.698218 | 0.192367  | 0.063139  | 0.009707  |
| C40 | -3.511301 | -1.800219 | 1.278825  | -0.381748 | 0.000951  |
| C41 | -3.753439 | -4.023813 | 0.210878  | -0.278788 | -0.000469 |
| H42 | -4.599981 | -1.717926 | 1.336144  | 0.18869   | 0.000513  |
| H43 | -3.137606 | -2.198228 | 2.226792  | 0.189087  | 0.000567  |
| H44 | -3.078956 | -0.817307 | 1.096854  | 0.189077  | 0.000228  |
| H45 | -3.412376 | -4.597184 | -0.651588 | 0.180014  | 0.000002  |
| H46 | -3.464884 | -4.54846  | 1.12569   | 0.18972   | 0.000763  |
| H47 | -4.842969 | -3.940252 | 0.177889  | 0.190118  | 0.000381  |
| O48 | -1.760236 | 1.225391  | 0.873353  | -0.465128 | 0.001752  |
| C49 | -2.323499 | 2.339414  | 0.775029  | 0.22197   | 0.004824  |
| H50 | -2.160139 | 3.105944  | 1.541599  | 0.157781  | 0.001646  |
| N51 | -3.154126 | 2.698768  | -0.192748 | 0.063038  | 0.009661  |
| C52 | -3.506077 | 1.800682  | -1.280413 | -0.381921 | 0.000965  |
| C53 | -3.754478 | 4.023311  | -0.211922 | -0.278951 | -0.000465 |
| H54 | -4.594582 | 1.719432  | -1.342244 | 0.188621  | 0.000508  |
| H55 | -3.128062 | 2.197864  | -2.227033 | 0.189094  | 0.000565  |
| H56 | -3.075567 | 0.817358  | -1.096197 | 0.18888   | 0.00023   |
| H57 | -3.416443 | 4.596819  | 0.651646  | 0.179987  | 0.000002  |
| H58 | -3.464686 | 4.549004  | -1.125748 | 0.189726  | 0.00076   |
| H59 | -4.843932 | 3.937818  | -0.181565 | 0.19008   | 0.000377  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2678.31294332 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

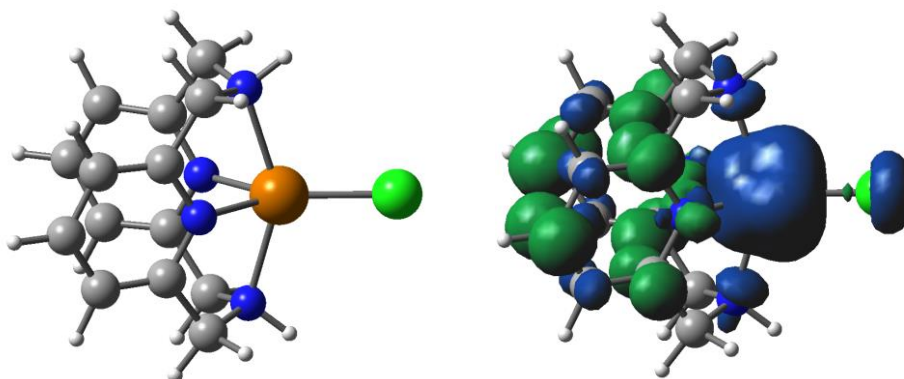
S\*\*2 before annihilation 6.0152, after 6.0000

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 15.2463 | 19.1274 | 27.9541 |
| Red. masses -- | 4.5347  | 3.7568  | 4.1063  |

Zero-point correction= 0.500930 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.531525  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.532470  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.434535  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2526.492167  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2526.461571  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2526.460627  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2526.558562

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000015 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S7.** DFT-optimized geometry of Fe<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl (quartet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | 2.025539 | -1.20551 | -2.12998 | -0.1528         | 0.090413     |
| C2   | 0.747839 | -1.17076 | -1.59266 | -0.01781        | -0.15138     |
| C3   | 0.748037 | 1.165694 | -1.59618 | -0.01792        | -0.15128     |
| C4   | 2.025729 | 1.1986   | -2.13362 | -0.15279        | 0.090389     |
| C5   | 2.677355 | -0.00396 | -2.42932 | -0.29776        | -0.22855     |
| H6   | 2.510023 | -2.16217 | -2.30074 | 0.16473         | -0.00132     |
| H7   | 2.510396 | 2.154649 | -2.30729 | 0.164731        | -0.00132     |
| H8   | 3.677633 | -0.00467 | -2.84892 | 0.170647        | 0.010335     |
| C9   | 2.024699 | -1.19871 | 2.134547 | -0.15323        | 0.090334     |
| C10  | 0.747383 | -1.16572 | 1.5962   | -0.01799        | -0.15121     |
| C11  | 0.747332 | 1.170709 | 1.592678 | -0.01787        | -0.15135     |
| C12  | 2.024658 | 1.205393 | 2.130907 | -0.15317        | 0.090353     |
| C13  | 2.676172 | 0.003806 | 2.430705 | -0.29751        | -0.22836     |
| H14  | 2.509195 | -2.15478 | 2.308554 | 0.164745        | -0.00132     |
| H15  | 2.509099 | 2.162021 | 2.301984 | 0.164746        | -0.00132     |
| H16  | 3.676143 | 0.004454 | 2.851037 | 0.170658        | 0.010325     |
| N17  | 0.096027 | -0.00212 | -1.36062 | 0.171553        | 0.003751     |
| N18  | 0.095626 | 0.002118 | 1.360215 | 0.172114        | 0.00378      |
| N19  | -0.80432 | -2.19963 | 0.00313  | -0.38605        | 0.033847     |
| H20  | -1.60026 | -2.82975 | 0.004079 | 0.363946        | -0.00142     |
| N21  | -0.80421 | 2.199641 | -0.00372 | -0.38605        | 0.033856     |
| H22  | -1.60011 | 2.829826 | -0.0049  | 0.363959        | -0.00142     |
| C23  | -0.04137 | -2.39811 | 1.248613 | -0.15283        | -0.00157     |
| H24  | 0.619898 | -3.2734  | 1.199478 | 0.162445        | 0.001687     |
| C25  | -0.04095 | 2.398049 | -1.24907 | -0.15279        | -0.00157     |
| H26  | 0.620128 | 3.273476 | -1.1999  | 0.162446        | 0.001686     |
| C27  | -0.04139 | -2.40188 | -1.24181 | -0.15281        | -0.00155     |
| H28  | -0.78089 | -2.58987 | -2.0301  | 0.189303        | -0.00505     |
| H29  | 0.619474 | -3.27734 | -1.19027 | 0.162438        | 0.001685     |
| C30  | -0.04154 | 2.401937 | 1.241368 | -0.15282        | -0.00155     |
| H31  | 0.619546 | 3.277221 | 1.189825 | 0.162454        | 0.001686     |
| H32  | -0.78115 | 2.590316 | 2.029478 | 0.189326        | -0.00505     |
| H33  | -0.78076 | -2.58434 | 2.037417 | 0.189314        | -0.00505     |

|      |          |           |          |          |          |
|------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H34  | -0.78021 | 2.583955  | -2.03808 | 0.189306 | -0.00505 |
| Fe35 | -1.44471 | 0.000138  | -0.00044 | -0.26539 | 3.589507 |
| Cl36 | -3.74968 | -0.000034 | 0.000137 | -0.55126 | 0.043031 |

---

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2489.32992881 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 4.3709, after 3.7617

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 25.1391 | 63.7550 | 72.6226 |
| Red. masses -- | 14.2528 | 5.2078  | 3.5573  |

Zero-point correction= 0.289349 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.306414

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.307358

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.243231

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2489.040580

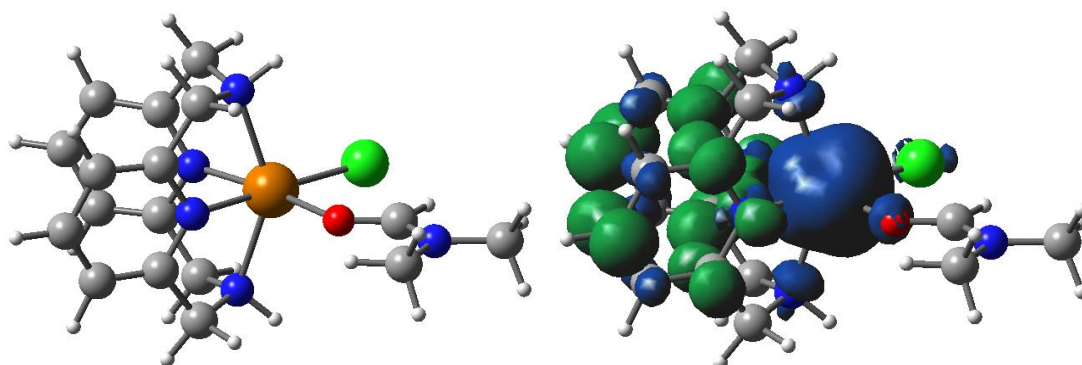
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2489.023515

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2489.022571

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2489.086698

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000010 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S8.** DFT-optimized geometry of Fe<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl(DMF) (quartet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Fe1  | -0.43683 | -0.64228 | -0.00019 | -0.1955         | 3.735398     |
| C2   | 0.96872  | 1.73394  | 1.16832  | -0.00686        | -0.170129    |
| N3   | 0.45982  | 1.26574  | 0.00142  | 0.114568        | -0.017564    |
| N4   | 0.18269  | -0.34134 | -2.20406 | -0.39894        | 0.014254     |
| H5   | -0.52742 | -0.6658  | -2.85344 | 0.35839         | -0.001116    |
| C6   | 1.93573  | 2.72703  | 1.20517  | -0.2224         | 0.113415     |
| H7   | 2.31328  | 3.07554  | 2.16212  | 0.1582          | -0.000986    |
| N8   | 1.582    | -1.19356 | -0.00134 | -0.07419        | -0.023927    |
| C9   | 2.41895  | 3.25878  | 0.00234  | -0.293          | -0.254228    |
| H10  | 3.17239  | 4.03935  | 0.00271  | 0.165459        | 0.011357     |
| C11  | 1.9346   | 2.72926  | -1.20101 | -0.22253        | 0.113502     |
| H12  | 2.31124  | 3.07955  | -2.15767 | 0.158201        | -0.000987    |
| N13  | 0.18418  | -0.34522 | 2.20402  | -0.39912        | 0.014215     |
| H14  | -0.52553 | -0.67068 | 2.85335  | 0.358385        | -0.001117    |
| C15  | 0.96762  | 1.73609  | -1.1651  | -0.00692        | -0.170054    |
| C16  | 0.37258  | 1.10764  | -2.39638 | -0.0637         | 0.001666     |
| H17  | 0.99113  | 1.33263  | -3.27596 | 0.158267        | 0.001785     |
| H18  | -0.62349 | 1.53108  | -2.57324 | 0.179901        | -0.004944    |
| C19  | 1.40147  | -1.1501  | -2.39581 | -0.14234        | 0.005014     |
| H20  | 1.97193  | -0.83883 | -3.28154 | 0.157358        | 0.001687     |
| C21  | 2.27001  | -1.10278 | -1.16938 | -0.09868        | -0.167167    |
| C22  | 3.65122  | -0.99788 | -1.20535 | -0.07391        | 0.098082     |
| H23  | 4.16047  | -0.93037 | -2.16252 | 0.156791        | -0.001263    |
| C24  | 4.37083  | -0.96887 | -0.00195 | -0.32153        | -0.274396    |
| H25  | 5.45279  | -0.89048 | -0.0022  | 0.163892        | 0.012819     |
| C26  | 3.65193  | -1.00018 | 1.2018   | -0.07401        | 0.098141     |
| C27  | 2.27069  | -1.10508 | 1.16645  | -0.09764        | -0.167119    |
| C28  | 0.37475  | 1.10329  | 2.399    | -0.06321        | 0.001831     |
| H29  | 0.99429  | 1.32639  | 3.27838  | 0.158282        | 0.001787     |
| H30  | 4.16174  | -0.93455 | 2.15881  | 0.156788        | -0.001264    |
| C31  | 1.40284  | -1.15478 | 2.39327  | -0.14302        | 0.004862     |
| H32  | 1.06543  | -2.18591 | 2.55562  | 0.184428        | -0.005675    |
| H33  | 1.97392  | -0.84563 | 3.27935  | 0.15735         | 0.001684     |

|      |          |          |          |          |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34  | -0.62097 | 1.52676  | 2.57779  | 0.17988  | -0.004949 |
| Cl35 | -1.55853 | -2.83124 | -0.00069 | -0.65417 | 0.033094  |
| H36  | 1.06431  | -2.18099 | -2.56019 | 0.184412 | -0.005679 |
| O37  | -2.42122 | 0.32233  | -0.00039 | -0.54717 | -0.002359 |
| C38  | -3.5662  | -0.16801 | -0.00005 | 0.237553 | 0.015034  |
| H39  | -3.71153 | -1.25581 | -0.00003 | 0.147156 | 0.000819  |
| N40  | -4.69288 | 0.54796  | 0.0003   | 0.104576 | -0.004021 |
| C41  | -4.67084 | 1.99862  | 0.00028  | -0.36914 | -0.001445 |
| C42  | -5.99268 | -0.09693 | 0.0006   | -0.27013 | 0.000232  |
| H43  | -5.182   | 2.38047  | -0.88881 | 0.179623 | -0.000081 |
| H44  | -5.18124 | 2.38049  | 0.88981  | 0.179627 | -0.000081 |
| H45  | -3.63549 | 2.33577  | -0.00017 | 0.19806  | -0.000051 |
| H46  | -5.86675 | -1.18055 | 0.00081  | 0.176047 | -0.000005 |
| H47  | -6.55993 | 0.19416  | 0.89005  | 0.182445 | -0.000034 |
| H48  | -6.5602  | 0.19379  | -0.8888  | 0.182452 | -0.000034 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2738.58894844 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 4.4984, after 3.7656

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 16.1284 | 30.3185 | 30.9568 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.0430  | 4.7634  | 2.9939  |

Zero-point correction= 0.392930 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.418009

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.418953

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.335334

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2738.196018

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2738.170940

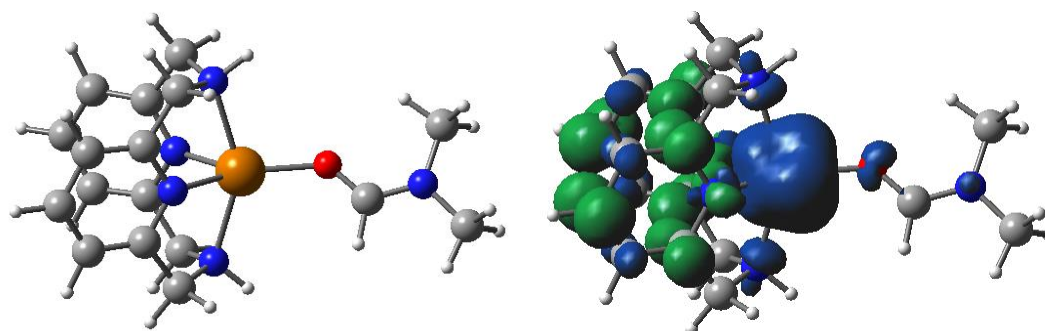
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2738.169995

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2738.253614

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000053 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000005 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S9.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{DMF})]^+$  (quartet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Fe1  | 0.65549  | 0.06883  | -0.06132 | -0.07151        | 3.769366     |
| C2   | -1.58089 | -0.35633 | -1.9247  | -0.081851       | -0.151492    |
| N3   | -0.94421 | 0.60899  | -1.21333 | 0.191625        | -0.03879     |
| N4   | -0.00775 | 2.00529  | 0.94782  | -0.392098       | 0.010802     |
| H5   | 0.76742  | 2.60909  | 1.2039   | 0.367829        | -0.000927    |
| C6   | -2.88114 | -0.19607 | -2.37769 | -0.143862       | 0.077974     |
| H7   | -3.35488 | -0.99207 | -2.94416 | 0.166305        | -0.001343    |
| N8   | -0.79443 | -0.60501 | 1.20949  | 0.151733        | -0.03803     |
| C9   | -3.5685  | 0.98728  | -2.08456 | -0.308056       | -0.22143     |
| H10  | -4.58633 | 1.13696  | -2.42822 | 0.17196         | 0.010335     |
| C11  | -2.92811 | 1.95515  | -1.30245 | -0.138507       | 0.049113     |
| H12  | -3.43911 | 2.86885  | -1.01429 | 0.166356        | -0.00134     |
| N13  | 0.08194  | -1.92539 | -1.02421 | -0.44836        | 0.019747     |
| H14  | 0.87586  | -2.4703  | -1.34651 | 0.367181        | -0.001174    |
| C15  | -1.62685 | 1.73416  | -0.87843 | 0.009559        | -0.139544    |
| C16  | -0.84305 | 2.70991  | -0.04401 | -0.138285       | -0.020368    |
| H17  | -1.5158  | 3.44084  | 0.42324  | 0.165054        | 0.001637     |
| H18  | -0.1522  | 3.26208  | -0.693   | 0.190764        | -0.004792    |
| C19  | -0.70903 | 1.59563  | 2.1798   | -0.127403       | -0.001262    |
| H20  | -1.38849 | 2.37419  | 2.55029  | 0.164832        | 0.001538     |
| C21  | -1.45447 | 0.30674  | 1.97022  | -0.059967       | -0.154238    |
| C22  | -2.70019 | 0.04198  | 2.51722  | -0.13525        | 0.073031     |
| H23  | -3.19356 | 0.79898  | 3.11933  | 0.16586         | -0.001376    |
| C24  | -3.31006 | -1.19363 | 2.27119  | -0.340597       | -0.229872    |
| H25  | -4.28461 | -1.4243  | 2.68775  | 0.171864        | 0.010611     |
| C26  | -2.65231 | -2.10721 | 1.43934  | -0.065789       | 0.096354     |
| C27  | -1.40773 | -1.78265 | 0.92239  | -0.101015       | -0.141608    |
| C28  | -0.74807 | -1.57903 | -2.195   | -0.10545        | -0.007596    |
| H29  | -1.38641 | -2.41379 | -2.51244 | 0.165114        | 0.001596     |
| H30  | -3.10725 | -3.05947 | 1.18405  | 0.165833        | -0.001384    |
| C31  | -0.61391 | -2.69316 | 0.02745  | -0.185642       | -0.017717    |
| H32  | 0.16719  | -3.18655 | 0.61898  | 0.189238        | -0.005052    |
| H33  | -1.25919 | -3.47746 | -0.38944 | 0.164922        | 0.001548     |
| H34  | -0.05127 | -1.36308 | -3.01432 | 0.188593        | -0.004979    |

|     |         |          |          |           |           |
|-----|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| H35 | 0.06666 | 1.44187  | 2.94012  | 0.189823  | -0.005048 |
| O36 | 2.64747 | 0.32285  | -0.20148 | -0.656636 | -0.020198 |
| C37 | 3.62207 | -0.44863 | -0.0226  | 0.226583  | 0.076701  |
| H38 | 3.47652 | -1.52346 | 0.12661  | 0.167593  | 0.001894  |
| N39 | 4.88279 | -0.04874 | -0.00165 | 0.0841    | 0.005584  |
| C40 | 5.24421 | 1.3481   | -0.17872 | -0.35045  | -0.001017 |
| C41 | 5.96826 | -0.99376 | 0.20657  | -0.292384 | 0.000678  |
| H42 | 5.77332 | 1.70475  | 0.70917  | 0.189801  | 0.000481  |
| H43 | 5.89996 | 1.44925  | -1.04757 | 0.190146  | 0.0005    |
| H44 | 4.34061 | 1.93548  | -0.32938 | 0.203868  | -0.000039 |
| H45 | 5.56636 | -2.00015 | 0.32759  | 0.18218   | 0.000011  |
| H46 | 6.64344 | -0.97873 | -0.65305 | 0.192357  | 0.000594  |
| H47 | 6.52942 | -0.72207 | 1.10456  | 0.192037  | 0.000521  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2277.85830270 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 4.3850, after 3.7616

|                |        |         |         |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------|
|                | 1      | 2       | 3       |
|                | A      | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 9.2405 | 15.5541 | 27.2930 |
| Red. masses -- | 2.9031 | 4.6311  | 3.9798  |

Zero-point correction= 0.393336 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.416209

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.417153

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.337487

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2277.464966

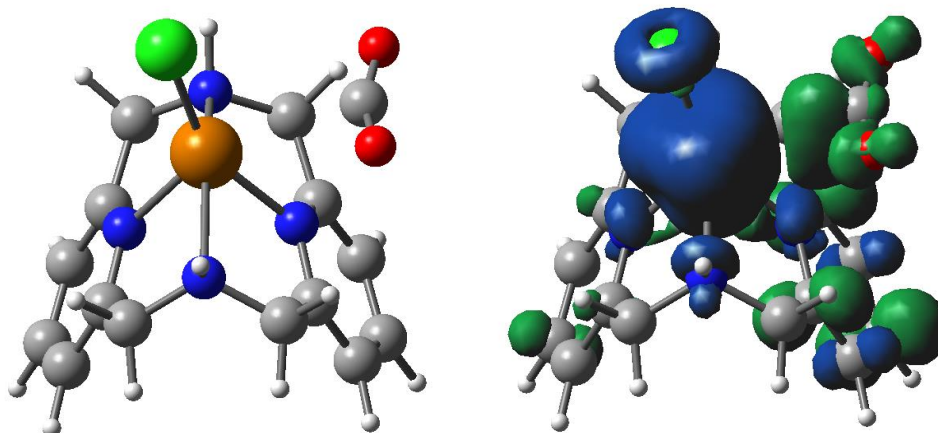
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2277.442094

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2277.441150

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2277.520816

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000006 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S10.** Transition state (TS) geometry optimized for  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl} \cdots \text{CO}_2]^{\ddagger}$ , computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -3.30465 | -0.94757 | -1.203   | -0.27608        | -0.00036     |
| C2   | -1.9177  | -1.04552 | -1.16452 | -0.04084        | -0.0504      |
| C3   | -1.9178  | -1.04557 | 1.164373 | -0.0409         | -0.05046     |
| C4   | -3.30474 | -0.94761 | 1.202751 | -0.27603        | -0.00035     |
| C5   | -4.00863 | -0.91216 | -0.00015 | -0.24474        | -0.05392     |
| H6   | -3.81999 | -0.8855  | -2.15595 | 0.179166        | 0.000105     |
| H7   | -3.82016 | -0.88558 | 2.155658 | 0.179167        | 0.000105     |
| H8   | -5.09069 | -0.83066 | -0.00019 | 0.183797        | 0.00271      |
| C9   | -0.78153 | 2.93436  | -1.20016 | -0.79538        | 0.107209     |
| C10  | -0.09516 | 1.728713 | -1.16638 | 0.47638         | -0.0649      |
| C11  | -0.09524 | 1.728687 | 1.166455 | 0.476273        | -0.0649      |
| C12  | -0.7816  | 2.934342 | 1.200216 | -0.7952         | 0.107234     |
| C13  | -1.11376 | 3.566794 | 0.000023 | -0.32431        | -0.18061     |
| H14  | -1.06638 | 3.363163 | -2.15599 | 0.170793        | -0.00148     |
| H15  | -1.06651 | 3.363128 | 2.156032 | 0.170793        | -0.00148     |
| H16  | -1.65197 | 4.508612 | 0.000015 | 0.175881        | 0.008362     |
| N17  | -1.25051 | -1.1204  | -5.1E-05 | 0.305642        | 0.047032     |
| N18  | 0.284593 | 1.153278 | 0.000045 | 0.355385        | -0.01293     |
| N19  | 0.254628 | -0.48077 | -2.18608 | -0.35496        | 0.022494     |
| H20  | 0.928245 | -0.92379 | -2.80195 | 0.373403        | -0.00029     |
| N21  | 0.254449 | -0.48083 | 2.186117 | -0.35498        | 0.022484     |
| H22  | 0.928038 | -0.92385 | 2.802025 | 0.373408        | -0.00029     |
| C23  | 0.304672 | 0.974352 | -2.40647 | -0.16275        | -0.0415      |
| H24  | -0.31687 | 1.28715  | -3.25573 | 0.162195        | 0.000347     |
| C25  | -1.05946 | -1.10485 | 2.403378 | -0.05482        | 0.023197     |
| H26  | -1.59535 | -0.661   | 3.252576 | 0.167361        | 0.001449     |
| C27  | -1.05928 | -1.10474 | -2.40346 | -0.05488        | 0.023171     |
| H28  | -0.87975 | -2.1578  | -2.64899 | 0.200559        | -0.00096     |
| H29  | -1.59511 | -0.6608  | -3.25266 | 0.167356        | 0.001449     |
| C30  | 0.304458 | 0.97428  | 2.40656  | -0.16278        | -0.04151     |
| H31  | -0.31721 | 1.287035 | 3.255746 | 0.162198        | 0.000346     |

|      |          |          |          |          |          |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H32  | 1.344756 | 1.21853  | 2.644643 | 0.205172 | -0.00474 |
| H33  | 1.345008 | 1.218596 | -2.64439 | 0.205173 | -0.00474 |
| H34  | -0.87991 | -2.15793 | 2.648827 | 0.200562 | -0.00096 |
| Fe35 | 0.833921 | -0.83794 | 0.00009  | -0.20175 | 3.408029 |
| Cl36 | 2.404374 | -2.50003 | -4.7E-05 | -0.59627 | 0.012358 |
| C37  | 3.071873 | 0.744593 | 0.000013 | 0.450524 | -0.18759 |
| O38  | 3.296771 | 0.860133 | -1.16382 | -0.30227 | -0.01185 |
| O39  | 3.296563 | 0.859862 | 1.163924 | -0.30226 | -0.01184 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2678.29395482 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

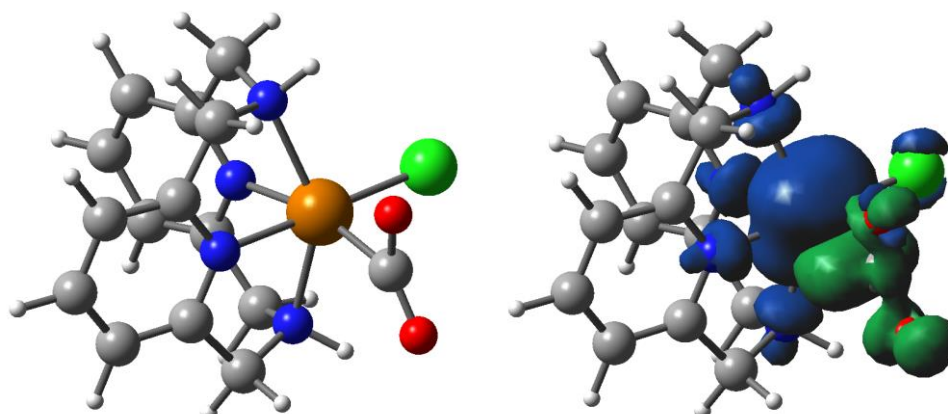
S\*\*2 before annihilation 4.2368, after 3.7578

|                |           |         |         |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|
|                | 1         | 2       | 3       |
|                | A         | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | -602.6013 | 35.8725 | 43.5869 |
| Red. masses -- | 12.4583   | 9.8407  | 7.8746  |

Zero-point correction= 0.300990 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.321964  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.322908  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.249099  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2677.992965  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2677.971991  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2677.971047  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2678.044856

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000010 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S11.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2^{2-})\text{Cl}$  (quartet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -3.30465 | -0.94757 | -1.203   | -0.29636        | 0.008434     |
| C2   | -1.9177  | -1.04552 | -1.16452 | -0.04975        | -0.02045     |
| C3   | -1.9178  | -1.04557 | 1.164373 | -0.19316        | -0.01347     |
| C4   | -3.30474 | -0.94761 | 1.202751 | -0.29583        | -0.00218     |
| C5   | -4.00863 | -0.91216 | -0.00015 | -0.23581        | -0.01437     |
| H6   | -3.81999 | -0.8855  | -2.15595 | 0.185183        | 0.000544     |
| H7   | -3.82016 | -0.88558 | 2.155658 | 0.185548        | 0.000209     |
| H8   | -5.09069 | -0.83066 | -0.00019 | 0.188356        | 0.000711     |
| C9   | -0.78153 | 2.93436  | -1.20016 | -0.26485        | -0.00739     |
| C10  | -0.09516 | 1.728713 | -1.16638 | 0.030446        | -0.0274      |
| C11  | -0.09524 | 1.728687 | 1.166455 | 0.276666        | -0.01576     |
| C12  | -0.7816  | 2.934342 | 1.200216 | -0.47113        | 0.001412     |
| C13  | -1.11376 | 3.566794 | 0.000023 | -0.33444        | -0.01808     |
| H14  | -1.06638 | 3.363163 | -2.15599 | 0.1856          | 0.000359     |
| H15  | -1.06651 | 3.363128 | 2.156032 | 0.186156        | 0.000512     |
| H16  | -1.65197 | 4.508612 | 0.000015 | 0.189443        | 0.000835     |
| N17  | -1.25051 | -1.1204  | -5.1E-05 | 0.223723        | 0.024917     |
| N18  | 0.284593 | 1.153278 | 0.000045 | 0.383816        | 0.029491     |
| N19  | 0.254628 | -0.48077 | -2.18608 | -0.47156        | 0.010593     |
| H20  | 0.928245 | -0.92379 | -2.80195 | 0.38782         | -0.00018     |
| N21  | 0.254449 | -0.48083 | 2.186117 | -0.34761        | 0.009007     |
| H22  | 0.928038 | -0.92385 | 2.802025 | 0.391492        | 0.000273     |
| C23  | 0.304672 | 0.974352 | -2.40647 | 0.050656        | 0.016867     |
| H24  | -0.31687 | 1.28715  | -3.25573 | 0.175157        | 0.001595     |
| C25  | -1.05946 | -1.10485 | 2.403378 | 0.010671        | 0.016746     |
| H26  | -1.59535 | -0.661   | 3.252576 | 0.176433        | 0.001626     |
| C27  | -1.05928 | -1.10474 | -2.40346 | -0.04504        | 0.001603     |
| H28  | -0.87975 | -2.1578  | -2.64899 | 0.209087        | -0.00041     |
| H29  | -1.59511 | -0.6608  | -3.25266 | 0.175572        | 0.001887     |
| C30  | 0.304458 | 0.97428  | 2.40656  | -0.21251        | -0.02056     |
| H31  | -0.31721 | 1.287035 | 3.255746 | 0.175587        | 0.001289     |

|      |          |          |          |          |          |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H32  | 1.344756 | 1.21853  | 2.644643 | 0.219232 | -0.00042 |
| H33  | 1.345008 | 1.218596 | -2.64439 | 0.210557 | -0.00025 |
| H34  | -0.87991 | -2.15793 | 2.648827 | 0.210052 | -0.00023 |
| Fe35 | 0.833921 | -0.83794 | 0.00009  | -0.51002 | 3.332831 |
| Cl36 | 2.404374 | -2.50003 | -4.7E-05 | -0.49897 | 0.036299 |
| C37  | 3.071873 | 0.744593 | 0.000013 | 0.826579 | -0.2313  |
| O38  | 3.296771 | 0.860133 | -1.16382 | -0.45072 | -0.03329 |
| O39  | 3.296563 | 0.859862 | 1.163924 | -0.57607 | -0.09229 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2678.31294332 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

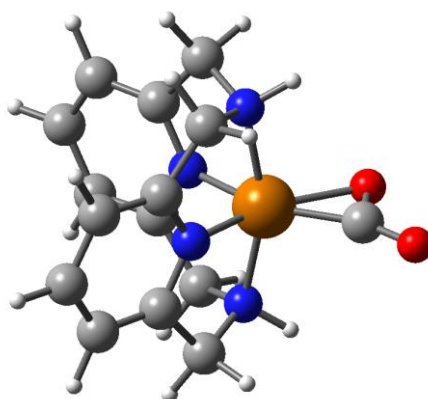
S\*\*2 before annihilation 4.0264, after 3.7579

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 38.4851 | 40.4455 | 47.3113 |
| Red. masses -- | 7.1788  | 8.0255  | 7.5234  |

Zero-point correction= 0.303705 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.324444  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.325388  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.252566  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2678.009238  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2677.988499  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2677.987555  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2678.060378

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000136 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000018 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S12.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2^{2-})$  (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| C1   | 3.133544 | -0.78953 | 1.207861 | -0.41314        |
| C2   | 1.746543 | -0.86558 | 1.169731 | 0.193591        |
| C3   | 1.747169 | -0.86406 | -1.16993 | 0.193474        |
| C4   | 3.134196 | -0.78793 | -1.20721 | -0.41318        |
| C5   | 3.833031 | -0.75271 | 0.000535 | -0.27618        |
| H6   | 3.655723 | -0.75502 | 2.158156 | 0.182968        |
| H7   | 3.656878 | -0.75215 | -2.15718 | 0.182967        |
| H8   | 4.916171 | -0.6899  | 0.000866 | 0.183222        |
| C9   | -0.08927 | 3.115115 | 1.20742  | -0.51627        |
| C10  | -0.45666 | 1.777315 | 1.172895 | 0.03562         |
| C11  | -0.45613 | 1.778511 | -1.17155 | 0.0353          |
| C12  | -0.08871 | 3.116342 | -1.20451 | -0.51616        |
| C13  | 0.099339 | 3.794734 | 0.001843 | -0.25313        |
| H14  | 0.04853  | 3.61611  | 2.15996  | 0.180432        |
| H15  | 0.049577 | 3.618309 | -2.15647 | 0.180429        |
| H16  | 0.391706 | 4.839299 | 0.002439 | 0.179536        |
| N17  | 1.086982 | -0.9023  | -0.00031 | 0.364489        |
| N18  | -0.62674 | 1.129545 | 0.000306 | 0.440872        |
| N19  | -0.53643 | -0.51723 | 2.024795 | -0.52625        |
| H20  | -1.1885  | -1.07391 | 2.570467 | 0.395173        |
| N21  | -0.53539 | -0.51511 | -2.02604 | -0.52634        |
| H22  | -1.18696 | -1.07126 | -2.57284 | 0.395168        |
| C23  | -0.78609 | 0.911397 | 2.353031 | 0.054154        |
| H24  | -0.25067 | 1.226039 | 3.255616 | 0.176959        |
| C25  | 0.837918 | -0.98024 | -2.36192 | -0.11127        |
| H26  | 1.243245 | -0.4516  | -3.23183 | 0.178158        |
| C27  | 0.836557 | -0.98317 | 2.36101  | -0.11147        |
| H28  | 0.75936  | -2.04229 | 2.630833 | 0.207604        |
| H29  | 1.241434 | -0.4558  | 3.231899 | 0.178169        |
| C30  | -0.78517 | 0.91384  | -2.35271 | 0.054545        |
| H31  | -0.2496  | 1.229575 | -3.25483 | 0.176942        |
| H32  | -1.85905 | 1.003818 | -2.55329 | 0.208222        |
| H33  | -1.86    | 1.001307 | 2.553518 | 0.208234        |

|      |          |          |          |          |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H34  | 0.761209 | -2.03901 | -2.63323 | 0.207589 |
| Fe35 | -0.83311 | -0.71683 | -0.00049 | 0.138065 |
| C36  | -2.56506 | -1.40885 | -0.00085 | 0.18011  |
| O37  | -3.81272 | -1.36945 | -0.00082 | -0.78408 |
| O38  | -1.81657 | -2.47821 | -0.00123 | -0.66452 |

SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2217.71816647 A.U. after 2 cycles

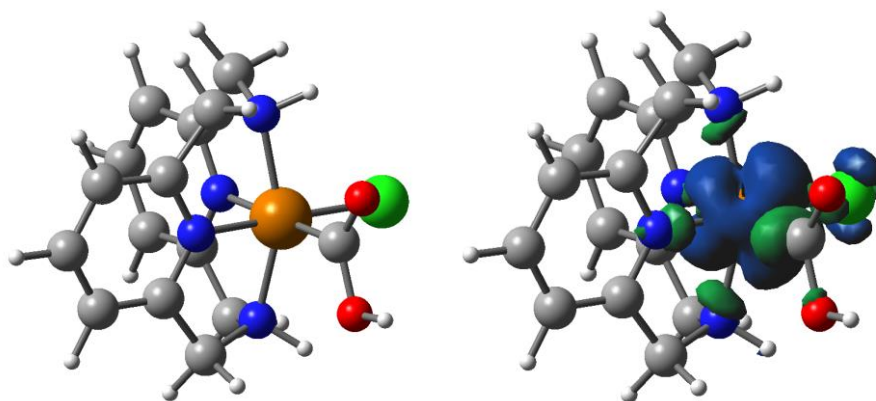
|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 44.9789 | 47.3916 | 68.7391 |
| Red. masses -- | 6.6765  | 6.7083  | 3.3354  |

Zero-point correction= 0.304370 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.321651  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.322595  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.259916  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2217.413797  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2217.396516  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2217.395571  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2217.458250

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000027 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S13.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{H}^-)\text{Cl}]^+$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -3.359642 | 0.873972  | -1.149826 | -0.519617       | -0.000582    |
| C2   | -2.119805 | 0.245942  | -1.150592 | -0.047803       | -0.010481    |
| C3   | -2.106617 | 0.122495  | 1.188563  | -0.085011       | -0.007622    |
| C4   | -3.345499 | 0.74605   | 1.268916  | -0.505387       | -0.001329    |
| C5   | -3.968269 | 1.12487   | 0.07959   | -0.264847       | -0.00274     |
| H6   | -3.834812 | 1.161672  | -2.08067  | 0.198789        | -0.000022    |
| H7   | -3.809058 | 0.934329  | 2.230462  | 0.19874         | -0.000082    |
| H8   | -4.9323   | 1.621328  | 0.111554  | 0.197748        | 0.000129     |
| C9   | 1.609526  | 2.926645  | -1.140562 | -0.716913       | 0.004206     |
| C10  | 1.2098    | 1.597898  | -1.144734 | 0.358795        | -0.003497    |
| C11  | 1.195399  | 1.531929  | 1.200475  | 0.311648        | -0.009829    |
| C12  | 1.594645  | 2.860177  | 1.273755  | -0.706441       | 0.001416     |
| C13  | 1.803941  | 3.558414  | 0.086671  | -0.378907       | -0.008213    |
| H14  | 1.759146  | 3.454265  | -2.075401 | 0.201073        | -0.000247    |
| H15  | 1.732178  | 3.335584  | 2.238008  | 0.201078        | -0.000224    |
| H16  | 2.110151  | 4.598444  | 0.117377  | 0.20077         | 0.000328     |
| N17  | -1.538368 | -0.101622 | 0.000157  | 0.374305        | -0.009225    |
| N18  | 1.020532  | 0.940461  | 0.009919  | 0.544749        | -0.014541    |
| N19  | 0.098587  | -0.395923 | -2.006755 | -0.392247       | -0.025801    |
| H20  | 0.430154  | -1.215974 | -2.512427 | 0.430221        | 0.005971     |
| N21  | 0.132534  | -0.543247 | 1.949715  | -0.374138       | -0.029087    |
| H22  | 0.514828  | -1.3772   | 2.393141  | 0.426819        | 0.005817     |
| C23  | 1.00205   | 0.736816  | -2.353123 | 0.032581        | -0.0067      |
| H24  | 0.617469  | 1.306035  | -3.202954 | 0.200752        | -0.001009    |
| C25  | -1.305752 | -0.432479 | 2.332945  | 0.102206        | -0.003308    |
| H26  | -1.423379 | 0.157094  | 3.245687  | 0.199854        | -0.001103    |
| C27  | -1.336935 | -0.181684 | -2.360191 | 0.011666        | -0.001997    |
| H28  | -1.735203 | -1.140284 | -2.706503 | 0.232178        | 0.000002     |
| H29  | -1.432835 | 0.530936  | -3.183197 | 0.199875        | -0.001028    |
| C30  | 0.975964  | 0.613939  | 2.365223  | -0.016912       | -0.000499    |
| H31  | 0.533192  | 1.137227  | 3.216418  | 0.201439        | -0.001195    |
| H32  | 1.944279  | 0.216557  | 2.682951  | 0.238863        | 0.000014     |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H33  | 1.964501  | 0.304452  | -2.642395 | 0.241907  | -0.000038 |
| H34  | -1.663937 | -1.445313 | 2.541969  | 0.233761  | -0.000012 |
| Fe35 | 0.29224   | -0.833997 | -0.047019 | -0.344628 | 1.159629  |
| Cl36 | -0.512017 | -2.938504 | -0.113282 | -0.245031 | 0.004528  |
| C37  | 2.097921  | -1.514648 | -0.108581 | 0.637106  | -0.038639 |
| O38  | 2.726724  | -1.747274 | -1.13111  | -0.509003 | -0.002451 |
| O39  | 2.660913  | -1.751492 | 1.106771  | -0.475948 | 0.002686  |
| H40  | 3.557228  | -2.110235 | 0.966554  | 0.405911  | -0.003227 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2678.76073513 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

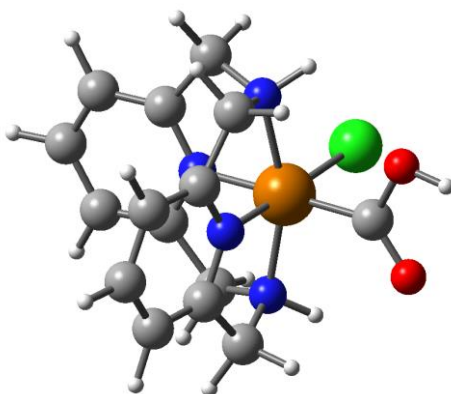
S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7989, after 0.7508

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 33.4738 | 41.9887 | 57.9171 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.0396  | 5.3597  | 9.4045  |

Zero-point correction= 0.319143 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.338924  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.339868  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.270251  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2678.441593  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2678.421811  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2678.420867  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2678.490484

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000008 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S14.** DFT-optimized geometry of Fe<sup>II</sup>(dapp)(CO<sub>2</sub>H<sup>-</sup>)Cl (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| C1   | -3.364685 | 0.129187  | -1.257077 | -0.488681       |
| C2   | -2.029088 | -0.252405 | -1.189016 | -0.087051       |
| C3   | -2.062583 | -0.195309 | 1.150224  | -0.093266       |
| C4   | -3.399581 | 0.188054  | 1.160171  | -0.477917       |
| C5   | -4.050473 | 0.354622  | -0.062785 | -0.257397       |
| H6   | -3.85629  | 0.248324  | -2.216596 | 0.18514         |
| H7   | -3.918931 | 0.353647  | 2.097946  | 0.185066        |
| H8   | -5.091493 | 0.660024  | -0.085077 | 0.185001        |
| C9   | 0.822961  | 3.162474  | -1.23578  | -0.496743       |
| C10  | 0.788249  | 1.774258  | -1.18112  | 0.181532        |
| C11  | 0.774534  | 1.808123  | 1.160816  | 0.250397        |
| C12  | 0.809135  | 3.196768  | 1.17674   | -0.554294       |
| C13  | 0.830941  | 3.879861  | -0.039662 | -0.415062       |
| H14  | 0.840566  | 3.670323  | -2.194148 | 0.183868        |
| H15  | 0.815459  | 3.731593  | 2.120411  | 0.183939        |
| H16  | 0.8507    | 4.964475  | -0.055066 | 0.184446        |
| N17  | -1.417303 | -0.391876 | -0.006257 | 0.39239         |
| N18  | 0.756124  | 1.132253  | -0.001108 | 0.463174        |
| N19  | 0.283577  | -0.481838 | -1.999668 | -0.428024       |
| H20  | 0.810155  | -1.192698 | -2.49962  | 0.398781        |
| N21  | 0.225198  | -0.412792 | 2.035898  | -0.426406       |
| H22  | 0.723946  | -1.120307 | 2.568275  | 0.401632        |
| C23  | 0.857499  | 0.839805  | -2.355787 | 0.012483        |
| H24  | 0.377401  | 1.269801  | -3.241814 | 0.176384        |
| C25  | -1.221098 | -0.509241 | 2.359518  | 0.055556        |
| H26  | -1.489496 | 0.124215  | 3.212138  | 0.177125        |
| C27  | -1.151374 | -0.625798 | -2.354098 | 0.102425        |
| H28  | -1.323733 | -1.683995 | -2.57657  | 0.213178        |
| H29  | -1.408341 | -0.054859 | -3.253064 | 0.176815        |
| C30  | 0.826972  | 0.904007  | 2.359748  | 0.01418         |
| H31  | 0.359615  | 1.366166  | 3.236282  | 0.175594        |
| H32  | 1.879167  | 0.718043  | 2.597577  | 0.219664        |
| H33  | 1.912828  | 0.674187  | -2.595742 | 0.215798        |
| H34  | -1.421321 | -1.546511 | 2.647761  | 0.211934        |

|      |          |           |           |           |
|------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fe35 | 0.480868 | -0.725516 | 0.029133  | -0.679123 |
| Cl36 | 0.046519 | -3.074247 | 0.066617  | -0.50104  |
| C37  | 2.37111  | -1.095911 | 0.121027  | 0.691524  |
| O38  | 3.024499 | -1.26153  | -1.099666 | -0.4979   |
| O39  | 3.09316  | -1.221752 | 1.119863  | -0.606003 |
| H40  | 3.956829 | -1.461768 | -0.893771 | 0.370884  |

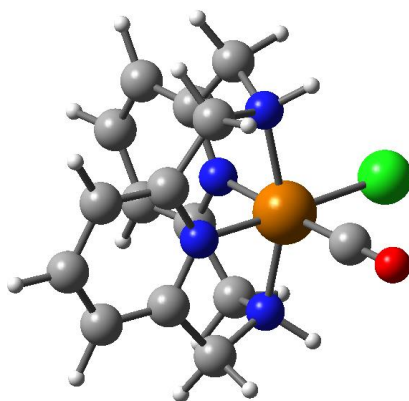
SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2678.93148253 A.U. after 1 cycles

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 46.4665 | 50.1888 | 59.2760 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2869  | 10.4590 | 4.2778  |

Zero-point correction= 0.317155 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.336967  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.337911  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.269212  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2678.614327  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2678.594515  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2678.593571  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2678.662271

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000030 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S15.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})\text{Cl}]^+$  (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| C1   | 2.395667  | -2.186789 | -1.198469 | -0.528417       |
| C2   | 1.620524  | -1.034089 | -1.165143 | 0.010283        |
| C3   | 1.61598   | -1.02692  | 1.175161  | 0.008186        |
| C4   | 2.390935  | -2.179427 | 1.218684  | -0.528008       |
| C5   | 2.773385  | -2.764631 | 0.01262   | -0.255046       |
| H6   | 2.695857  | -2.619842 | -2.145859 | 0.196799        |
| H7   | 2.687448  | -2.60677  | 2.169811  | 0.196807        |
| H8   | 3.370698  | -3.670207 | 0.016582  | 0.196456        |
| C9   | -2.792328 | -1.725794 | -1.20808  | -0.279188       |
| C10  | -1.844839 | -0.710621 | -1.17405  | -0.109614       |
| C11  | -1.849058 | -0.702623 | 1.171453  | -0.111609       |
| C12  | -2.796734 | -1.717553 | 1.208875  | -0.280982       |
| C13  | -3.267466 | -2.230672 | 0.001281  | -0.265848       |
| H14  | -3.146497 | -2.112924 | -2.156599 | 0.197958        |
| H15  | -3.15437  | -2.098266 | 2.158691  | 0.197959        |
| H16  | -4.002868 | -3.028061 | 0.002647  | 0.19746         |
| N17  | 1.239978  | -0.502569 | 0.002515  | 0.439889        |
| N18  | -1.401408 | -0.235772 | -0.002061 | 0.423954        |
| N19  | 0.032769  | 0.635066  | -2.009258 | -0.541984       |
| H20  | 0.118439  | 1.492039  | -2.549866 | 0.417211        |
| N21  | 0.025344  | 0.648464  | 2.004161  | -0.539627       |
| H22  | 0.109561  | 1.508274  | 2.540541  | 0.417122        |
| C23  | -1.271777 | 0.007928  | -2.362031 | 0.053751        |
| H24  | -1.175955 | -0.653474 | -3.227978 | 0.197185        |
| C25  | 1.200989  | -0.196418 | 2.352924  | 0.05994         |
| H26  | 1.004367  | -0.8058   | 3.2397    | 0.194391        |
| C27  | 1.209692  | -0.211412 | -2.349246 | 0.059511        |
| H28  | 2.036115  | 0.465044  | -2.589546 | 0.230231        |
| H29  | 1.016092  | -0.826576 | -3.232652 | 0.194386        |
| C30  | -1.280422 | 0.023803  | 2.356671  | 0.054493        |
| H31  | -1.187617 | -0.632013 | 3.227171  | 0.197204        |
| H32  | -1.969255 | 0.830153  | 2.629752  | 0.226694        |
| H33  | -1.959644 | 0.812553  | -2.642515 | 0.226538        |

|      |           |          |           |           |
|------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34  | 2.026986  | 0.481214 | 2.59157   | 0.230196  |
| Fe35 | 0.03656   | 1.009079 | -0.004044 | 0.392037  |
| C36  | -1.003376 | 2.459186 | -0.009394 | -0.041321 |
| O37  | -1.66047  | 3.404812 | 0.002682  | -0.345935 |
| Cl38 | 1.881178  | 2.432351 | -0.006048 | -0.389062 |

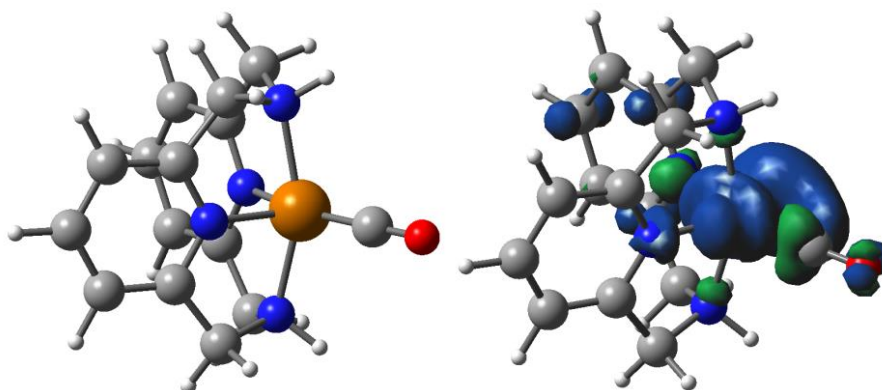
SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2602.78460827 A.U. after 2 cycles

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 47.9547 | 61.2224 | 68.5696 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2153  | 3.2481  | 8.2897  |

Zero-point correction= 0.304674 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.322719  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.323663  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.259069  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2602.479935  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2602.461889  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2602.460945  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2602.525540

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000114 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000020 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S16.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})]^+$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -3.171403 | -0.225529 | 1.20821   | -0.281939       | -0.02985     |
| C2   | -1.906221 | 0.346572  | 1.170033  | -0.002176       | 0.069916     |
| C3   | -1.905882 | 0.344675  | -1.170903 | -0.001835       | 0.069858     |
| C4   | -3.171054 | -0.227505 | -1.208509 | -0.28214        | -0.029862    |
| C5   | -3.807388 | -0.510428 | -0.000012 | -0.292254       | 0.051244     |
| H6   | -3.645275 | -0.448698 | 2.157579  | 0.192393        | 0.000872     |
| H7   | -3.644654 | -0.452221 | -2.157649 | 0.192392        | 0.000872     |
| H8   | -4.793884 | -0.961886 | 0.000214  | 0.192771        | -0.00213     |
| C9   | 1.250922  | -2.762165 | 1.211879  | -0.253913       | -0.007812    |
| C10  | 1.137721  | -1.377167 | 1.170214  | -0.140695       | -0.01505     |
| C11  | 1.138266  | -1.378631 | -1.168204 | -0.140722       | -0.015032    |
| C12  | 1.251473  | -2.763674 | -1.208098 | -0.2538         | -0.007806    |
| C13  | 1.315188  | -3.455746 | 0.00234   | -0.255199       | -0.01504     |
| H14  | 1.279279  | -3.287004 | 2.160589  | 0.189288        | 0.000292     |
| H15  | 1.28026   | -3.289693 | -2.15614  | 0.189288        | 0.000292     |
| H16  | 1.398631  | -4.537483 | 0.003033  | 0.189043        | 0.000631     |
| N17  | -1.309977 | 0.623305  | -0.000578 | 0.268497        | -0.042701    |
| N18  | 1.102245  | -0.729471 | 0.000595  | 0.349237        | 0.028075     |
| N19  | 0.354555  | 0.808903  | 2.016336  | -0.500401       | 0.02082      |
| H20  | 0.767496  | 1.54759   | 2.577997  | 0.403694        | 0.000437     |
| N21  | 0.355061  | 0.806178  | -2.01739  | -0.500426       | 0.020826     |
| H22  | 0.767858  | 1.544238  | -2.579984 | 0.40369         | 0.000437     |
| C23  | 1.091577  | -0.446002 | 2.351258  | 0.025652        | 0.015159     |
| H24  | 0.665653  | -0.932469 | 3.234357  | 0.186411        | -0.000423    |
| C25  | -1.093468 | 0.762766  | -2.362116 | -0.055304       | -0.047116    |
| H26  | -1.282003 | 0.117861  | -3.226265 | 0.186895        | -0.000285    |
| C27  | -1.094067 | 0.766545  | 2.360752  | -0.055171       | -0.047158    |
| H28  | -1.390686 | 1.783607  | 2.638815  | 0.218442        | 0.001965     |
| H29  | -1.283053 | 0.123255  | 3.226006  | 0.186892        | -0.000285    |
| C30  | 1.092646  | -0.448903 | -2.350389 | 0.025701        | 0.015131     |
| H31  | 0.667455  | -0.936527 | -3.233198 | 0.186411        | -0.000423    |
| H32  | 2.119549  | -0.158306 | -2.596879 | 0.217199        | -0.000574    |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H33  | 2.118403  | -0.155445 | 2.598113  | 0.217201  | -0.000575 |
| H34  | -1.390343 | 1.779218  | -2.642124 | 0.218442  | 0.001965  |
| Fe35 | 0.561683  | 1.156239  | -0.000741 | 0.796934  | 1.04277   |
| C36  | 1.996506  | 2.163717  | -0.001125 | -0.584646 | -0.079259 |
| O37  | 2.937435  | 2.863524  | -0.00124  | -0.435853 | -0.00018  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2142.18106695 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7650, after 0.7502

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 45.0671 | 54.1147 | 61.3684 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2514  | 9.2569  | 3.2576  |

Zero-point correction= 0.301476 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.317993

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.318937

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.257069

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2141.879591

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2141.863074

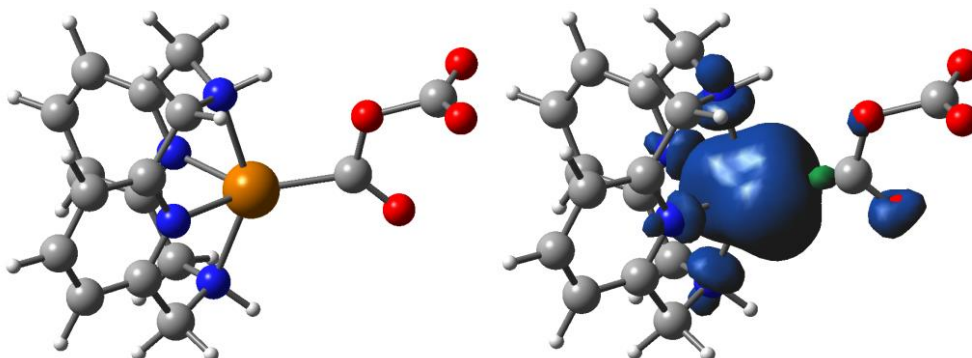
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2141.862130

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2141.923998

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000089 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000007 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S17.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C})$  (quintet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -2.984658 | -2.511521 | -0.531714 | -0.230834       | -0.018453    |
| C2   | -1.880258 | -1.748886 | -0.897826 | 0.132108        | 0.002236     |
| C3   | -1.068102 | -1.753373 | 1.288236  | 0.162815        | -0.006605    |
| C4   | -2.144023 | -2.518865 | 1.726651  | -0.37847        | -0.010864    |
| C5   | -3.102982 | -2.913289 | 0.796713  | -0.238577       | 0.021077     |
| H6   | -3.740719 | -2.768889 | -1.265484 | 0.189514        | 0.001024     |
| H7   | -2.237382 | -2.782289 | 2.774662  | 0.189518        | 0.000994     |
| H8   | -3.956249 | -3.504976 | 1.112106  | 0.192965        | -0.000792    |
| C9   | -2.985156 | 2.510953  | -0.532599 | -0.231111       | -0.018465    |
| C10  | -1.880817 | 1.74809   | -0.898453 | 0.132828        | 0.002119     |
| C11  | -1.068236 | 1.754007  | 1.287456  | 0.162565        | -0.006525    |
| C12  | -2.144071 | 2.519752  | 1.725597  | -0.378734       | -0.010861    |
| C13  | -3.103214 | 2.913583  | 0.795585  | -0.238512       | 0.021068     |
| H14  | -3.741348 | 2.767874  | -1.266389 | 0.189513        | 0.001024     |
| H15  | -2.23716  | 2.783925  | 2.773442  | 0.189517        | 0.000994     |
| H16  | -3.956397 | 3.505517  | 1.11074   | 0.192963        | -0.000792    |
| N17  | -0.938807 | -1.420737 | -0.003352 | 0.524291        | 0.00749      |
| N18  | -0.939199 | 1.420573  | -0.003968 | 0.524436        | 0.007504     |
| N19  | -0.866135 | -0.000583 | -2.331826 | -0.379877       | 0.041917     |
| H20  | -0.307181 | -0.000537 | -3.179038 | 0.390991        | -0.000599    |
| N21  | 0.61509   | 0.000507  | 1.711428  | -0.369652       | 0.009429     |
| H22  | 1.618303  | 0.000518  | 1.874412  | 0.402414        | -0.000744    |
| C23  | -1.651299 | 1.247431  | -2.304935 | -0.163074       | 0.009814     |
| H24  | -2.611818 | 1.135348  | -2.82176  | 0.180155        | 0.001379     |
| C25  | 0.021739  | -1.246761 | 2.206242  | -0.119586       | -0.011375    |
| H26  | -0.371307 | -1.142007 | 3.224974  | 0.175777        | 0.001956     |
| C27  | -1.650355 | -1.249174 | -2.304561 | -0.162529       | 0.009728     |
| H28  | -1.0778   | -2.007183 | -2.849863 | 0.212973        | 0.000327     |
| H29  | -2.610623 | -1.138291 | -2.82209  | 0.180148        | 0.001378     |
| C30  | 0.021889  | 1.248116  | 2.205518  | -0.119259       | -0.011434    |
| H31  | -0.370889 | 1.144115  | 3.224432  | 0.175776        | 0.001955     |
| H32  | 0.816054  | 2.001692  | 2.245395  | 0.20813         | 0.00035      |
| H33  | -1.079781 | 2.005489  | -2.851237 | 0.212977        | 0.000326     |

|      |          |           |           |           |           |
|------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34  | 0.815886 | -2.000308 | 2.246867  | 0.20813   | 0.00035   |
| Fe35 | 0.522267 | -0.000043 | -0.559431 | -0.441574 | 3.9256    |
| C36  | 2.585108 | 0.000171  | -0.860071 | -0.029311 | -0.030985 |
| O37  | 3.207451 | 0.000413  | -1.924299 | -0.586368 | 0.028161  |
| O38  | 3.277909 | -0.000244 | 0.319631  | -0.32669  | 0.009088  |
| C39  | 4.761694 | -0.000045 | 0.263451  | 0.597204  | 0.01842   |
| O40  | 5.258025 | -1.13363  | 0.278872  | -0.666735 | 0.001393  |
| O41  | 5.257773 | 1.133666  | 0.277836  | -0.666818 | 0.001393  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2406.69838440 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 6.0153, after 6.0001

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 21.9549 | 28.3525 | 32.6651 |
| Red. masses -- | 8.8486  | 13.5486 | 6.3558  |

Zero-point correction= 0.315279 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.337223

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.338168

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.260350

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2406.383105

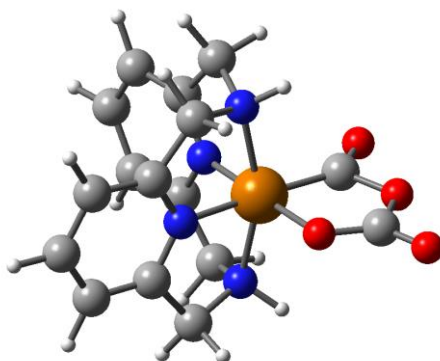
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2406.361161

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2406.360217

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2406.438035

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000033 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000004 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S18.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C,O})$  (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| C1   | 2.116715  | 2.758383  | -1.20789  | -0.69707        |
| C2   | 1.077535  | 1.835541  | -1.168549 | -0.058855       |
| C3   | 1.077405  | 1.835603  | 1.168598  | -0.058885       |
| C4   | 2.116576  | 2.758462  | 1.207996  | -0.696972       |
| C5   | 2.639638  | 3.219689  | 0.000071  | -0.198857       |
| H6   | 2.508904  | 3.105719  | -2.157484 | 0.187005        |
| H7   | 2.508647  | 3.105861  | 2.157615  | 0.187005        |
| H8   | 3.455235  | 3.935287  | 0.000098  | 0.186653        |
| C9   | 2.415927  | -2.425757 | -1.206622 | -0.722939       |
| C10  | 1.267063  | -1.645177 | -1.169773 | 0.049039        |
| C11  | 1.266981  | -1.645059 | 1.16986   | 0.048813        |
| C12  | 2.415858  | -2.425602 | 1.206871  | -0.723203       |
| C13  | 2.995705  | -2.817452 | 0.000163  | -0.257989       |
| H14  | 2.84811   | -2.7183   | -2.157481 | 0.186095        |
| H15  | 2.847997  | -2.718015 | 2.15779   | 0.186094        |
| H16  | 3.896261  | -3.422401 | 0.000227  | 0.185679        |
| N17  | 0.591412  | 1.396288  | 0.000016  | 0.032455        |
| N18  | 0.726196  | -1.268299 | 0.000001  | 0.204985        |
| N19  | -0.336221 | 0.008924  | -2.021309 | -0.563499       |
| H20  | -1.189802 | -0.031745 | -2.570924 | 0.397809        |
| N21  | -0.336444 | 0.009025  | 2.021262  | -0.563532       |
| H22  | -1.190039 | -0.031662 | 2.570854  | 0.397805        |
| C23  | 0.463532  | -1.198421 | -2.357906 | 0.082022        |
| H24  | 1.095566  | -1.035435 | -3.237304 | 0.182096        |
| C25  | 0.338646  | 1.291072  | 2.359275  | 0.045529        |
| H26  | 0.995329  | 1.184348  | 3.229267  | 0.182306        |
| C27  | 0.338866  | 1.290993  | -2.35927  | 0.045662        |
| H28  | -0.443872 | 2.007304  | -2.630043 | 0.211197        |
| H29  | 0.995594  | 1.184307  | -3.229232 | 0.182309        |
| C30  | 0.463275  | -1.198326 | 2.35788   | 0.082418        |
| H31  | 1.095162  | -1.035429 | 3.237401  | 0.182092        |
| H32  | -0.246931 | -1.994248 | 2.606122  | 0.215718        |
| H33  | -0.24663  | -1.994316 | -2.606346 | 0.215711        |
| H34  | -0.44408  | 2.007402  | 2.630031  | 0.211192        |

|      |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fe35 | -0.702482 | -0.045397 | -0.000118 | 1.865462  |
| C36  | -2.079038 | -1.352342 | -0.000051 | 0.148717  |
| O37  | -2.163373 | -2.573278 | 0.000156  | -0.583508 |
| O38  | -2.22151  | 1.201099  | -0.000302 | -0.810343 |
| C39  | -3.375404 | 0.649695  | -0.000077 | 0.956678  |
| O40  | -3.391772 | -0.727168 | -0.000029 | -0.439772 |
| O41  | -4.469748 | 1.227128  | 0.000079  | -0.683121 |

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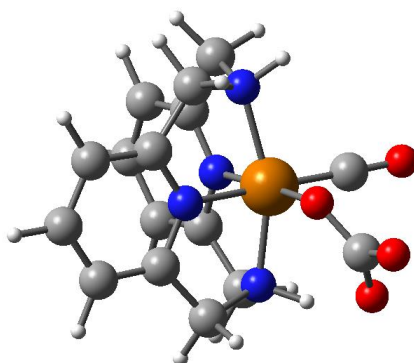
SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2406.74140051 A.U. after 2 cycles

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 46.4264 | 46.8668 | 56.2805 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.4797  | 9.3681  | 7.5621  |

Zero-point correction= 0.319924 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.339526  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.340470  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.272616  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2406.421476  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2406.401875  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2406.400931  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2406.468784

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000025 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S19.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})\text{Cl}]^+$  (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| C1   | 0.16623   | -3.125175 | 1.576103  | -0.949212       |
| C2   | -0.187124 | -1.816254 | 1.265288  | 0.215396        |
| C3   | 0.340042  | -2.145319 | -0.990634 | -0.085027       |
| C4   | 0.713258  | -3.462749 | -0.753844 | -0.657482       |
| C5   | 0.62882   | -3.948085 | 0.550803  | -0.279949       |
| H6   | 0.080421  | -3.490518 | 2.593305  | 0.191399        |
| H7   | 1.057291  | -4.091848 | -1.567004 | 0.191175        |
| H8   | 0.919551  | -4.970844 | 0.766989  | 0.191375        |
| C9   | 2.984033  | 1.367969  | 1.702557  | -0.400821       |
| C10  | 1.655998  | 1.196279  | 1.332748  | -0.016257       |
| C11  | 2.268562  | 0.786007  | -0.897225 | -0.025422       |
| C12  | 3.616426  | 0.94245   | -0.594355 | -0.327001       |
| C13  | 3.969038  | 1.233076  | 0.7232    | -0.298735       |
| H14  | 3.242807  | 1.597057  | 2.730303  | 0.192302        |
| H15  | 4.370079  | 0.83907   | -1.366982 | 0.192062        |
| H16  | 5.014242  | 1.353435  | 0.988132  | 0.19168         |
| N17  | -0.075615 | -1.36263  | 0.011405  | 0.313246        |
| N18  | 1.342949  | 0.904448  | 0.060908  | 0.178425        |
| N19  | -0.675862 | 0.558728  | 1.653773  | -0.490612       |
| H20  | -1.62356  | 1.005985  | 1.694696  | 0.449172        |
| N21  | 0.307443  | -0.001219 | -2.180683 | -0.61003        |
| H22  | -0.232225 | 0.391853  | -2.946604 | 0.413814        |
| C23  | 0.43719   | 1.353939  | 2.207179  | -0.036179       |
| H24  | 0.65293   | 1.093056  | 3.248322  | 0.184182        |
| C25  | 0.261823  | -1.479111 | -2.332872 | 0.141732        |
| H26  | 1.040085  | -1.836778 | -3.014469 | 0.188659        |
| C27  | -0.787696 | -0.809463 | 2.204358  | -0.117955       |
| H28  | -1.856346 | -1.032794 | 2.30212   | 0.216385        |
| H29  | -0.349761 | -0.877732 | 3.205303  | 0.181687        |
| C30  | 1.684582  | 0.56407   | -2.267121 | -0.045241       |
| H31  | 2.334081  | -0.064939 | -2.883661 | 0.190819        |
| H32  | 1.610485  | 1.537127  | -2.764646 | 0.221119        |
| H33  | 0.136621  | 2.408209  | 2.192273  | 0.212543        |
| H34  | -0.706398 | -1.729615 | -2.777679 | 0.21908         |

|      |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fe35 | -0.475062 | 0.500859  | -0.338604 | 1.616708  |
| C36  | -0.946547 | 2.175923  | -0.68947  | -0.045699 |
| O37  | -1.29133  | 3.245362  | -0.956873 | -0.350749 |
| O38  | -2.309371 | -0.047819 | -0.710746 | -0.701227 |
| C39  | -3.359953 | 0.384162  | -0.017564 | 0.851879  |
| O40  | -4.509096 | 0.029543  | -0.419155 | -0.773975 |
| O41  | -3.177603 | 1.128582  | 1.020598  | -0.733268 |

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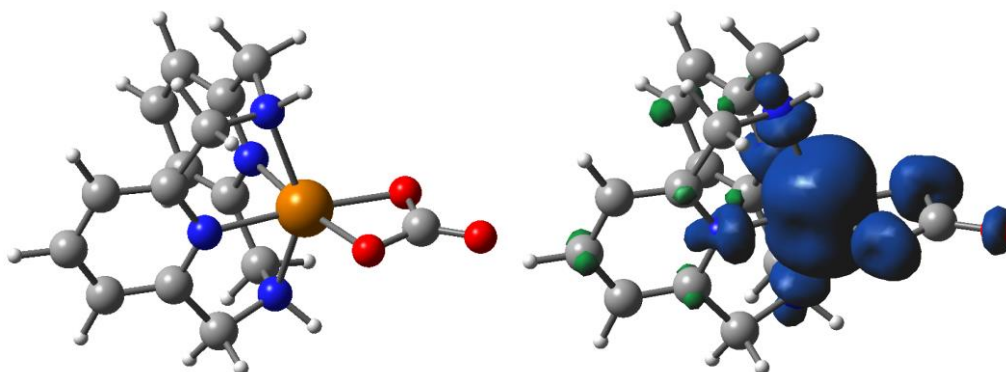
SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2406.73614415 A.U. after 2 cycles

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 43.1879 | 48.1420 | 62.2576 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.8146  | 7.3005  | 3.7835  |

Zero-point correction= 0.318366 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.338606  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.339550  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.269932  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2406.417778  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2406.397538  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2406.396594  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2406.466212

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000026 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S20.** DFT-optimized geometry of Fe<sup>II</sup>(dapp)(CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) (quintet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | 2.25242   | 2.371908  | -1.203243 | -0.34164        | -0.00379     |
| C2   | 1.038879  | 1.692071  | -1.162701 | 0.079987        | -0.04646     |
| C3   | 1.038995  | 1.691119  | 1.163842  | 0.079824        | -0.046384    |
| C4   | 2.25255   | 2.370909  | 1.20481   | -0.341648       | -0.003775    |
| C5   | 2.856199  | 2.728369  | 0.000899  | -0.190199       | -0.028356    |
| H6   | 2.720164  | 2.601883  | -2.15468  | 0.184968        | 0.000222     |
| H7   | 2.720396  | 2.600098  | 2.156386  | 0.184968        | 0.000223     |
| H8   | 3.804524  | 3.255719  | 0.001067  | 0.188426        | 0.001394     |
| C9   | 2.252404  | -2.371059 | -1.204764 | -0.341765       | -0.003773    |
| C10  | 1.038925  | -1.691134 | -1.163828 | 0.07986         | -0.04639     |
| C11  | 1.038742  | -1.692089 | 1.162716  | 0.080017        | -0.046462    |
| C12  | 2.252205  | -2.372064 | 1.203291  | -0.341762       | -0.003786    |
| C13  | 2.855979  | -2.728587 | -0.000836 | -0.190174       | -0.028356    |
| H14  | 2.72025   | -2.600303 | -2.156326 | 0.184968        | 0.000223     |
| H15  | 2.719896  | -2.602099 | 2.154739  | 0.184969        | 0.000222     |
| H16  | 3.804242  | -3.256049 | -0.000976 | 0.188426        | 0.001394     |
| N17  | 0.44549   | 1.395611  | 0.000481  | 0.17574         | 0.040537     |
| N18  | 0.445424  | -1.395558 | -0.000484 | 0.175812        | 0.040541     |
| N19  | -0.467434 | 0.000809  | -2.156226 | -0.446752       | 0.001667     |
| H20  | -1.274736 | 0.000956  | -2.772303 | 0.386813        | -0.00018     |
| N21  | -0.467491 | -0.000723 | 2.156199  | -0.44675        | 0.001669     |
| H22  | -1.274814 | -0.000827 | 2.77225   | 0.386812        | -0.00018     |
| C23  | 0.28776   | -1.24539  | -2.394912 | -0.100181       | 0.019511     |
| H24  | 0.975018  | -1.145914 | -3.243467 | 0.178226        | 0.002017     |
| C25  | 0.287755  | 1.24544   | 2.394902  | -0.100191       | 0.01951      |
| H26  | 0.974972  | 1.145941  | 3.243488  | 0.178225        | 0.002017     |
| C27  | 0.287541  | 1.24731   | -2.39403  | -0.100263       | 0.019581     |
| H28  | -0.441443 | 2.022014  | -2.655525 | 0.20944         | -0.000556    |
| H29  | 0.974653  | 1.148637  | -3.242796 | 0.178225        | 0.002018     |
| C30  | 0.287415  | -1.24726  | 2.394028  | -0.100255       | 0.01958      |
| H31  | 0.974526  | -1.14861  | 3.242798  | 0.178227        | 0.002017     |
| H32  | -0.44161  | -2.021922 | 2.655533  | 0.20944         | -0.000557    |
| H33  | -0.441058 | -2.019982 | -2.657204 | 0.20944         | -0.000557    |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34  | -0.441036 | 2.020072  | 2.657148  | 0.209439  | -0.000557 |
| Fe35 | -1.169954 | 0.000056  | -0.000024 | 0.161456  | 3.914827  |
| O36  | -2.910538 | 1.100733  | 0.000242  | -0.735761 | 0.063143  |
| C37  | -3.638113 | 0.000022  | -0.000017 | 1.027677  | 0.030533  |
| O38  | -4.889574 | 0.00001   | 0.000005  | -0.788288 | 0.014132  |
| O39  | -2.910515 | -1.100671 | -0.000279 | -0.735755 | 0.063143  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2293.15781537 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 6.0454, after 6.0002

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 34.6675 | 36.4974 | 42.3662 |
| Red. masses -- | 9.0843  | 7.9811  | 5.1465  |

Zero-point correction= 0.307636 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.326881

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.327825

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.257748

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2292.850179

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2292.830934

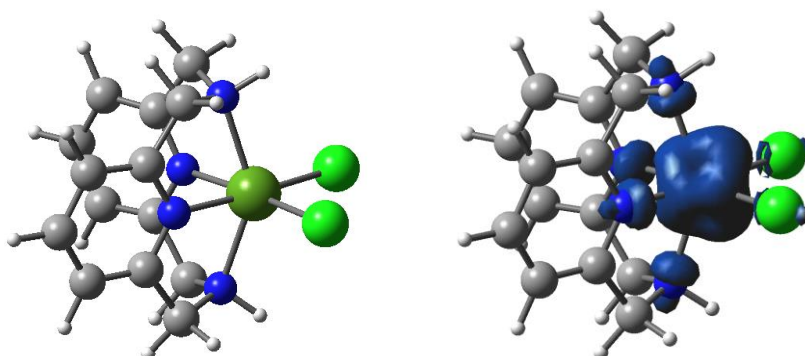
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2292.829990

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2292.900068

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000051 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000007 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S21.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl}_2$  (quartet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -1.185815 | -0.001913 | -0.00039  | -0.192825       | 2.695849     |
| C2   | 0.961265  | 1.733385  | 1.162414  | -0.152187       | -0.005126    |
| N3   | 0.394909  | 1.40254   | -0.000454 | 0.459852        | 0.061532     |
| N4   | -0.510796 | -0.001464 | -2.119104 | -0.400979       | 0.034092     |
| H5   | -1.349976 | -0.002885 | -2.690516 | 0.387235        | -0.000288    |
| C6   | 2.131917  | 2.485718  | 1.20506   | -0.319179       | -0.005748    |
| H7   | 2.584075  | 2.74623   | 2.1561    | 0.186656        | 0.000702     |
| N8   | 0.399932  | -1.400762 | 0.000439  | 0.460338        | 0.061542     |
| C9   | 2.713067  | 2.874287  | -0.000204 | -0.248598       | -0.005582    |
| H10  | 3.629417  | 3.45569   | -0.000104 | 0.189226        | 0.000341     |
| C11  | 2.132944  | 2.484514  | -1.205561 | -0.319162       | -0.005741    |
| H12  | 2.585894  | 2.744087  | -2.156481 | 0.186658        | 0.000702     |
| N13  | -0.511559 | -0.000093 | 2.118825  | -0.400968       | 0.034043     |
| H14  | -1.351013 | -0.001836 | 2.689831  | 0.387219        | -0.000288    |
| C15  | 0.962239  | 1.732229  | -1.163149 | -0.15192        | -0.005177    |
| C16  | 0.227494  | 1.246028  | -2.388562 | 0.03524         | 0.003903     |
| H17  | 0.921022  | 1.135624  | -3.230423 | 0.177018        | 0.001461     |
| H18  | -0.507698 | 2.006386  | -2.672592 | 0.211443        | -0.000242    |
| C19  | 0.23115   | -1.246943 | -2.387796 | 0.035044        | 0.003888     |
| H20  | 0.924151  | -1.135095 | -3.229903 | 0.17703         | 0.00146      |
| C21  | 0.967667  | -1.730005 | -1.162209 | -0.151684       | -0.005155    |
| C22  | 2.140414  | -2.479095 | -1.204411 | -0.319815       | -0.005776    |
| H23  | 2.593653  | -2.738386 | -2.155271 | 0.18666         | 0.000702     |
| C24  | 2.722162  | -2.866066 | 0.001076  | -0.248334       | -0.00558     |
| H25  | 3.640072  | -3.445001 | 0.001325  | 0.18922         | 0.000341     |
| C26  | 2.140509  | -2.477893 | 1.206201  | -0.320183       | -0.005747    |
| C27  | 0.967736  | -1.728844 | 1.163351  | -0.151233       | -0.005174    |
| C28  | 0.225552  | 1.248203  | 2.387648  | 0.035257        | 0.00387      |
| H29  | 0.918269  | 1.139301  | 3.230376  | 0.176994        | 0.001459     |
| H30  | 2.593808  | -2.736224 | 2.157294  | 0.186659        | 0.000702     |
| C31  | 0.231324  | -1.244751 | 2.388617  | 0.034588        | 0.003911     |
| H32  | -0.500994 | -2.007702 | 2.673104  | 0.211441        | -0.000242    |
| H33  | 0.924577  | -1.131473 | 3.230328  | 0.177027        | 0.001459     |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cl34 | -2.812639 | 1.774173  | -0.000852 | -0.56835  | 0.072185  |
| H35  | -0.510516 | 2.008351  | 2.669958  | 0.211459  | -0.00024  |
| Cl36 | -2.805945 | -1.783696 | 0.000604  | -0.568298 | 0.072204  |
| H37  | -0.50184  | -2.009689 | -2.671093 | 0.211451  | -0.000242 |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -3068.99625678 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 3.7583, after 3.7500

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 14.1515 | 38.7184 | 41.5922 |
| Red. masses -- | 15.9957 | 5.1958  | 8.4884  |

Zero-point correction= 0.293124 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.312434

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.313378

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.242334

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -3068.703133

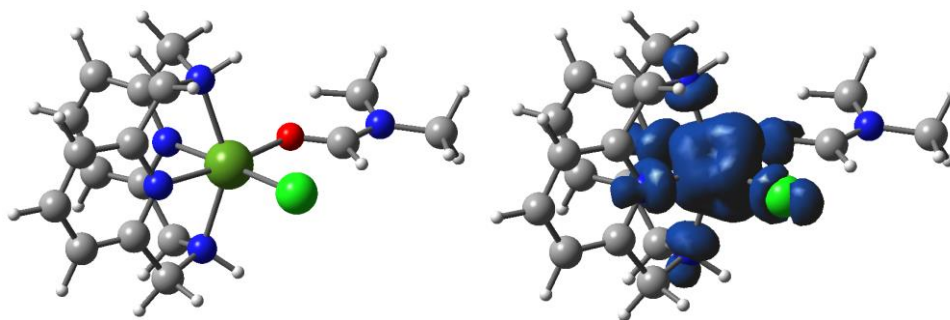
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -3068.683823

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -3068.682879

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -3068.753923

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000008 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S22.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{DMF})\text{Cl}]^+$  (quartet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | 0.36073  | -0.52362 | 0.2397   | -0.245325       | 2.778584     |
| C2   | 0.92331  | -2.39657 | 2.50236  | -0.038658       | -0.005971    |
| N3   | 1.10869  | -2.25079 | 1.18743  | 0.367923        | 0.057372     |
| N4   | 0.65088  | -1.91987 | -1.45489 | -0.404383       | 0.032545     |
| H5   | 1.07392  | -1.39539 | -2.21451 | 0.387518        | -0.000337    |
| C6   | 1.18428  | -3.60799 | 3.13631  | -0.386377       | -0.011508    |
| H7   | 1.02825  | -3.71424 | 4.20441  | 0.187882        | 0.00073      |
| N8   | -1.44736 | -1.58044 | 0.2114   | 0.141642        | 0.058424     |
| C9   | 1.62631  | -4.67863 | 2.36247  | -0.223134       | -0.003995    |
| H10  | 1.83105  | -5.63774 | 2.82699  | 0.190473        | 0.000292     |
| C11  | 1.76897  | -4.52469 | 0.9851   | -0.45913        | -0.012469    |
| H12  | 2.07436  | -5.3539  | 0.3561   | 0.188002        | 0.000708     |
| N13  | -0.36104 | -0.29577 | 2.32615  | -0.41781        | 0.032293     |
| H14  | -0.20412 | 0.66947  | 2.59973  | 0.387384        | -0.000389    |
| C15  | 1.48862  | -3.28125 | 0.42631  | -0.004225       | -0.007898    |
| C16  | 1.59591  | -2.97796 | -1.048   | 0.022139        | 0.001988     |
| H17  | 1.45889  | -3.89261 | -1.63621 | 0.17998         | 0.001577     |
| H18  | 2.60688  | -2.61038 | -1.25281 | 0.208467        | -0.000118    |
| C19  | -0.67197 | -2.39235 | -1.90871 | -0.011666       | 0.002677     |
| H20  | -0.60512 | -3.36143 | -2.41623 | 0.179567        | 0.001475     |
| C21  | -1.65929 | -2.46182 | -0.76915 | -0.086456       | -0.01513     |
| C22  | -2.73121 | -3.34837 | -0.71882 | -0.303205       | -0.00318     |
| H23  | -2.89348 | -4.06167 | -1.51961 | 0.188389        | 0.000671     |
| C24  | -3.5718  | -3.30773 | 0.39146  | -0.216858       | -0.004255    |
| H25  | -4.41181 | -3.99101 | 0.46272  | 0.190796        | 0.000358     |
| C26  | -3.31113 | -2.41149 | 1.42614  | -0.324924       | -0.005979    |
| C27  | -2.21912 | -1.55786 | 1.30144  | -0.041762       | -0.01713     |
| C28  | 0.43277  | -1.16201 | 3.21882  | -0.005127       | 0.002484     |
| H29  | -0.12961 | -1.44216 | 4.11694  | 0.180907        | 0.001593     |
| H30  | -3.93029 | -2.38644 | 2.31635  | 0.188226        | 0.00065      |
| C31  | -1.81723 | -0.53828 | 2.33855  | -0.032903       | 0.005618     |
| H32  | -2.3054  | 0.41083  | 2.09336  | 0.214343        | -0.000241    |
| H33  | -2.17054 | -0.84106 | 3.33093  | 0.179272        | 0.001417     |
| H34  | 1.30191  | -0.58488 | 3.55172  | 0.208021        | -0.000168    |

|      |          |          |          |           |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cl35 | -0.56285 | 1.41807  | -0.78579 | -0.542072 | 0.071398  |
| H36  | -1.04315 | -1.66751 | -2.64098 | 0.213004  | -0.000255 |
| O37  | 2.31096  | 0.23451  | 0.31733  | -0.502322 | 0.019906  |
| C38  | 2.66688  | 1.40101  | 0.03333  | 0.478636  | 0.014604  |
| H39  | 1.932    | 2.14065  | -0.30427 | 0.155372  | 0.001436  |
| N40  | 3.92021  | 1.83282  | 0.10836  | 0.112725  | 0.000086  |
| C41  | 5.00328  | 0.96455  | 0.53577  | -0.361378 | -0.000049 |
| C42  | 4.26459  | 3.20085  | -0.23834 | -0.263272 | -0.000135 |
| H43  | 5.74661  | 0.87921  | -0.26222 | 0.184411  | 0.000065  |
| H44  | 5.48534  | 1.38423  | 1.42341  | 0.183648  | 0.000044  |
| H45  | 4.59992  | -0.01954 | 0.76751  | 0.200024  | 0.000026  |
| H46  | 3.36881  | 3.7407   | -0.54728 | 0.178855  | -0.000006 |
| H47  | 4.70617  | 3.70649  | 0.62511  | 0.186835  | 0.000108  |
| H48  | 4.9868   | 3.20826  | -1.05969 | 0.186545  | 0.000083  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2857.53318970 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 3.7583, after 3.7500

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 11.3761 | 18.0222 | 32.3753 |
| Red. masses -- | 2.7098  | 4.8163  | 4.8704  |

Zero-point correction= 0.397182 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.422085

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.423029

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.338469

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2857.136008

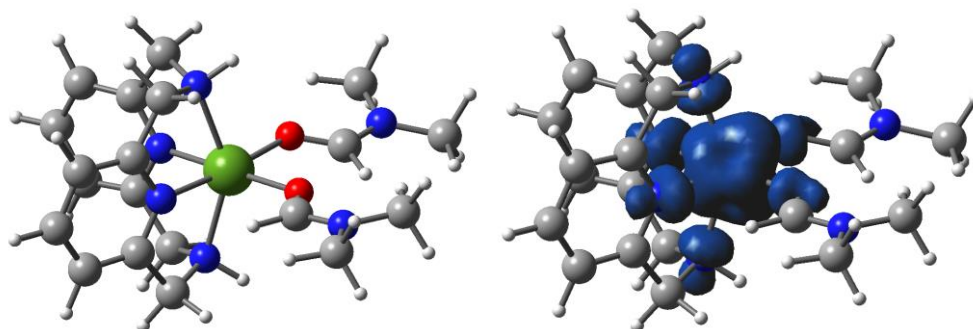
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2857.111105

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2857.110161

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2857.194721

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000007 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S23.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{DMF})_2]^{2+}$  (quartet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.21552  | 0.12583   | -0.010879 | 0.198519        | 2.864477     |
| C2   | 1.943162  | 1.786945  | 1.175564  | -0.015597       | -0.009388    |
| N3   | 1.372512  | 1.479077  | 0.007399  | 0.056291        | 0.054245     |
| N4   | 0.437881  | 0.094634  | -2.115897 | -0.475649       | 0.026913     |
| H5   | -0.388733 | 0.116584  | -2.705873 | 0.393537        | -0.000465    |
| C6   | 3.140554  | 2.494376  | 1.224864  | -0.405972       | -0.001199    |
| H7   | 3.596897  | 2.737747  | 2.178206  | 0.190111        | 0.000698     |
| N8   | 1.262138  | -1.359162 | 0.011323  | 0.18798         | 0.039213     |
| C9   | 3.742931  | 2.860215  | 0.023047  | -0.19348        | -0.004827    |
| H10  | 4.680558  | 3.40635   | 0.02934   | 0.192461        | 0.000305     |
| C11  | 3.157521  | 2.49286   | -1.186913 | -0.492868       | -0.004104    |
| H12  | 3.627277  | 2.735064  | -2.134002 | 0.190272        | 0.000666     |
| N13  | 0.398494  | 0.104758  | 2.119691  | -0.466682       | 0.028678     |
| H14  | -0.439086 | 0.136012  | 2.693529  | 0.392415        | -0.000547    |
| C15  | 1.959664  | 1.785804  | -1.153321 | 0.056312        | -0.013079    |
| C16  | 1.21489   | 1.32361   | -2.381452 | -0.024623       | -0.002128    |
| H17  | 1.905622  | 1.19199   | -3.221695 | 0.18332         | 0.001567     |
| H18  | 0.502047  | 2.103985  | -2.667383 | 0.212384        | -0.000151    |
| C19  | 1.151072  | -1.171985 | -2.381473 | -0.120164       | -0.002498    |
| H20  | 1.865352  | -1.068916 | -3.2058   | 0.184499        | 0.001683     |
| C21  | 1.850262  | -1.683655 | -1.146037 | 0.130752        | -0.012658    |
| C22  | 3.016635  | -2.441383 | -1.172003 | -0.539775       | -0.007584    |
| H23  | 3.483249  | -2.698493 | -2.116686 | 0.190988        | 0.000647     |
| C24  | 3.577465  | -2.836896 | 0.040396  | -0.257068       | -0.003285    |
| H25  | 4.489805  | -3.424122 | 0.051903  | 0.19415         | 0.000274     |
| C26  | 2.98739   | -2.439774 | 1.23838   | -0.565113       | -0.009628    |
| C27  | 1.821885  | -1.682418 | 1.18321   | 0.204593        | -0.015591    |
| C28  | 1.183585  | 1.325871  | 2.395612  | -0.073173       | -0.000703    |
| H29  | 1.867154  | 1.184656  | 3.240227  | 0.18409         | 0.001409     |
| H30  | 3.431073  | -2.695298 | 2.194456  | 0.190908        | 0.000654     |
| C31  | 1.093935  | -1.167945 | 2.400968  | -0.143457       | 0.004        |
| H32  | 0.334594  | -1.900866 | 2.694027  | 0.214297        | -0.000133    |
| H33  | 1.787349  | -1.072479 | 3.243944  | 0.184543        | 0.001511     |
| H34  | 0.477083  | 2.112317  | 2.681067  | 0.21252         | -0.000167    |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H35 | 0.405691  | -1.910562 | -2.695111 | 0.2142    | -0.000152 |
| O36 | -1.540302 | 1.70796   | -0.131748 | -0.508272 | 0.027771  |
| C37 | -2.768647 | 1.678364  | 0.116739  | 0.493166  | 0.010859  |
| H38 | -3.256846 | 0.746085  | 0.417945  | 0.153486  | 0.001068  |
| N39 | -3.564422 | 2.735825  | 0.038767  | 0.134722  | 0.002239  |
| C40 | -3.061775 | 4.041663  | -0.353774 | -0.355067 | -0.000111 |
| C41 | -4.982393 | 2.634704  | 0.340531  | -0.257067 | -0.000206 |
| H42 | -3.56892  | 4.373953  | -1.263948 | 0.187108  | 0.000138  |
| H43 | -3.255379 | 4.764968  | 0.443173  | 0.184876  | 0.000083  |
| H44 | -1.990758 | 3.972479  | -0.534626 | 0.201347  | 0.000044  |
| H45 | -5.228556 | 1.611415  | 0.625869  | 0.179053  | 0.000004  |
| H46 | -5.236467 | 3.306083  | 1.165416  | 0.189199  | 0.000199  |
| H47 | -5.572045 | 2.912943  | -0.537347 | 0.188774  | 0.000136  |
| O48 | -1.834369 | -1.167609 | -0.003957 | -0.514802 | 0.020195  |
| C49 | -1.814814 | -2.421865 | -0.010813 | 0.308804  | -0.006482 |
| H50 | -0.867404 | -2.971496 | 0.019117  | 0.155193  | 0.002399  |
| N51 | -2.896133 | -3.184083 | -0.0561   | 0.125912  | 0.002948  |
| C52 | -4.233334 | -2.617059 | -0.108288 | -0.323765 | 0.000068  |
| C53 | -2.794267 | -4.634671 | -0.040901 | -0.25998  | -0.000923 |
| H54 | -4.766483 | -3.022562 | -0.971968 | 0.187276  | 0.000202  |
| H55 | -4.782508 | -2.875479 | 0.801568  | 0.190678  | 0.000239  |
| H56 | -4.162022 | -1.535264 | -0.198001 | 0.193181  | -0.000024 |
| H57 | -1.746453 | -4.932362 | 0.006648  | 0.179939  | -0.00001  |
| H58 | -3.319585 | -5.034452 | 0.830544  | 0.19043   | 0.000241  |
| H59 | -3.243695 | -5.048394 | -0.947472 | 0.190286  | 0.000273  |

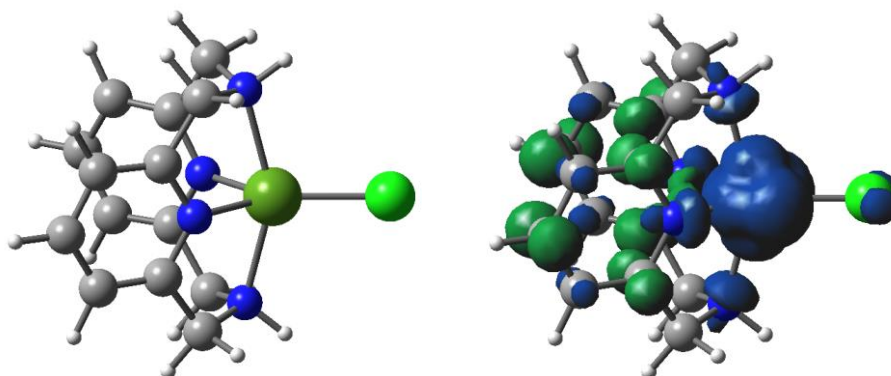
SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2646.06329519 A.U. after 1 cycles  
 Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:  
 S\*\*2 before annihilation 3.7581, after 3.7500

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 18.4255 | 24.1698 | 30.2796 |
| Red. masses -- | 4.4593  | 4.5495  | 3.7981  |

Zero-point correction= 0.501814 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.532157  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.533101  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.436770  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2645.561481  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2645.531138  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2645.530194  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2645.626525

|               |          |           |            |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
| Maximum Force | 0.000004 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S24.** DFT-optimized geometry of Co<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -2.19028 | -2.40111 | -0.98883 | -0.15947        | 0.050417     |
| C2   | -0.96411 | -1.74737 | -1.00654 | -0.05345        | -0.07978     |
| C3   | -0.97846 | -1.53018 | 1.31571  | -0.06108        | -0.07818     |
| C4   | -2.2055  | -2.17636 | 1.40403  | -0.16144        | 0.04934      |
| C5   | -2.81663 | -2.63544 | 0.23622  | -0.27753        | -0.11688     |
| H6   | -2.65312 | -2.70829 | -1.92154 | 0.172818        | -0.00068     |
| H7   | -2.67997 | -2.30566 | 2.37184  | 0.172758        | -0.00067     |
| H8   | -3.77607 | -3.14042 | 0.27749  | 0.177144        | 0.005369     |
| C9   | -2.21799 | 2.17988  | -1.40385 | -0.19445        | 0.048458     |
| C10  | -0.99031 | 1.53624  | -1.30612 | -0.06658        | -0.08316     |
| C11  | -0.99416 | 1.75317  | 1.01677  | -0.05934        | -0.08407     |
| C12  | -2.22158 | 2.4043   | 0.98977  | -0.19763        | 0.049441     |
| C13  | -2.83866 | 2.63722  | -0.24032 | -0.26293        | -0.1173      |
| H14  | -2.68493 | 2.30978  | -2.37522 | 0.172981        | -0.00068     |
| H15  | -2.69184 | 2.71182  | 1.91863  | 0.173033        | -0.00069     |
| H16  | -3.79826 | 3.14124  | -0.28897 | 0.177104        | 0.005396     |
| N17  | -0.35909 | -1.34342 | 0.13076  | 0.367046        | 0.035098     |
| N18  | -0.38069 | 1.35116  | -0.11631 | 0.397233        | 0.031809     |
| N19  | 0.54532  | -0.18873 | -2.18072 | -0.37716        | 0.018217     |
| H20  | 1.34336  | -0.23797 | -2.80455 | 0.363063        | -0.0016      |
| N21  | 0.52824  | 0.21209  | 2.20091  | -0.37732        | 0.018587     |
| H22  | 1.32256  | 0.27283  | 2.82842  | 0.363156        | -0.00164     |
| C23  | -0.22595 | 1.02211  | -2.50085 | -0.08776        | 0.002672     |
| H24  | -0.91119 | 0.87121  | -3.34652 | 0.16255         | 0.00107      |
| C25  | -0.22766 | -1.00953 | 2.51588  | -0.08478        | 0.002715     |
| H26  | -0.91963 | -0.86948 | 3.35797  | 0.162034        | 0.00112      |
| C27  | -0.20027 | -1.45317 | -2.27317 | -0.09141        | 0.000304     |
| H28  | 0.542    | -2.2461  | -2.42436 | 0.193265        | -0.00251     |
| H29  | -0.88173 | -1.47555 | -3.13484 | 0.161984        | 0.001094     |
| C30  | -0.23562 | 1.46582  | 2.28861  | -0.09429        | 0.0008       |
| H31  | -0.92345 | 1.47816  | 3.14543  | 0.162296        | 0.001057     |
| H32  | 0.49453  | 2.26867  | 2.44622  | 0.193736        | -0.00259     |
| H33  | 0.49917  | 1.78714  | -2.80371 | 0.193829        | -0.0026      |

|      |         |         |         |          |          |
|------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| H34  | 0.50633 | -1.7651 | 2.82119 | 0.193302 | -0.00254 |
| Co35 | 1.08479 | 0.01707 | 0.01211 | -0.74943 | 2.230566 |
| Cl36 | 3.39806 | 0.14358 | 0.02041 | -0.60329 | 0.022036 |

---

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2608.39926783 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.2395, after 2.0034

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 46.9958 | 52.0572 | 70.7765 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2390  | 13.0220 | 3.4322  |

Zero-point correction= 0.290292 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.307396

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.308340

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.244589

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2608.108975

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2608.091872

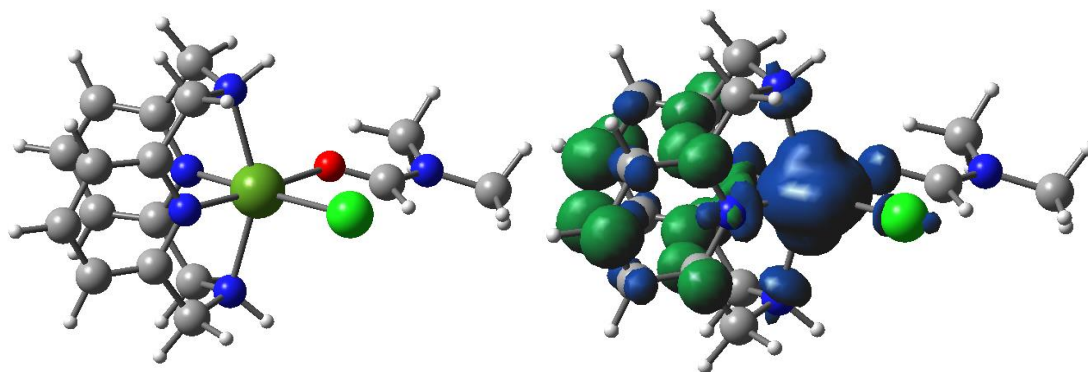
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2608.090928

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2608.154679

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000001 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000000 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S25.** DFT-optimized geometry of Co<sup>I</sup>(dapp)(DMF)Cl (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.35112 | -0.55381 | -0.08272 | -0.59662        | 2.322046     |
| C2   | 0.84824  | 1.79533  | 1.16778  | 0.032001        | -0.097705    |
| N3   | 0.45876  | 1.29578  | -0.02495 | 0.250462        | 0.041814     |
| N4   | 0.30267  | -0.30002 | -2.25142 | -0.38655        | 0.018119     |
| H5   | -0.36511 | -0.62068 | -2.94448 | 0.356429        | -0.001536    |
| C6   | 1.75188  | 2.84628  | 1.26174  | -0.31709        | 0.064578     |
| H7   | 2.04701  | 3.22031  | 2.23752  | 0.166214        | -0.000762    |
| N8   | 1.56019  | -1.14356 | 0.03909  | 0.12041         | 0.043329     |
| C9   | 2.27783  | 3.39772  | 0.09028  | -0.25704        | -0.161152    |
| H10  | 2.98581  | 4.21875  | 0.13512  | 0.172009        | 0.007399     |
| C11  | 1.9003   | 2.84954  | -1.13847 | -0.32589        | 0.06069      |
| H12  | 2.31358  | 3.22619  | -2.06932 | 0.166408        | -0.000779    |
| N13  | 0.03195  | -0.30682 | 2.16194  | -0.35181        | 0.018872     |
| H14  | -0.71426 | -0.62937 | 2.76892  | 0.354545        | -0.001522    |
| C15  | 0.99245  | 1.7983   | -1.15922 | 0.037063        | -0.10519     |
| C16  | 0.50588  | 1.14582  | -2.42901 | -0.02135        | 0.011114     |
| H17  | 1.19577  | 1.37287  | -3.25418 | 0.157699        | 0.001187     |
| H18  | -0.46972 | 1.5715   | -2.69153 | 0.18407         | -0.003014    |
| C19  | 1.52415  | -1.11241 | -2.36904 | -0.05257        | 0.007167     |
| H20  | 2.16498  | -0.78464 | -3.19979 | 0.156859        | 0.001036     |
| C21  | 2.31255  | -1.12109 | -1.08387 | -0.07957        | -0.111741    |
| C22  | 3.70032  | -1.12906 | -1.03543 | -0.21052        | 0.059303     |
| H23  | 4.27377  | -1.10688 | -1.95738 | 0.165649        | -0.001025    |
| C24  | 4.33842  | -1.15211 | 0.20845  | -0.26028        | -0.175892    |
| H25  | 5.42139  | -1.15723 | 0.2746   | 0.171099        | 0.00826      |
| C26  | 3.55367  | -1.13173 | 1.36546  | -0.23476        | 0.060862     |
| C27  | 2.17022  | -1.1238  | 1.24511  | -0.0444         | -0.119771    |
| C28  | 0.21198  | 1.13837  | 2.3673   | -0.08699        | 0.001545     |
| H29  | 0.798    | 1.36178  | 3.27016  | 0.157777        | 0.001134     |
| H30  | 4.01069  | -1.11147 | 2.35035  | 0.1656          | -0.001015    |
| C31  | 1.23089  | -1.1185  | 2.4249   | -0.06941        | 0.014604     |
| H32  | 0.88358  | -2.14336 | 2.60193  | 0.188708        | -0.00359     |
| H33  | 1.76565  | -0.79205 | 3.32816  | 0.157119        | 0.001007     |

|      |          |          |          |          |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34  | -0.78773 | 1.56406  | 2.51361  | 0.184125 | -0.003034 |
| Cl35 | -1.46438 | -2.83543 | -0.16655 | -0.71059 | 0.030795  |
| H36  | 1.19931  | -2.13633 | -2.58889 | 0.189547 | -0.003575 |
| O37  | -2.38059 | 0.3503   | -0.22454 | -0.54052 | 0.009011  |
| C38  | -3.46723 | -0.19772 | 0.02689  | 0.301608 | 0.011962  |
| H39  | -3.51014 | -1.26882 | 0.26368  | 0.144442 | 0.000892  |
| N40  | -4.65125 | 0.42627  | 0.02837  | 0.1025   | -0.004963 |
| C41  | -4.7665  | 1.83923  | -0.27571 | -0.35771 | -0.000475 |
| C42  | -5.87544 | -0.29032 | 0.33005  | -0.26399 | 0.000472  |
| H43  | -5.39436 | 1.98416  | -1.16073 | 0.178253 | -0.000117 |
| H44  | -5.22223 | 2.36862  | 0.56702  | 0.176335 | -0.000103 |
| H45  | -3.77225 | 2.24185  | -0.46421 | 0.196055 | -0.000059 |
| H46  | -5.64766 | -1.33699 | 0.53766  | 0.174686 | -0.00001  |
| H47  | -6.36513 | 0.14598  | 1.20643  | 0.179868 | -0.000042 |
| H48  | -6.56545 | -0.23994 | -0.51826 | 0.180094 | -0.000126 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2857.65538797 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.4004, after 2.0072

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 12.0113 | 21.3092 | 22.7588 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.0125  | 2.7137  | 5.3121  |

Zero-point correction= 0.393277 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.418707

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.419651

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.333842

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2857.262111

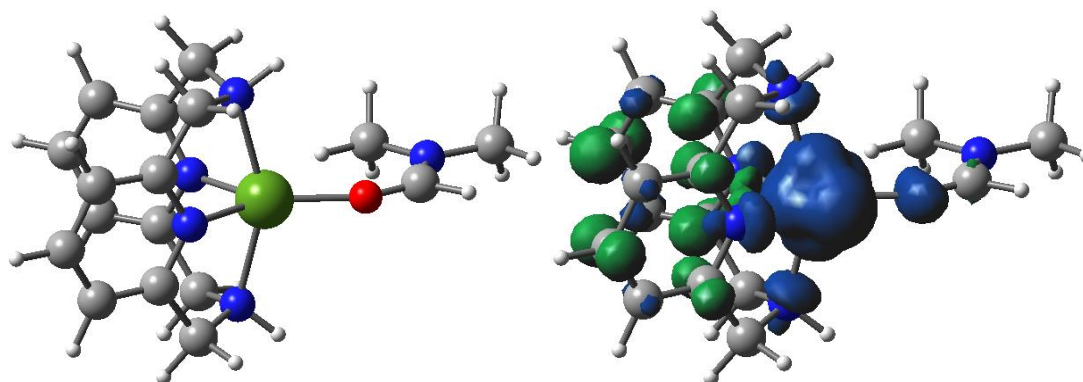
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2857.236681

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2857.235737

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2857.321546

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000003 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S26.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{DMF})]^+$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.51998 | 0.66503  | -0.01918 | -0.10532        | 2.281989     |
| C2   | 2.04212  | 1.2594   | 1.17755  | -0.01581        | -0.048838    |
| N3   | 1.38113  | 1.2484   | 0.00358  | 0.310116        | 0.041697     |
| N4   | -0.00923 | 0.42977  | -2.20382 | -0.4463         | 0.011558     |
| H5   | -0.71153 | 0.77549  | -2.84885 | 0.368356        | -0.00103     |
| C6   | 3.42966  | 1.3257   | 1.23067  | -0.27729        | 0.020062     |
| H7   | 3.93661  | 1.32781  | 2.19048  | 0.175994        | -0.00038     |
| N8   | 0.19078  | -1.18347 | -0.00492 | 0.446482        | 0.014849     |
| C9   | 4.15014  | 1.37036  | 0.0369   | -0.24595        | -0.082032    |
| H10  | 5.23407  | 1.41733  | 0.04999  | 0.180034        | 0.00409      |
| C11  | 3.45896  | 1.31935  | -1.17383 | -0.27711        | 0.020353     |
| H12  | 3.9891   | 1.31623  | -2.12101 | 0.175979        | -0.000379    |
| N13  | -0.06267 | 0.44112  | 2.18042  | -0.44772        | 0.011253     |
| H14  | -0.78074 | 0.7902   | 2.80597  | 0.368374        | -0.001041    |
| C15  | 2.07052  | 1.25335  | -1.15406 | -0.01538        | -0.049109    |
| C16  | 1.22354  | 1.21024  | -2.4016  | -0.08209        | -0.004413    |
| H17  | 1.82014  | 0.83943  | -3.24608 | 0.16491         | 0.001092     |
| H18  | 0.91545  | 2.2335   | -2.64692 | 0.196758        | -0.001641    |
| C19  | 0.13093  | -1.02198 | -2.40948 | -0.04701        | -0.019541    |
| H20  | 0.79216  | -1.26084 | -3.25351 | 0.165702        | 0.000867     |
| C21  | 0.61158  | -1.72698 | -1.16503 | 0.145612        | -0.05484     |
| C22  | 1.40509  | -2.86766 | -1.18825 | -0.60588        | 0.030724     |
| H23  | 1.73232  | -3.2815  | -2.1369  | 0.175116        | -0.000658    |
| C24  | 1.78146  | -3.45474 | 0.02052  | -0.24082        | -0.102466    |
| H25  | 2.40276  | -4.34418 | 0.03049  | 0.178961        | 0.004968     |
| C26  | 1.37521  | -2.86164 | 1.21658  | -0.61498        | 0.031767     |
| C27  | 0.58284  | -1.72093 | 1.16802  | 0.13572         | -0.053852    |
| C28  | 1.16485  | 1.2227   | 2.40426  | -0.07856        | -0.00532     |
| H29  | 1.74055  | 0.85635  | 3.26504  | 0.164877        | 0.001082     |
| H30  | 1.6787   | -3.27073 | 2.17515  | 0.175068        | -0.000661    |
| C31  | 0.07258  | -1.00943 | 2.3969   | -0.04778        | -0.019419    |
| H32  | -0.9299  | -1.38961 | 2.62632  | 0.196453        | -0.002272    |
| H33  | 0.71365  | -1.24382 | 3.25757  | 0.165617        | 0.000858     |

|     |          |          |          |          |           |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34 | 0.85095  | 2.24722  | 2.63661  | 0.1967   | -0.001638 |
| H35 | -0.86601 | -1.40329 | -2.66042 | 0.196057 | -0.00225  |
| O36 | -2.35325 | 1.4391   | -0.04092 | -0.50508 | -0.008504 |
| C37 | -3.59252 | 1.33182  | -0.02241 | 0.352859 | -0.008955 |
| H38 | -4.21259 | 2.23618  | -0.02122 | 0.151312 | 0.003753  |
| N39 | -4.2916  | 0.1957   | -0.00415 | -0.04033 | -0.005762 |
| C40 | -3.66548 | -1.11357 | -0.00367 | -0.4429  | -0.003367 |
| C41 | -5.74427 | 0.22222  | 0.01572  | -0.34135 | 0.000677  |
| H42 | -3.96045 | -1.66507 | 0.89428  | 0.184096 | -0.000452 |
| H43 | -3.98657 | -1.67796 | -0.88446 | 0.184045 | -0.000462 |
| H44 | -2.57999 | -1.00585 | -0.02026 | 0.179424 | -0.001635 |
| H45 | -6.09691 | 1.25437  | 0.01231  | 0.174988 | -0.00017  |
| H46 | -6.14147 | -0.29187 | -0.86449 | 0.183978 | -0.000285 |
| H47 | -6.11694 | -0.27773 | 0.91459  | 0.184053 | -0.000266 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2396.92876450 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.1930, after 2.0032

|                |        |         |         |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------|
|                | 1      | 2       | 3       |
|                | A      | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 9.4554 | 26.7493 | 45.6685 |
| Red. masses -- | 4.3063 | 4.9139  | 5.0811  |

Zero-point correction= 0.394257 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.416973

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.417918

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.339981

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2396.534508

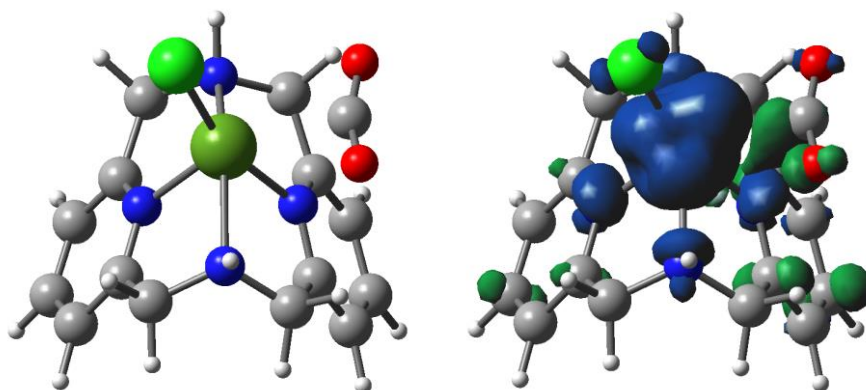
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2396.511791

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2396.510847

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2396.588784

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000009 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S27.** TS geometry optimized for  $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl} \cdots \text{CO}_2]^{\ddagger}$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cl1  | 2.232158 | -2.50504 | 0.268868 | -0.55933        | 0.011017     |
| N2   | -1.14608 | -1.09763 | -0.04466 | 0.42559         | 0.059393     |
| C3   | -1.71455 | -1.16146 | -1.25789 | -0.07718        | -0.03596     |
| C4   | -1.90485 | -1.06585 | 1.061226 | -0.04759        | -0.0407      |
| N5   | 0.465275 | -0.40357 | -2.11808 | -0.28373        | 0.01481      |
| N6   | 0.158527 | -0.34848 | 2.246928 | -0.35044        | 0.020426     |
| H7   | 1.238613 | -0.77227 | -2.65952 | 0.367996        | -0.00083     |
| H8   | 0.789509 | -0.76914 | 2.92002  | 0.372645        | -0.00109     |
| C9   | -3.09597 | -1.23604 | -1.4085  | -0.36848        | 0.002578     |
| C10  | -3.29331 | -1.13479 | 0.988021 | -0.37015        | 0.007443     |
| N11  | 0.221121 | 1.258837 | 0.04695  | 0.532387        | 0.048764     |
| C12  | -0.74603 | -1.1746  | -2.41673 | 0.012651        | 0.012556     |
| C13  | -1.15557 | -0.99712 | 2.372597 | -0.03414        | 0.008605     |
| H14  | -0.43763 | -2.21125 | -2.59547 | 0.196976        | -0.00058     |
| H15  | -0.97863 | -2.02381 | 2.712831 | 0.201489        | -0.00078     |
| H16  | -1.2516  | -0.82631 | -3.32827 | 0.163653        | 0.000674     |
| H17  | -1.78365 | -0.5134  | 3.132606 | 0.167781        | 0.001186     |
| C18  | 0.355226 | 1.039232 | -2.36225 | -0.36518        | -0.02036     |
| C19  | 0.163286 | 1.108773 | 2.452399 | -0.03959        | 0.002471     |
| H20  | -0.30828 | 1.265687 | -3.2081  | 0.161454        | 0.000661     |
| H21  | -0.50666 | 1.417051 | 3.266282 | 0.164176        | 0.000952     |
| H22  | 1.352686 | 1.401647 | -2.62922 | 0.205765        | -0.00156     |
| H23  | 1.182688 | 1.385143 | 2.742586 | 0.200811        | -0.00128     |
| C24  | -0.11213 | 1.796326 | -1.14075 | 0.618447        | -0.00733     |
| C25  | -0.19546 | 1.845002 | 1.185866 | 0.318385        | -0.03667     |
| C26  | -0.82231 | 2.989675 | -1.22495 | -0.84515        | 0.02753      |
| C27  | -0.90539 | 3.040712 | 1.174507 | -0.62436        | 0.033111     |
| H28  | -1.07857 | 3.3989   | -2.19714 | 0.176887        | -0.00014     |
| H29  | -1.2303  | 3.487319 | 2.108744 | 0.176911        | -0.00043     |
| C30  | -1.20797 | 3.632851 | -0.05042 | -0.30153        | -0.06225     |
| H31  | -1.76447 | 4.563541 | -0.08986 | 0.181316        | 0.002955     |
| H32  | -3.53587 | -1.28233 | -2.39944 | 0.17965         | -8E-06       |

|      |          |          |          |          |          |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H33  | -3.8901  | -1.10099 | 1.89374  | 0.179759 | 0.000341 |
| C34  | -3.894   | -1.23162 | -0.26581 | -0.19905 | -0.03581 |
| H35  | -4.97464 | -1.2813  | -0.3524  | 0.182769 | 0.001776 |
| C36  | 3.048673 | 0.543593 | -0.16378 | 0.623334 | -0.04301 |
| O37  | 3.176889 | 0.682216 | 1.006663 | -0.27316 | 0.0048   |
| O38  | 3.301533 | 0.588601 | -1.32014 | -0.33119 | -0.00312 |
| Co39 | 0.829368 | -0.65006 | 0.149646 | -0.74058 | 2.029846 |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2797.36410291 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

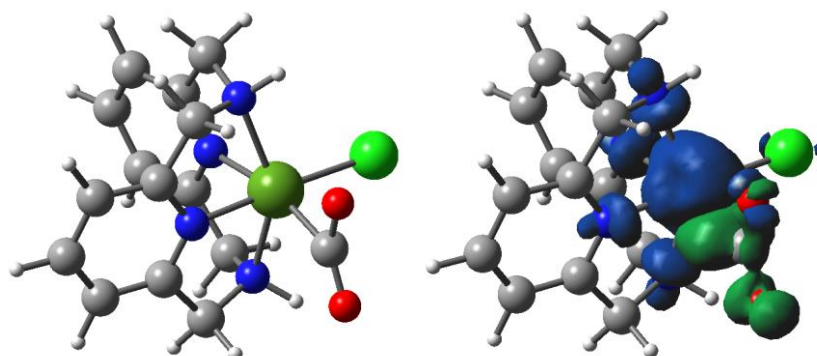
S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.1154, after 2.0022

|                |           |         |         |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|
|                | 1         | 2       | 3       |
|                | A         | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | -373.6040 | 20.5430 | 42.4422 |
| Red. masses -- | 13.4064   | 10.2810 | 5.2275  |

Zero-point correction= 0.301709 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.322591  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.323535  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.249922  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2797.062394  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2797.041512  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2797.040568  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2797.114181

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000003 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S28.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2^{2-})\text{Cl}$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.999328 | -0.348313 | 0.220357  | -0.800858       | 2.097341     |
| C2   | 1.367859  | -1.423611 | -1.257855 | -0.168314       | 0.000941     |
| N3   | 0.915417  | -1.17471  | -0.024094 | 0.275415        | 0.03065      |
| N4   | -0.105787 | -0.106836 | 2.241107  | -0.439741       | 0.034033     |
| H5   | -0.793055 | -0.399051 | 2.927296  | 0.385967        | -0.001346    |
| C6   | 2.688066  | -1.802595 | -1.480743 | -0.335864       | 0.002288     |
| H7   | 3.04168   | -1.994964 | -2.488047 | 0.185481        | 0.000297     |
| N8   | -0.042531 | 1.433309  | 0.012623  | 0.454989        | 0.04559      |
| C9   | 3.540517  | -1.909381 | -0.383543 | -0.221586       | -0.007498    |
| H10  | 4.577947  | -2.19494  | -0.524952 | 0.187737        | 0.000376     |
| C11  | 3.061701  | -1.624829 | 0.892626  | -0.330167       | 0.0075       |
| H12  | 3.711116  | -1.678541 | 1.759997  | 0.185322        | 0.000755     |
| N13  | -0.687772 | -0.295886 | -1.976751 | -0.275596       | 0.026202     |
| H14  | -1.583159 | -0.553854 | -2.378488 | 0.384619        | -0.000991    |
| C15  | 1.726586  | -1.253255 | 1.034493  | -0.046337       | -0.006409    |
| C16  | 1.087608  | -0.956736 | 2.371089  | -0.025462       | -0.002942    |
| H17  | 1.828303  | -0.5214   | 3.053343  | 0.175439        | 0.001611     |
| H18  | 0.772344  | -1.908334 | 2.812829  | 0.206662        | -0.000333    |
| C19  | 0.127501  | 1.338805  | 2.404677  | 0.027495        | 0.004375     |
| H20  | 0.881577  | 1.550833  | 3.172329  | 0.17273         | 0.001751     |
| C21  | 0.520506  | 1.980556  | 1.096867  | 0.110141        | -0.010146    |
| C22  | 1.397252  | 3.054856  | 0.984949  | -0.313065       | -0.004077    |
| H23  | 1.849372  | 3.487321  | 1.87106   | 0.1855          | 0.000344     |
| C24  | 1.695645  | 3.539373  | -0.287191 | -0.345955       | -0.010945    |
| H25  | 2.380579  | 4.372684  | -0.405961 | 0.188697        | 0.000537     |
| C26  | 1.141651  | 2.924122  | -1.407257 | -0.628455       | -0.003209    |
| C27  | 0.272265  | 1.853583  | -1.216865 | 0.377814        | -0.010809    |
| C28  | 0.332453  | -1.285007 | -2.345845 | 0.015471        | -0.000094    |
| H29  | 0.812035  | -1.049997 | -3.304129 | 0.173319        | 0.001427     |
| H30  | 1.390407  | 3.255133  | -2.410041 | 0.186035        | 0.000569     |
| C31  | -0.387162 | 1.09637   | -2.346453 | -0.268755       | -0.006262    |
| H32  | -1.340044 | 1.58423   | -2.573493 | 0.218675        | -0.000375    |
| H33  | 0.234361  | 1.154122  | -3.24784  | 0.172171        | 0.001353     |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cl34 | -2.121629 | -2.457099 | 0.326273  | -0.481954 | 0.0244    |
| H35  | -0.173996 | -2.249206 | -2.461803 | 0.209112  | -0.000156 |
| H36  | -0.816619 | 1.781443  | 2.73832   | 0.209042  | -0.000112 |
| C37  | -2.722905 | 0.519711  | -0.068727 | 0.930735  | -0.151362 |
| O38  | -2.876918 | 0.645352  | 1.149906  | -0.389425 | 0.002853  |
| O39  | -3.295062 | 0.75924   | -1.118433 | -0.547037 | -0.068129 |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2797.37796439 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.1316, after 2.0020

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 28.7690 | 39.5915 | 51.7264 |
| Red. masses -- | 11.5976 | 5.3019  | 7.5234  |

Zero-point correction= 0.303916 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.324591

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.325535

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.253039

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2797.074049

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2797.053374

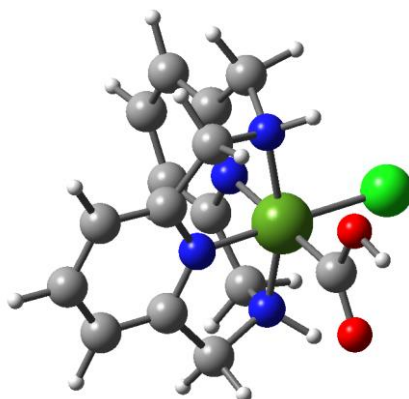
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2797.052429

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2797.124926

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000224 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000029 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S29.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{H}^-)\text{Cl}]^+$  (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Co1  | 0.266767  | -0.778067 | 0.029976  | -0.910782       |
| C2   | -2.090711 | 0.269371  | 1.153633  | -0.051939       |
| N3   | -1.506018 | -0.032454 | -0.006732 | 0.432866        |
| N4   | 0.15283   | -0.55431  | -1.940481 | -0.347748       |
| H5   | 0.50688   | -1.396416 | -2.390429 | 0.424691        |
| C6   | -3.326889 | 0.904425  | 1.163341  | -0.575552       |
| H7   | -3.811198 | 1.163008  | 2.097934  | 0.199479        |
| N8   | 1.009987  | 0.934987  | -0.006076 | 0.610511        |
| C9   | -3.923778 | 1.194081  | -0.064327 | -0.253359       |
| H10  | -4.884602 | 1.69727   | -0.087766 | 0.197888        |
| C11  | -3.304774 | 0.83427   | -1.262273 | -0.594138       |
| H12  | -3.771987 | 1.037878  | -2.218864 | 0.199497        |
| N13  | 0.112092  | -0.457106 | 1.982035  | -0.337276       |
| H14  | 0.450714  | -1.284123 | 2.470447  | 0.426967        |
| C15  | -2.06917  | 0.202166  | -1.193147 | -0.044259       |
| C16  | -1.279491 | -0.38259  | -2.331069 | 0.156443        |
| H17  | -1.366993 | 0.206273  | -3.247511 | 0.199458        |
| H18  | -1.679392 | -1.380428 | -2.536261 | 0.235459        |
| C19  | 1.025951  | 0.583639  | -2.350935 | -0.020815       |
| H20  | 0.618751  | 1.097685  | -3.225153 | 0.201314        |
| C21  | 1.22786   | 1.51517   | -1.193668 | 0.33287         |
| C22  | 1.666214  | 2.831336  | -1.253144 | -0.688976       |
| H23  | 1.838425  | 3.307892  | -2.211138 | 0.202302        |
| C24  | 1.875593  | 3.514924  | -0.056435 | -0.406902       |
| H25  | 2.212105  | 4.545845  | -0.076579 | 0.201305        |
| C26  | 1.655268  | 2.881999  | 1.166239  | -0.742982       |
| C27  | 1.216234  | 1.565237  | 1.158412  | 0.429003        |
| C28  | -1.323106 | -0.246277 | 2.339414  | 0.107923        |
| H29  | -1.417994 | 0.404609  | 3.212119  | 0.199403        |
| H30  | 1.819052  | 3.3984    | 2.104857  | 0.202306        |
| C31  | 0.999642  | 0.682748  | 2.350936  | -0.027849       |
| H32  | 1.964776  | 0.259551  | 2.644289  | 0.242007        |
| H33  | 0.599621  | 1.235476  | 3.204561  | 0.200424        |

|      |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cl34 | -0.567074 | -2.873457 | 0.066926  | -0.135683 |
| H35  | -1.737329 | -1.22327  | 2.607142  | 0.234155  |
| H36  | 1.997736  | 0.166066  | -2.629984 | 0.238188  |
| C37  | 1.996901  | -1.552929 | 0.126418  | 0.831629  |
| O38  | 2.53733   | -1.854899 | -1.082984 | -0.475586 |
| O39  | 2.616527  | -1.787795 | 1.151583  | -0.503256 |
| H40  | 3.411441  | -2.26084  | -0.935144 | 0.411017  |

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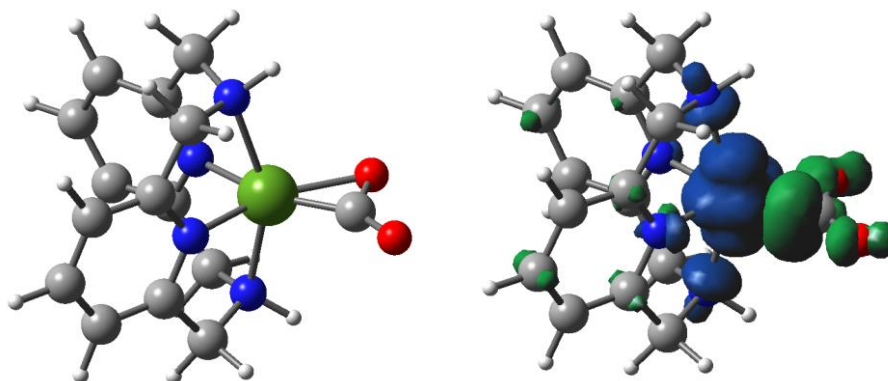
SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2797.84385939 A.U. after 2 cycles

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 45.0783 | 56.7437 | 61.8987 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.0450  | 3.4415  | 8.2983  |

Zero-point correction= 0.320365 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.339654  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.340598  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.273482  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2797.523495  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2797.504206  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2797.503261  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2797.570378

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000013 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S30.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2^{2-})$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.974088 | -0.715341 | -0.000033 | -0.2622         | 1.140081     |
| C2   | -0.272918 | 1.77978   | 1.165857  | -0.057116       | -0.026035    |
| N3   | -0.5532   | 1.170167  | 0.000194  | 0.345447        | 0.052614     |
| N4   | -0.513989 | -0.454153 | -2.195543 | -0.467599       | 0.015119     |
| H5   | -1.184526 | -0.919443 | -2.796092 | 0.373921        | -0.001213    |
| C6   | 0.264901  | 3.061919  | 1.201521  | -0.300855       | 0.002842     |
| H7   | 0.485889  | 3.529836  | 2.155399  | 0.180487        | 0.000058     |
| N8   | 0.987674  | -1.051985 | -0.000197 | 0.309239        | 0.023438     |
| C9   | 0.52586   | 3.717666  | 0.000439  | -0.234757       | -0.026938    |
| H10  | 0.94981   | 4.716473  | 0.000535  | 0.183102        | 0.001428     |
| C11  | 0.264688  | 3.06224   | -1.200773 | -0.300849       | 0.00284      |
| H12  | 0.485507  | 3.53041   | -2.154565 | 0.180487        | 0.000058     |
| N13  | -0.513725 | -0.454744 | 2.195484  | -0.467598       | 0.01512      |
| H14  | -1.18423  | -0.920135 | 2.795991  | 0.373923        | -0.001213    |
| C15  | -0.273129 | 1.780095  | -1.165356 | -0.057134       | -0.026041    |
| C16  | -0.61158  | 0.994045  | -2.409408 | -0.006762       | 0.003956     |
| H17  | 0.012271  | 1.33749   | -3.245854 | 0.167023        | 0.000782     |
| H18  | -1.653029 | 1.209894  | -2.674754 | 0.201128        | -0.000512    |
| C19  | 0.810728  | -1.045027 | -2.413857 | -0.107279       | 0.000685     |
| H20  | 1.354704  | -0.561429 | -3.236901 | 0.167667        | 0.001461     |
| C21  | 1.658862  | -1.028827 | -1.164699 | 0.058483        | -0.009996    |
| C22  | 3.049989  | -1.023908 | -1.201581 | -0.351702       | -0.00189     |
| H23  | 3.568187  | -0.999821 | -2.154634 | 0.181597        | -0.000104    |
| C24  | 3.754336  | -1.032207 | -0.000333 | -0.217367       | -0.023249    |
| H25  | 4.83946   | -1.022404 | -0.000387 | 0.184433        | 0.001253     |
| C26  | 3.050111  | -1.024297 | 1.20099   | -0.351693       | -0.00189     |
| C27  | 1.658982  | -1.029206 | 1.164245  | 0.058484        | -0.010002    |
| C28  | -0.611144 | 0.993405  | 2.409769  | -0.006781       | 0.003953     |
| H29  | 0.012935  | 1.33656   | 3.246163  | 0.167024        | 0.000782     |
| H30  | 3.568406  | -1.00052  | 2.153999  | 0.181598        | -0.000104    |
| C31  | 0.810962  | -1.045802 | 2.413473  | -0.107258       | 0.000689     |
| H32  | 0.657074  | -2.091154 | 2.704969  | 0.200864        | -0.000675    |
| H33  | 1.355048  | -0.562549 | 3.236648  | 0.167665        | 0.001461     |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | -1.652508 | 1.209278  | 2.675429  | 0.201128  | -0.000512 |
| H35 | 0.656903  | -2.090285 | -2.705726 | 0.200865  | -0.000675 |
| C36 | -2.764114 | -1.097368 | 0.000002  | 0.594548  | -0.080743 |
| O37 | -2.260247 | -2.287288 | -0.000191 | -0.618837 | -0.030667 |
| O38 | -3.954508 | -0.741216 | 0.00011   | -0.763328 | -0.02616  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2336.79133427 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.8204, after 0.7524

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 45.1714 | 51.6391 | 55.7872 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.1866  | 8.2560  | 3.2170  |

Zero-point correction= 0.302389 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.320655

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.321600

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.255801

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2336.488945

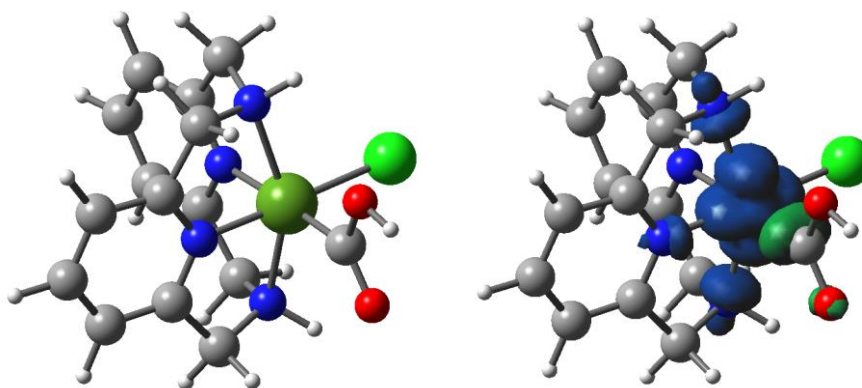
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2336.470679

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2336.469735

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2336.535533

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000033 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S31.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{H}^-)\text{Cl}$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.672969 | -0.684314 | -0.034173 | -0.69543        | 1.008585     |
| C2   | 1.965975  | -0.618973 | -1.140458 | -0.02591        | -0.002766    |
| N3   | 1.280365  | -0.704172 | 0.009549  | 0.344224        | 0.00037      |
| N4   | -0.345466 | -0.362321 | 2.14417   | -0.351212       | 0.017589     |
| H5   | -0.992178 | -0.930144 | 2.67852   | 0.378258        | -0.001368    |
| C6   | 3.352589  | -0.497473 | -1.142616 | -0.548511       | 0.002177     |
| H7   | 3.891106  | -0.424656 | -2.081521 | 0.185192        | -0.000058    |
| N8   | -0.524876 | 1.280783  | -0.004422 | 0.50195         | 0.040501     |
| C9   | 4.023339  | -0.460853 | 0.076918  | -0.194009       | -0.006378    |
| H10  | 5.103618  | -0.361167 | 0.103645  | 0.186744        | 0.000445     |
| C11  | 3.29664   | -0.534657 | 1.262454  | -0.579321       | 0.001495     |
| H12  | 3.791042  | -0.49084  | 2.227068  | 0.185095        | -0.000059    |
| N13  | -0.248424 | -0.310565 | -2.183325 | -0.352732       | 0.018277     |
| H14  | -0.866803 | -0.874774 | -2.753617 | 0.380238        | -0.001399    |
| C15  | 1.912015  | -0.655514 | 1.192243  | -0.004035       | -0.003251    |
| C16  | 1.03057   | -0.792013 | 2.410303  | 0.015165        | -0.002573    |
| H17  | 1.479125  | -0.25776  | 3.258524  | 0.170216        | 0.001264     |
| H18  | 0.998373  | -1.85311  | 2.681122  | 0.207222        | -0.000194    |
| C19  | -0.627648 | 1.053879  | 2.395798  | -0.051007       | 0.00099      |
| H20  | -0.050812 | 1.451221  | 3.241385  | 0.16889         | 0.000984     |
| C21  | -0.393336 | 1.907821  | 1.170986  | 0.22119         | -0.001805    |
| C22  | -0.09799  | 3.26683   | 1.22893   | -0.546849       | -0.002792    |
| H23  | 0.012961  | 3.759298  | 2.189348  | 0.183657        | 0.00056      |
| C24  | 0.064938  | 3.967231  | 0.036192  | -0.360046       | -0.007754    |
| H25  | 0.30378   | 5.025712  | 0.052379  | 0.186175        | 0.000464     |
| C26  | -0.057453 | 3.294343  | -1.177409 | -0.576708       | -0.001094    |
| C27  | -0.353321 | 1.93465   | -1.160345 | 0.291141        | -0.002546    |
| C28  | 1.142851  | -0.714906 | -2.402829 | -0.010587       | -0.002501    |
| H29  | 1.62339   | -0.141573 | -3.206749 | 0.17069         | 0.001296     |
| H30  | 0.085541  | 3.808497  | -2.122084 | 0.183589        | 0.000551     |
| C31  | -0.543855 | 1.106696  | -2.410469 | -0.071319       | 0.000947     |
| H32  | -1.598234 | 1.174106  | -2.697984 | 0.210134        | -0.00028     |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H33  | 0.048357  | 1.531735  | -3.231601 | 0.168553  | 0.000938  |
| Cl34 | -0.780541 | -3.05973  | -0.049766 | -0.49773  | 0.009665  |
| H35  | 1.137098  | -1.764059 | -2.718409 | 0.205982  | -0.000202 |
| H36  | -1.68781  | 1.131338  | 2.658393  | 0.208097  | -0.000274 |
| C37  | -2.553013 | -0.600388 | -0.130077 | 0.779195  | -0.056068 |
| O38  | -3.21031  | -0.569896 | 1.085732  | -0.473498 | 0.000247  |
| O39  | -3.262122 | -0.558954 | -1.1381   | -0.569981 | -0.011095 |
| H40  | -4.164727 | -0.527253 | 0.889671  | 0.377286  | -0.00289  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2797.99857618 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

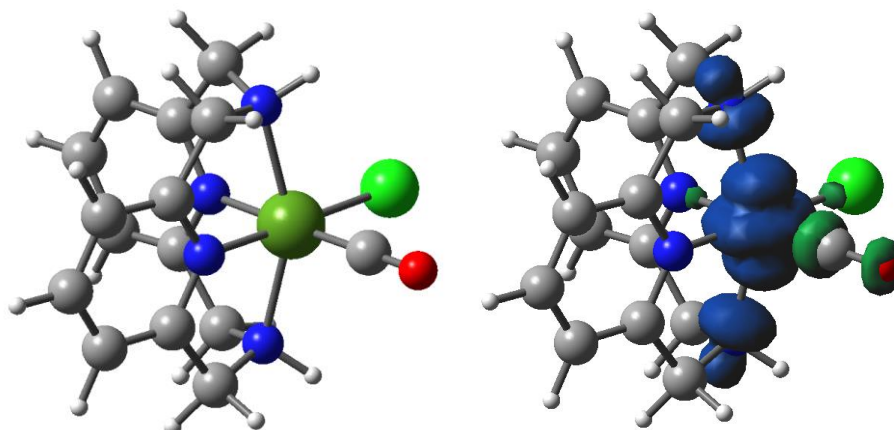
S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7646, after 0.7501

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 43.0651 | 49.1483 | 55.6992 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2573  | 8.3150  | 5.7460  |

Zero-point correction= 0.315647 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.336284  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.337228  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.265573  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2797.682929  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2797.662293  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2797.661348  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2797.733003

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000011 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S32.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})\text{Cl}]^+$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.125451 | -1.056675 | -0.002127 | -0.013171       | 0.96225      |
| C2   | -1.546672 | 1.112629  | 1.171263  | 0.090734        | -0.000425    |
| N3   | -1.219257 | 0.543565  | 0.000826  | 0.372037        | -0.000864    |
| N4   | -0.057684 | -0.571471 | -2.163536 | -0.425322       | 0.0461       |
| H5   | -0.179843 | -1.396983 | -2.739595 | 0.392169        | -0.002287    |
| C6   | -2.233934 | 2.320582  | 1.207183  | -0.706631       | -0.003962    |
| H7   | -2.485057 | 2.772576  | 2.160195  | 0.195502        | 0.000149     |
| N8   | 1.408474  | 0.140581  | -0.000484 | 0.430439        | 0.022076     |
| C9   | -2.579472 | 2.931093  | 0.005427  | -0.177877       | -0.000205    |
| H10  | -3.108047 | 3.878481  | 0.007214  | 0.196573        | 0.000131     |
| C11  | -2.234173 | 2.325047  | -1.198677 | -0.706456       | -0.003986    |
| H12  | -2.485506 | 2.78067   | -2.149901 | 0.195504        | 0.00015      |
| N13  | -0.05647  | -0.579013 | 2.160792  | -0.424504       | 0.045943     |
| H14  | -0.177963 | -1.406375 | 2.734351  | 0.392183        | -0.002285    |
| C15  | -1.546993 | 1.116934  | -1.167471 | 0.09043         | -0.000467    |
| C16  | -1.184636 | 0.339692  | -2.404126 | -0.011496       | -0.002459    |
| H17  | -0.993063 | 1.021726  | -3.240906 | 0.185647        | 0.002184     |
| H18  | -2.05088  | -0.272626 | -2.676347 | 0.222153        | -0.000049    |
| C19  | 1.274558  | -0.004605 | -2.413146 | -0.011446       | -0.000081    |
| H20  | 1.262037  | 0.73449   | -3.222883 | 0.187194        | 0.001919     |
| C21  | 1.867966  | 0.609716  | -1.169853 | -0.000832       | -0.007562    |
| C22  | 2.860838  | 1.582313  | -1.201717 | -0.366183       | -0.001924    |
| H23  | 3.219078  | 1.959156  | -2.153292 | 0.196083        | 0.000275     |
| C24  | 3.365414  | 2.064833  | 0.002144  | -0.226386       | -0.002931    |
| H25  | 4.135398  | 2.82908   | 0.003214  | 0.197478        | 0.000217     |
| C26  | 2.861405  | 1.57845   | 1.204689  | -0.365223       | -0.001876    |
| C27  | 1.868505  | 0.605984  | 1.170181  | -0.003597       | -0.00752     |
| C28  | -1.18375  | 0.330875  | 2.404961  | -0.011289       | -0.002504    |
| H29  | -0.992227 | 1.00983   | 3.244243  | 0.18565         | 0.002178     |
| H30  | 3.220134  | 1.952255  | 2.157282  | 0.196093        | 0.000274     |
| C31  | 1.2756    | -0.012272 | 2.411771  | -0.011587       | -0.000026    |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H32  | 1.932962  | -0.827561 | 2.733141  | 0.219212  | -0.00017  |
| H33  | 1.262818  | 0.72443   | 3.223675  | 0.187221  | 0.001915  |
| Cl34 | -1.975782 | -2.396151 | -0.003489 | -0.344814 | -0.012889 |
| H35  | -2.049687 | -0.282798 | 2.675104  | 0.22218   | -0.000049 |
| H36  | 1.931495  | -0.819296 | -2.736916 | 0.219151  | -0.000169 |
| C37  | 0.847484  | -2.560376 | -0.004732 | 0.572736  | -0.008061 |
| O38  | 1.466942  | -3.521658 | 0.000951  | -0.339556 | -0.023009 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2721.83464338 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7613, after 0.7501

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 42.1301 | 45.7102 | 63.8229 |
| Red. masses -- | 3.1182  | 5.1534  | 7.3002  |

Zero-point correction= 0.302347 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.321229

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.322173

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.254723

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2721.532296

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2721.513414

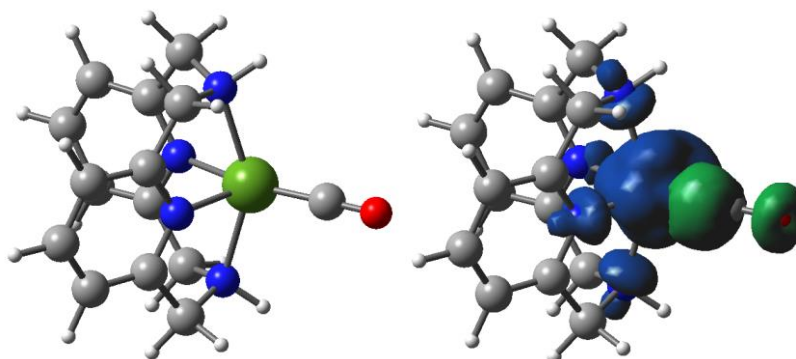
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2721.512470

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2721.579921

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000195 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000017 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S33.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})]^+$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | 0.860961  | -1.114558 | 0.012138  | 0.020282        | 2.130762     |
| C2   | -1.807409 | -0.676456 | 1.172138  | -0.109689       | 0.053613     |
| N3   | -1.17709  | -0.897691 | 0.010208  | 0.186421        | 0.027144     |
| N4   | 0.452675  | -0.710893 | -2.154124 | -0.437998       | 0.030141     |
| H5   | 0.983132  | -1.340789 | -2.745176 | 0.379812        | -0.001129    |
| C6   | -3.145482 | -0.296792 | 1.206486  | -0.255569       | 0.001706     |
| H7   | -3.638553 | -0.119451 | 2.156248  | 0.188236        | 0.000867     |
| N8   | 0.953243  | 0.905253  | -0.009486 | 0.228645        | 0.069802     |
| C9   | -3.822806 | -0.132339 | 0.000859  | -0.234662       | 0.014908     |
| H10  | -4.865084 | 0.16966   | -0.00276  | 0.191411        | -0.000602    |
| C11  | -3.145339 | -0.325494 | -1.200415 | -0.253929       | 0.001679     |
| H12  | -3.638251 | -0.170896 | -2.154215 | 0.188248        | 0.000865     |
| N13  | 0.452732  | -0.663841 | 2.169628  | -0.438058       | 0.030004     |
| H14  | 0.981669  | -1.28242  | 2.773825  | 0.379777        | -0.001126    |
| C15  | -1.807306 | -0.704352 | -1.156781 | -0.110274       | 0.053763     |
| C16  | -0.978769 | -0.944934 | -2.395336 | -0.070672       | -0.018185    |
| H17  | -1.363211 | -0.33746  | -3.224249 | 0.175761        | 0.001925     |
| H18  | -1.095865 | -1.994512 | -2.686988 | 0.208865        | 0.000557     |
| C19  | 0.923079  | 0.662749  | -2.40663  | -0.025734       | 0.01073      |
| H20  | 0.39211   | 1.128526  | -3.246238 | 0.175341        | 0.00156      |
| C21  | 0.815075  | 1.538756  | -1.181165 | -0.149621       | -0.038196    |
| C22  | 0.599469  | 2.912783  | -1.234754 | -0.123039       | -0.005718    |
| H23  | 0.48804   | 3.41224   | -2.191263 | 0.186561        | 0.00034      |
| C24  | 0.508939  | 3.620243  | -0.038068 | -0.294845       | -0.016447    |
| H25  | 0.336122  | 4.691458  | -0.04946  | 0.18968         | 0.000671     |
| C26  | 0.601466  | 2.938565  | 1.173379  | -0.122768       | -0.005736    |
| C27  | 0.816913  | 1.563694  | 1.14869   | -0.150713       | -0.038252    |
| C28  | -0.979293 | -0.888169 | 2.4163    | -0.070038       | -0.017932    |
| H29  | -1.362135 | -0.259017 | 3.229625  | 0.175754        | 0.00193      |
| H30  | 0.491708  | 3.458262  | 2.11923   | 0.18655         | 0.00034      |
| C31  | 0.927234  | 0.713481  | 2.39205   | -0.023723       | 0.010616     |
| H32  | 1.984423  | 0.652238  | 2.673532  | 0.207817        | -0.00051     |
| H33  | 0.400437  | 1.197997  | 3.223651  | 0.175261        | 0.001549     |

|     |           |           |          |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | -1.099364 | -1.929753 | 2.734245 | 0.208849  | 0.000551  |
| H35 | 1.979313  | 0.598247  | -2.69091 | 0.207867  | -0.000517 |
| C36 | 2.518953  | -1.776163 | 0.017368 | 0.437694  | -0.241714 |
| O37 | 3.607536  | -2.18056  | 0.019358 | -0.427502 | -0.05996  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2261.26374193 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0519, after 2.0012

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 40.3369 | 54.3344 | 56.4937 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.1341  | 9.3320  | 3.1702  |

Zero-point correction= 0.299339 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.316774

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.317718

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.253155

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2260.964403

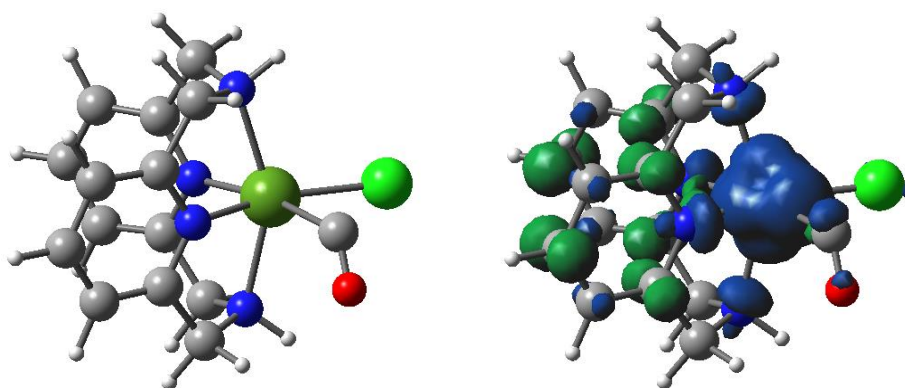
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2260.946968

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2260.946024

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2261.010587

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000012 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S34.** TS geometry optimized for  $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl}\cdots\text{CO}]^{\ddagger}$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.93751 | 0.65496  | -0.12032 | -0.56494        | 2.107988     |
| C2   | 1.53137  | 1.09344  | 1.35085  | -0.09693        | -0.065871    |
| N3   | 0.98154  | 1.1508   | 0.12316  | 0.384861        | 0.056447     |
| N4   | -0.22592 | 0.50223  | -2.24629 | -0.40477        | 0.01969      |
| H5   | -0.85863 | 0.91409  | -2.92321 | 0.366665        | -0.00102     |
| C6   | 2.9094   | 1.13478  | 1.53355  | -0.24256        | 0.026405     |
| H7   | 3.32628  | 1.08252  | 2.53441  | 0.175076        | -0.000465    |
| N8   | -0.27516 | -1.22685 | -0.13116 | 0.485136        | 0.039302     |
| C9   | 3.73616  | 1.22649  | 0.41367  | -0.24748        | -0.091678    |
| H10  | 4.8149   | 1.2557   | 0.52719  | 0.178704        | 0.004324     |
| C11  | 3.15804  | 1.24623  | -0.85627 | -0.2274         | 0.028381     |
| H12  | 3.77244  | 1.28189  | -1.75039 | 0.175197        | -0.00033     |
| N13  | -0.67149 | 0.27616  | 2.11901  | -0.33364        | 0.017282     |
| H14  | -1.44061 | 0.61555  | 2.68574  | 0.365099        | -0.001134    |
| C15  | 1.77286  | 1.20292  | -0.96542 | -0.12038        | -0.076174    |
| C16  | 1.04493  | 1.24192  | -2.28778 | -0.04542        | 0.014446     |
| H17  | 1.70816  | 0.88569  | -3.08804 | 0.163328        | 0.000958     |
| H18  | 0.79777  | 2.28587  | -2.51375 | 0.196309        | -0.001802    |
| C19  | -0.12265 | -0.93842 | -2.5216  | 0.007365        | -0.010314    |
| H20  | 0.60089  | -1.16109 | -3.31793 | 0.162571        | 0.000787     |
| C21  | 0.2226   | -1.72485 | -1.28071 | 0.104412        | -0.049262    |
| C22  | 0.98003  | -2.89031 | -1.30287 | -0.36228        | 0.047717     |
| H23  | 1.37305  | -3.26333 | -2.2435  | 0.173963        | -0.000545    |
| C24  | 1.23642  | -3.55366 | -0.10257 | -0.26782        | -0.097592    |
| H25  | 1.82752  | -4.46349 | -0.09096 | 0.17831         | 0.004551     |
| C26  | 0.74969  | -3.00998 | 1.08633  | -0.8554         | 0.043411     |
| C27  | 0.00043  | -1.83987 | 1.03689  | 0.205389        | -0.045401    |
| C28  | 0.54466  | 1.01365  | 2.49061  | -0.01431        | 0.012904     |
| H29  | 1.03477  | 0.58908  | 3.37794  | 0.161765        | 0.00078      |
| H30  | 0.95873  | -3.47875 | 2.04292  | 0.174359        | -0.00047     |
| C31  | -0.58387 | -1.18238 | 2.26416  | 0.023294        | -0.007283    |
| H32  | -1.60594 | -1.55248 | 2.40297  | 0.196454        | -0.001908    |

|      |          |          |          |          |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H33  | -0.00995 | -1.48099 | 3.15259  | 0.16215  | 0.000664  |
| Cl34 | -2.51838 | 2.39858  | -0.12807 | -0.62591 | 0.021281  |
| H35  | 0.23414  | 2.03256  | 2.75032  | 0.19566  | -0.001906 |
| H36  | -1.10714 | -1.26413 | -2.87603 | 0.194809 | -0.001749 |
| C37  | -3.20251 | -0.8498  | -0.47027 | 0.036705 | 0.003087  |
| O38  | -3.72868 | -1.33447 | 0.42141  | -0.05835 | 0.0045    |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2721.95272390 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.1900, after 2.0028

|                |           |         |         |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|
|                | 1         | 2       | 3       |
|                | A         | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | -108.4151 | 25.6905 | 33.8738 |
| Red. masses -- | 12.9175   | 13.0185 | 11.4517 |

Zero-point correction= 0.296105 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.316340

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.317284

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.244717

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2721.656619

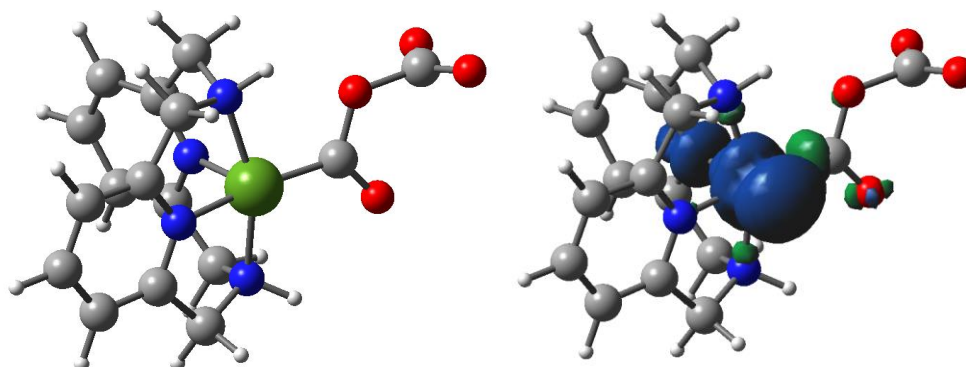
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2721.636384

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2721.635440

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2721.708007

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000007 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000001 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S35.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C})$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | 0.224622  | -0.658817 | -0.306313 | 0.504011        | 0.870567     |
| C2   | -2.067002 | -1.356553 | 1.170679  | -0.018655       | 0.036895     |
| N3   | -1.62969  | -1.061077 | -0.060823 | 0.267507        | 0.005503     |
| N4   | -0.404059 | -0.082225 | -2.159179 | -0.454912       | 0.043407     |
| H5   | 0.241578  | -0.431263 | -2.863521 | 0.405958        | -0.000404    |
| C6   | -3.425985 | -1.514654 | 1.41541   | -0.477638       | 0.010406     |
| H7   | -3.784772 | -1.748383 | 2.411544  | 0.193039        | 0.000077     |
| N8   | -0.111503 | 1.237734  | 0.123578  | 0.390207        | 0.075548     |
| C9   | -4.311846 | -1.35915  | 0.348985  | -0.270233       | 0.007201     |
| H10  | -5.378502 | -1.470451 | 0.513476  | 0.192781        | -0.000258    |
| C11  | -3.834829 | -1.056556 | -0.926605 | -0.518762       | 0.006625     |
| H12  | -4.512974 | -0.931274 | -1.763365 | 0.193072        | 0.000076     |
| N13  | 0.277333  | -0.84232  | 1.725608  | -0.390246       | 0.044157     |
| H14  | 1.085932  | -1.383867 | 2.019758  | 0.4007          | -0.000363    |
| C15  | -2.463277 | -0.913477 | -1.099544 | -0.004535       | 0.0274       |
| C16  | -1.752829 | -0.657137 | -2.402858 | 0.016652        | -0.023039    |
| H17  | -2.349082 | -0.021002 | -3.065025 | 0.186528        | 0.000102     |
| H18  | -1.616295 | -1.617066 | -2.912094 | 0.217773        | 0.000449     |
| C19  | -0.364876 | 1.407414  | -2.224205 | 0.013157        | 0.016275     |
| H20  | -1.105679 | 1.789084  | -2.933754 | 0.183709        | -0.001079    |
| C21  | -0.535216 | 2.030019  | -0.857798 | 0.072189        | -0.005293    |
| C22  | -1.022487 | 3.300616  | -0.568656 | -0.493318       | -0.002512    |
| H23  | -1.374602 | 3.957272  | -1.356828 | 0.187521        | 0.000919     |
| C24  | -1.053316 | 3.699557  | 0.769704  | -0.386949       | -0.009483    |
| H25  | -1.433392 | 4.682559  | 1.028319  | 0.188796        | 0.000485     |
| C26  | -0.613941 | 2.840858  | 1.779781  | -0.543163       | -0.006399    |
| C27  | -0.140075 | 1.586634  | 1.407125  | 0.159185        | -0.01429     |
| C28  | -0.954851 | -1.547518 | 2.168367  | 0.107572        | -0.028503    |
| H29  | -1.259317 | -1.233934 | 3.17213   | 0.187066        | -0.000018    |
| H30  | -0.647083 | 3.139228  | 2.822005  | 0.18857         | 0.000914     |
| C31  | 0.432829  | 0.521297  | 2.311707  | -0.102598       | 0.026132     |
| H32  | 1.508577  | 0.701003  | 2.402018  | 0.220155        | -0.000388    |
| H33  | -0.000692 | 0.568533  | 3.31557   | 0.182991        | -0.001119    |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | -0.722719 | -2.616579 | 2.219457  | 0.217796  | 0.000454  |
| H35 | 0.625189  | 1.682934  | -2.601056 | 0.2178    | -0.000386 |
| C36 | 2.086723  | -0.550836 | -0.672223 | 0.187399  | -0.084805 |
| O37 | 2.586249  | -0.471112 | -1.80009  | -0.578708 | 0.001334  |
| O38 | 2.900573  | -0.601632 | 0.420358  | -0.345124 | 0.007355  |
| C39 | 4.36446   | -0.557095 | 0.199834  | 0.641664  | -0.002818 |
| O40 | 4.886495  | -1.675136 | 0.101525  | -0.671651 | -0.000813 |
| O41 | 4.835882  | 0.587372  | 0.220621  | -0.667305 | -0.000313 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2525.77341526 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7631, after 0.7501

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 21.2093 | 30.0700 | 42.3696 |
| Red. masses -- | 11.1511 | 9.8424  | 5.2500  |

Zero-point correction= 0.317791 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.338601

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.339545

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.266114

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2525.455625

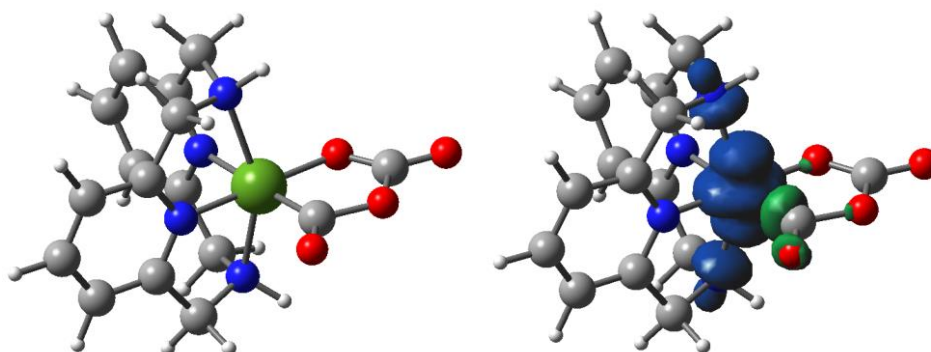
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2525.434815

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2525.433870

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2525.507302

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000017 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S36.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C,O})$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | 0.785297  | -0.025397 | 0.000247  | 0.97661         | 0.98132      |
| C2   | -1.123141 | 1.802379  | -1.165356 | -0.118576       | 0.001641     |
| N3   | -0.603951 | 1.386292  | 0.00001   | -0.064024       | 0.020626     |
| N4   | 0.258501  | 0.029188  | 2.194296  | -0.501517       | 0.025286     |
| H5   | 1.083416  | 0.008941  | 2.781822  | 0.376484        | -0.001638    |
| C6   | -2.192644 | 2.692292  | -1.202318 | -0.386897       | -0.000066    |
| H7   | -2.600436 | 3.011636  | -2.155421 | 0.186931        | 0.000091     |
| N8   | -0.673624 | -1.294262 | 0.000042  | 0.201909        | 0.040046     |
| C9   | -2.728131 | 3.146975  | -0.00099  | -0.263315       | -0.006384    |
| H10  | -3.566069 | 3.836496  | -0.001344 | 0.188419        | 0.000374     |
| C11  | -2.19404  | 2.691946  | 1.200851  | -0.386541       | -0.000061    |
| H12  | -2.603051 | 3.011029  | 2.153523  | 0.186932        | 0.000092     |
| N13  | 0.26007   | 0.02893   | -2.193683 | -0.501527       | 0.025363     |
| H14  | 1.085758  | 0.008547  | -2.780083 | 0.376539        | -0.001643    |
| C15  | -1.124377 | 1.802232  | 1.164913  | -0.119984       | 0.001627     |
| C16  | -0.457409 | 1.287564  | 2.417755  | -0.009921       | 0.000807     |
| H17  | -1.198266 | 1.207852  | 3.224604  | 0.173647        | 0.001876     |
| H18  | 0.278014  | 2.034326  | 2.736875  | 0.204679        | -0.00024     |
| C19  | -0.514601 | -1.196037 | 2.413949  | -0.014361       | 0.001515     |
| H20  | -1.237054 | -1.092488 | 3.234415  | 0.172928        | 0.001229     |
| C21  | -1.227868 | -1.658805 | 1.165843  | 0.099574        | -0.006591    |
| C22  | -2.37264  | -2.448842 | 1.201186  | -0.659702       | -0.001124    |
| H23  | -2.809192 | -2.728411 | 2.154183  | 0.186235        | 0.000224     |
| C24  | -2.945423 | -2.855221 | -0.000675 | -0.209525       | -0.006052    |
| H25  | -3.841893 | -3.466604 | -0.000945 | 0.187875        | 0.000428     |
| C26  | -2.371938 | -2.448848 | -1.202182 | -0.660269       | -0.001131    |
| C27  | -1.227141 | -1.658854 | -1.166147 | 0.099165        | -0.006598    |
| C28  | -0.455504 | 1.287397  | -2.41779  | -0.011274       | 0.000783     |
| H29  | -1.196097 | 1.207459  | -3.224844 | 0.173669        | 0.001875     |
| H30  | -2.807916 | -2.728441 | -2.155431 | 0.186237        | 0.000224     |
| C31  | -0.512831 | -1.19634  | -2.413811 | -0.013581       | 0.001495     |
| H32  | 0.193259  | -1.981497 | -2.706085 | 0.208313        | -0.000198    |
| H33  | -1.234613 | -1.092872 | -3.234888 | 0.172946        | 0.00123      |

|     |          |           |           |           |           |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | 0.280047 | 2.034003  | -2.736965 | 0.204696  | -0.00024  |
| H35 | 0.191287 | -1.981178 | 2.706788  | 0.208284  | -0.000198 |
| C36 | 2.15528  | -1.304469 | 0.00045   | 0.595536  | -0.063651 |
| O37 | 2.214738 | -2.523216 | 0.000046  | -0.5788   | -0.011533 |
| O38 | 2.254188 | 1.232481  | 0.00149   | -0.741367 | 0.008873  |
| C39 | 3.416864 | 0.699891  | 0.000842  | 0.989868  | -0.001603 |
| O40 | 3.446424 | -0.683025 | 0.000112  | -0.440165 | -0.007154 |
| O41 | 4.502912 | 1.28455   | 0.000019  | -0.676128 | -0.000919 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2525.80629716 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7616, after 0.7501

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 41.5297 | 43.4273 | 54.5200 |
| Red. masses -- | 10.0118 | 5.2064  | 7.1002  |

Zero-point correction= 0.318061 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.338461

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.339406

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.268756

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2525.488236

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2525.467836

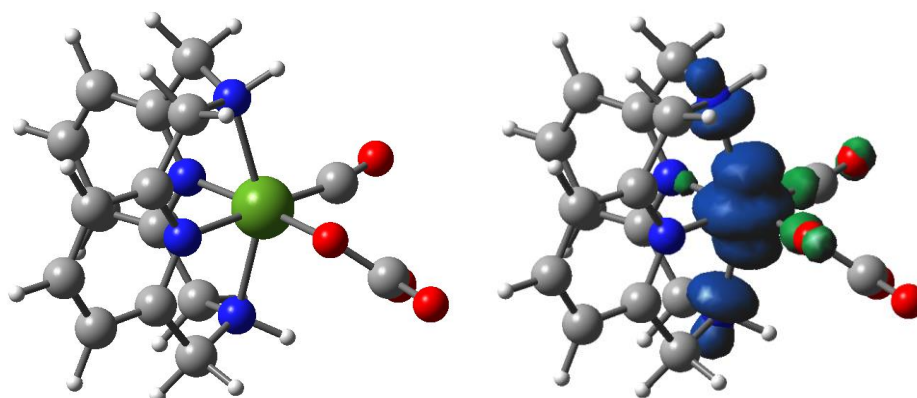
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2525.466892

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2525.537541

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000169 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000018 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S37.** TS geometry optimized for  $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO} \cdots \text{CO}_3^{2-})]^\ddagger$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | 0.6757   | -0.34339 | -0.29988 | 1.134334        | 0.958984     |
| C2   | -0.83094 | 1.99956  | -1.05378 | -0.22121        | 0.008596     |
| N3   | -0.20235 | 1.40015  | -0.0347  | 0.144508        | 0.011001     |
| N4   | 0.73891  | -0.23253 | 1.89603  | -0.5064         | 0.046151     |
| H5   | 1.68215  | -0.54732 | 2.10471  | 0.410527        | -0.00261     |
| C6   | -1.53774 | 3.18306  | -0.86164 | -0.3448         | -0.0004      |
| H7   | -2.0493  | 3.65171  | -1.69539 | 0.189658        | 0.000339     |
| N8   | -1.05315 | -1.13163 | 0.08498  | 0.195565        | 0.020153     |
| C9   | -1.57871 | 3.73813  | 0.41372  | -0.36325        | -0.00341     |
| H10  | -2.12915 | 4.65612  | 0.59204  | 0.191054        | 0.000201     |
| C11  | -0.92205 | 3.10012  | 1.4623   | -0.39234        | 0.000595     |
| H12  | -0.94652 | 3.5031   | 2.46897  | 0.190172        | 0.000344     |
| N13  | -0.32847 | -0.06885 | -2.31245 | -0.5487         | 0.028851     |
| H14  | 0.28714  | -0.30898 | -3.08048 | 0.386619        | -0.00184     |
| C15  | -0.23576 | 1.91859  | 1.20142  | 0.010944        | -0.00269     |
| C16  | 0.54818  | 1.17041  | 2.25485  | -0.11849        | -0.00422     |
| H17  | 0.0649   | 1.28856  | 3.23302  | 0.176697        | 0.002043     |
| H18  | 1.53691  | 1.63555  | 2.32969  | 0.211411        | -0.00018     |
| C19  | -0.27064 | -1.17344 | 2.37656  | -0.14589        | -0.00367     |
| H20  | -0.69814 | -0.87218 | 3.34119  | 0.178624        | 0.001855     |
| C21  | -1.37857 | -1.36813 | 1.36659  | 0.123393        | -0.01192     |
| C22  | -2.65684 | -1.79497 | 1.70862  | -0.63502        | -0.0013      |
| H23  | -2.90643 | -1.97624 | 2.74839  | 0.191545        | 0.000073     |
| C24  | -3.60019 | -1.96706 | 0.69977  | -0.18561        | -0.00351     |
| H25  | -4.60652 | -2.29199 | 0.94269  | 0.192317        | 0.000327     |
| C26  | -3.2505  | -1.69824 | -0.62024 | -0.51283        | -0.00068     |
| C27  | -1.95459 | -1.27655 | -0.89826 | 0.108276        | -0.01169     |
| C28  | -0.67877 | 1.3512   | -2.40805 | 0.098491        | 0.000474     |
| H29  | -1.5875  | 1.5142   | -3.00185 | 0.177731        | 0.001943     |
| H30  | -3.97015 | -1.80313 | -1.4248  | 0.191003        | 0.000065     |
| C31  | -1.46115 | -1.0004  | -2.29723 | -0.0842         | 0.003519     |
| H32  | -1.11692 | -1.94848 | -2.72547 | 0.21251         | -0.00015     |

|     |          |          |          |          |          |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| H33 | -2.29436 | -0.65283 | -2.92115 | 0.178691 | 0.001602 |
| H34 | 0.13775  | 1.86052  | -2.93098 | 0.208058 | -0.00018 |
| H35 | 0.21725  | -2.14178 | 2.53568  | 0.212252 | -0.00021 |
| C36 | 1.50456  | -1.95302 | -0.49068 | 0.342804 | -0.00481 |
| O37 | 1.81519  | -3.04576 | -0.68046 | -0.36039 | -0.01997 |
| O38 | 2.29464  | 0.57492  | -0.64537 | -0.70145 | -0.01123 |
| C39 | 3.41175  | 0.08865  | -0.10507 | 0.916688 | 0.003044 |
| O40 | 3.3379   | -1.02974 | 0.52878  | -0.6814  | -0.00225 |
| O41 | 4.47754  | 0.75399  | -0.24668 | -0.77192 | -0.00327 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2525.78500282 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7608, after 0.7501

|                |          |         |         |
|----------------|----------|---------|---------|
|                | 1        | 2       | 3       |
|                | A        | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | -87.7236 | 43.1261 | 50.7117 |
| Red. masses -- | 11.8122  | 5.2350  | 6.0329  |

Zero-point correction= 0.316237 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.336746

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.337690

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.266815

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2525.468766

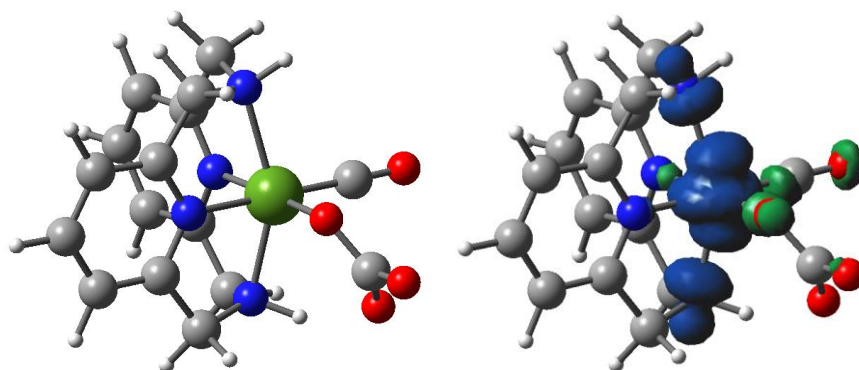
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2525.448257

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2525.447312

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2525.518188

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000039 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000004 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S38.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})(\text{CO}_3^{2-})$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | 0.59985   | -0.451396 | -0.352325 | 1.034027        | 0.960164     |
| C2   | -0.613074 | 2.100585  | -0.988346 | -0.262604       | 0.004273     |
| N3   | -0.054989 | 1.387514  | -0.001411 | 0.203909        | 0.010349     |
| N4   | 0.739717  | -0.420754 | 1.816047  | -0.476299       | 0.057169     |
| H5   | 1.702117  | -0.788945 | 1.837209  | 0.433066        | -0.002357    |
| C6   | -1.170658 | 3.35077   | -0.740825 | -0.250211       | 0.001598     |
| H7   | -1.627912 | 3.911616  | -1.548611 | 0.1893          | 0.000437     |
| N8   | -1.192882 | -1.045526 | 0.064424  | 0.160165        | 0.01548      |
| C9   | -1.135181 | 3.852852  | 0.55713   | -0.391185       | -0.002627    |
| H10  | -1.569542 | 4.822214  | 0.77898   | 0.191102        | 0.000171     |
| C11  | -0.552718 | 3.097969  | 1.570646  | -0.450654       | -0.000497    |
| H12  | -0.520547 | 3.459064  | 2.592975  | 0.18974         | 0.00045      |
| N13  | -0.423961 | 0.029244  | -2.313174 | -0.548593       | 0.03012      |
| H14  | 0.121816  | -0.280779 | -3.108658 | 0.388871        | -0.00192     |
| C15  | -0.016854 | 1.853175  | 1.25444   | 0.118984        | -0.002386    |
| C16  | 0.674755  | 0.963631  | 2.262212  | -0.23493        | -0.002975    |
| H17  | 0.188267  | 1.061066  | 3.240785  | 0.175168        | 0.002352     |
| H18  | 1.700996  | 1.329577  | 2.382151  | 0.207543        | -0.000196    |
| C19  | -0.298848 | -1.323171 | 2.291118  | -0.14676        | -0.001731    |
| H20  | -0.639998 | -1.079249 | 3.305295  | 0.176419        | 0.001899     |
| C21  | -1.479046 | -1.34062  | 1.344853  | 0.126458        | -0.014938    |
| C22  | -2.777929 | -1.657553 | 1.723801  | -0.553247       | -0.000337    |
| H23  | -2.998103 | -1.888699 | 2.760254  | 0.191848        | 0.000056     |
| C24  | -3.779622 | -1.655538 | 0.756248  | -0.200377       | -0.003191    |
| H25  | -4.802721 | -1.891711 | 1.029807  | 0.192571        | 0.000323     |
| C26  | -3.465394 | -1.329757 | -0.559436 | -0.505189       | 0.000537     |
| C27  | -2.145563 | -1.025923 | -0.878417 | 0.155453        | -0.017328    |
| C28  | -0.548333 | 1.488969  | -2.365086 | 0.137906        | -0.001536    |
| H29  | -1.413476 | 1.810425  | -2.95901  | 0.178211        | 0.002051     |
| H30  | -4.228472 | -1.303101 | -1.329601 | 0.191415        | 0.000048     |
| C31  | -1.690465 | -0.712652 | -2.283218 | -0.125961       | 0.002114     |
| H32  | -1.533343 | -1.664039 | -2.803327 | 0.214076        | -0.000188    |
| H33  | -2.489075 | -0.186638 | -2.821116 | 0.181287        | 0.001775     |

|     |          |           |           |           |           |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | 0.345245 | 1.879213  | -2.863805 | 0.209403  | -0.000119 |
| H35 | 0.120211 | -2.335588 | 2.333382  | 0.208337  | -0.00017  |
| C36 | 1.246921 | -2.093458 | -0.695618 | 0.364678  | 0.00838   |
| O37 | 1.672075 | -3.12812  | -0.946112 | -0.326203 | -0.027115 |
| O38 | 2.314482 | 0.251566  | -0.752122 | -0.684747 | -0.019101 |
| C39 | 3.400911 | -0.103069 | -0.050271 | 0.833337  | 0.00511   |
| O40 | 3.276029 | -0.932311 | 0.919353  | -0.732291 | -0.000084 |
| O41 | 4.497412 | 0.419199  | -0.404935 | -0.764024 | -0.00606  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2525.78649737 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

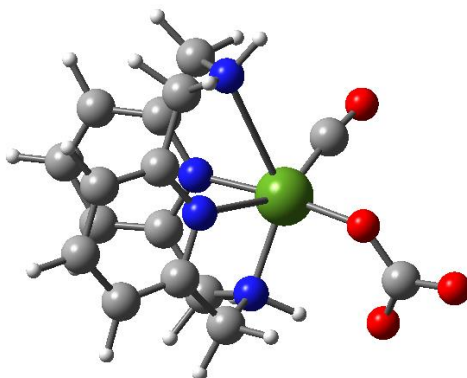
S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7628, after 0.7501

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 44.4207 | 49.6886 | 60.2177 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.3430  | 7.6977  | 4.1295  |

Zero-point correction= 0.316415 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.337542  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.338487  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.266252  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2525.470082  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2525.448955  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2525.448011  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2525.520245

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000046 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000007 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S39.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Co}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})(\text{CO}_3^{2-})]^-$  (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Co1  | 1.04815  | -0.57387 | -0.10363 | 0.178047        |
| C2   | -1.75191 | 1.12743  | -1.55283 | -0.19683        |
| N3   | -0.65951 | 1.24057  | -0.79582 | 0.029656        |
| N4   | 1.04573  | 0.79954  | 1.37424  | -0.4777         |
| H5   | 2.08754  | 0.79372  | 1.50239  | 0.434045        |
| C6   | -2.83296 | 2.00617  | -1.42152 | -0.12668        |
| H7   | -3.71136 | 1.88606  | -2.04876 | 0.17058         |
| N8   | -0.6344  | -1.09428 | 0.6634   | 0.140725        |
| C9   | -2.76718 | 3.01456  | -0.46787 | -0.24515        |
| H10  | -3.59208 | 3.70948  | -0.34309 | 0.179101        |
| C11  | -1.64426 | 3.09545  | 0.35352  | -0.13129        |
| H12  | -1.57495 | 3.8417   | 1.13872  | 0.172421        |
| N13  | -0.9363  | -1.10325 | -2.28688 | -0.40534        |
| H14  | -0.58528 | -1.52444 | -3.13682 | 0.335556        |
| C15  | -0.61556 | 2.17613  | 0.16058  | -0.03916        |
| C16  | 0.62078  | 2.15808  | 1.02755  | -0.12869        |
| H17  | 0.45647  | 2.77009  | 1.92465  | 0.15191         |
| H18  | 1.45036  | 2.60995  | 0.472    | 0.192217        |
| C19  | 0.32401  | 0.15951  | 2.47444  | -0.31834        |
| H20  | -0.03834 | 0.8792   | 3.22093  | 0.164571        |
| C21  | -0.82458 | -0.6415  | 1.9236   | 0.122871        |
| C22  | -1.99835 | -0.88261 | 2.62643  | -0.25267        |
| H23  | -2.10705 | -0.50469 | 3.63743  | 0.181186        |
| C24  | -3.02246 | -1.58624 | 2.00198  | -0.29627        |
| H25  | -3.95265 | -1.78973 | 2.52241  | 0.184913        |
| C26  | -2.84839 | -1.98399 | 0.68127  | -0.51328        |
| C27  | -1.64733 | -1.71805 | 0.02442  | 0.269947        |
| C28  | -1.7996  | 0.01645  | -2.58939 | -0.0585         |
| H29  | -2.85595 | -0.27382 | -2.72726 | 0.148038        |
| H30  | -3.64455 | -2.48751 | 0.14342  | 0.175111        |
| C31  | -1.46674 | -2.13749 | -1.41675 | -0.17765        |
| H32  | -0.75778 | -2.9734  | -1.44444 | 0.183139        |
| H33  | -2.43861 | -2.5277  | -1.76339 | 0.142844        |
| H34  | -1.47277 | 0.43788  | -3.54758 | 0.182681        |

|     |         |          |          |          |
|-----|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| H35 | 1.02226 | -0.51556 | 2.98447  | 0.194169 |
| C36 | 1.62376 | -2.14481 | -0.46115 | 0.37807  |
| O37 | 2.12173 | -3.20916 | -0.52509 | -0.46143 |
| O38 | 2.57604 | 0.24954  | -0.88289 | -0.67546 |
| C39 | 3.64283 | 0.73974  | -0.26662 | 0.72283  |
| O40 | 3.68464 | 0.75868  | 1.02346  | -0.75023 |
| O41 | 4.58681 | 1.18498  | -0.99142 | -0.77997 |

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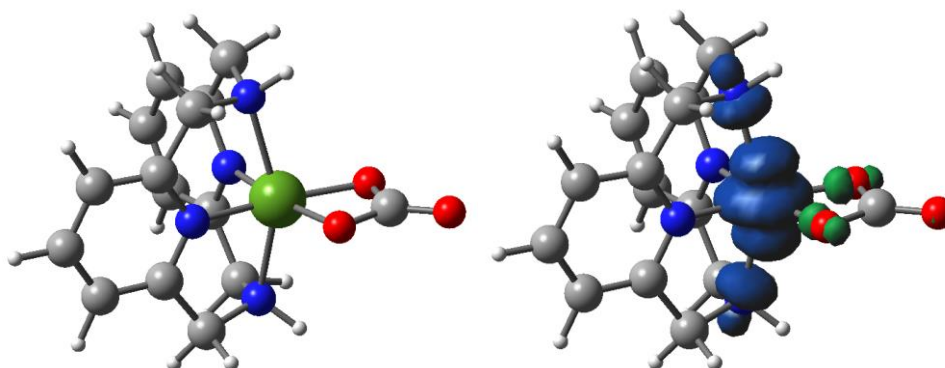
SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2525.89371396 A.U. after 1 cycles

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 30.2121 | 36.4361 | 48.4627 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.9102  | 7.4129  | 10.2905 |

Zero-point correction= 0.313608 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.335276  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.336220  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.262139  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2525.580106  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2525.558438  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2525.557494  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2525.631575

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000014 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S40.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_3^{2-})$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Co1  | -0.98318  | 0.000051  | 0.000053  | 1.123149        | 0.906776     |
| C2   | 0.944804  | 1.735652  | 1.166817  | 0.117954        | -0.004502    |
| N3   | 0.41206   | 1.336285  | 0.000042  | 0.102427        | 0.032136     |
| N4   | -0.480625 | -0.000032 | -2.210393 | -0.545551       | 0.0289       |
| H5   | -1.305121 | -0.000067 | -2.798582 | 0.377051        | -0.001808    |
| C6   | 2.039659  | 2.593517  | 1.201291  | -0.609682       | 0.000735     |
| H7   | 2.457572  | 2.899686  | 2.154447  | 0.185798        | 0.000099     |
| N8   | 0.412319  | -1.336334 | -0.000042 | 0.10233         | 0.032193     |
| C9   | 2.58768   | 3.03344   | 0.000003  | -0.133012       | -0.009062    |
| H10  | 3.445427  | 3.698088  | -0.000012 | 0.187852        | 0.000543     |
| C11  | 2.039601  | 2.593538  | -1.201269 | -0.609792       | 0.000736     |
| H12  | 2.457445  | 2.899755  | -2.154441 | 0.185797        | 0.000099     |
| N13  | -0.480412 | -0.000182 | 2.210501  | -0.545551       | 0.028895     |
| H14  | -1.304881 | -0.000255 | 2.798728  | 0.377053        | -0.001808    |
| C15  | 0.944761  | 1.73566   | -1.166753 | 0.117926        | -0.004516    |
| C16  | 0.264779  | 1.24129   | -2.422613 | -0.101698       | 0.002745     |
| H17  | 1.006627  | 1.151605  | -3.227921 | 0.172707        | 0.001316     |
| H18  | -0.452607 | 2.007145  | -2.73775  | 0.20573         | -0.000323    |
| C19  | 0.264919  | -1.241246 | -2.422672 | -0.101485       | 0.002735     |
| H20  | 1.006718  | -1.151428 | -3.228012 | 0.172701        | 0.001316     |
| C21  | 0.945037  | -1.735537 | -1.166844 | 0.117341        | -0.0045      |
| C22  | 2.040113  | -2.593124 | -1.201439 | -0.609354       | 0.000728     |
| H23  | 2.457996  | -2.899188 | -2.154642 | 0.185795        | 0.000101     |
| C24  | 2.588333  | -3.032917 | -0.000191 | -0.132992       | -0.009041    |
| H25  | 3.446252  | -3.697341 | -0.000249 | 0.187849        | 0.000542     |
| C26  | 2.040216  | -2.5932   | 1.201133  | -0.609308       | 0.000727     |
| C27  | 0.945134  | -1.735615 | 1.166694  | 0.117388        | -0.004509    |
| C28  | 0.264987  | 1.241148  | 2.422717  | -0.101812       | 0.002734     |
| H29  | 1.006942  | 1.151418  | 3.227924  | 0.172711        | 0.001315     |
| H30  | 2.458181  | -2.899326 | 2.15428   | 0.185793        | 0.000101     |
| C31  | 0.265124  | -1.241426 | 2.422621  | -0.101487       | 0.002744     |
| H32  | -0.452149 | -2.007404 | 2.737723  | 0.205723        | -0.000322    |
| H33  | 1.006972  | -1.151725 | 3.227931  | 0.172706        | 0.001316     |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | -0.452361 | 2.006975  | 2.738006  | 0.205729  | -0.000323 |
| H35 | -0.452349 | -2.007211 | -2.737819 | 0.20572   | -0.000322 |
| O36 | -2.583084 | 1.085913  | -0.000208 | -0.746017 | -0.006189 |
| C37 | -3.327369 | -0.000246 | 0.000041  | 1.316579  | 0.010064  |
| O38 | -2.582332 | -1.08595  | 0.00022   | -0.746289 | -0.006248 |
| O39 | -4.573943 | -0.000695 | 0.000111  | -0.807781 | -0.006126 |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2412.22316869 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7598, after 0.7501

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 45.3725 | 48.7759 | 51.1140 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2176  | 3.0503  | 8.3840  |

Zero-point correction= 0.308302 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.327089

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.328033

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.260889

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2411.914867

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2411.896080

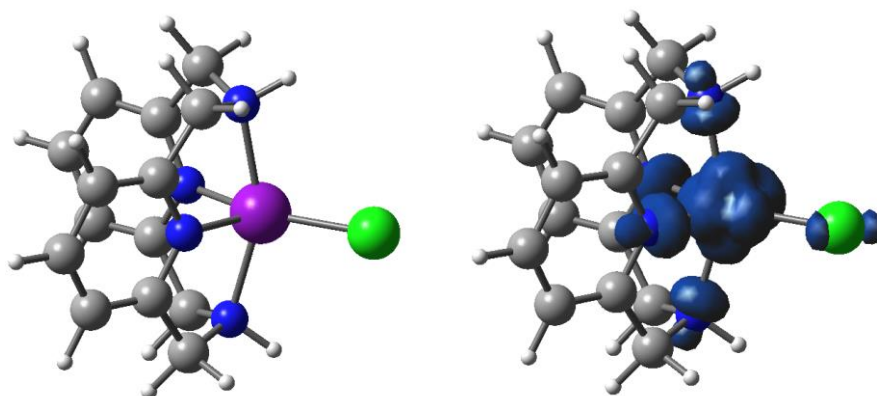
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2411.895135

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2411.962280

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000134 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000010 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S41.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl}]^+$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cl1  | -2.420365 | -2.438876 | 0.000000  | -0.437139       | 0.075781     |
| Ni2  | -1.081395 | -0.604483 | 0.000000  | -0.542016       | 1.582668     |
| N3   | 0.844984  | -1.020336 | 0.000000  | 0.603084        | 0.1014       |
| C4   | 1.49027   | -1.037459 | 1.170336  | -0.378583       | -0.01176     |
| C5   | 1.49027   | -1.037459 | -1.170336 | -0.378583       | -0.01176     |
| N6   | -0.695129 | -0.342822 | 2.105392  | -0.400615       | 0.077964     |
| N7   | -0.695129 | -0.342822 | -2.105392 | -0.400615       | 0.077964     |
| H8   | -1.410927 | -0.801273 | 2.659945  | 0.394249        | -0.002968    |
| H9   | -1.410927 | -0.801273 | -2.659945 | 0.394249        | -0.002968    |
| C10  | 2.877976  | -1.11844  | 1.208183  | -0.020744       | 0.001034     |
| C11  | 2.877976  | -1.11844  | -1.208183 | -0.020744       | 0.001034     |
| N12  | -0.661528 | 1.33233   | 0.000000  | 0.458586        | 0.08885      |
| C13  | 0.598862  | -1.001569 | 2.387057  | 0.063341        | 0.006112     |
| C14  | 0.598862  | -1.001569 | -2.387057 | 0.063341        | 0.006112     |
| H15  | 0.383766  | -2.033908 | 2.681916  | 0.220995        | -0.000363    |
| H16  | 0.383766  | -2.033908 | -2.681916 | 0.220995        | -0.000363    |
| H17  | 1.117705  | -0.527526 | 3.227203  | 0.188202        | 0.002126     |
| H18  | 1.117705  | -0.527526 | -3.227203 | 0.188202        | 0.002126     |
| C19  | -0.736271 | 1.10643   | 2.392013  | -0.002889       | -0.00817     |
| C20  | -0.736271 | 1.10643   | -2.392013 | -0.002889       | -0.00817     |
| H21  | -0.07182  | 1.372942  | 3.221077  | 0.187274        | 0.002351     |
| H22  | -0.07182  | 1.372942  | -3.221077 | 0.187274        | 0.002351     |
| H23  | -1.756299 | 1.353133  | 2.705028  | 0.2196          | -0.000067    |
| H24  | -1.756299 | 1.353133  | -2.705028 | 0.2196          | -0.000067    |
| C25  | -0.406856 | 1.928772  | 1.169884  | -0.17963        | 0.014192     |
| C26  | -0.406856 | 1.928772  | -1.169884 | -0.17963        | 0.014192     |
| C27  | 0.097343  | 3.223886  | 1.207716  | -0.131737       | -0.004654    |
| C28  | 0.097343  | 3.223886  | -1.207716 | -0.131737       | -0.004654    |
| H29  | 0.306789  | 3.704485  | 2.156927  | 0.195361        | 0.000991     |
| H30  | 0.306789  | 3.704485  | -2.156927 | 0.195361        | 0.000991     |
| C31  | 0.341584  | 3.87499   | 0.000000  | -0.274909       | 0.001633     |
| H32  | 0.742421  | 4.883256  | 0.000000  | 0.196257        | -0.000016    |

|     |          |           |           |           |           |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H33 | 3.40242  | -1.129906 | 2.157187  | 0.194934  | 0.000979  |
| H34 | 3.40242  | -1.129906 | -2.157187 | 0.194934  | 0.000979  |
| C35 | 3.571177 | -1.167243 | 0.000000  | -0.299358 | -0.006146 |
| H36 | 4.654746 | -1.223083 | 0.000000  | 0.195981  | 0.000297  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2733.81410856 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0052, after 2.0000

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A'      | A''     | A'      |
| Frequencies -- | 42.5387 | 58.1744 | 62.2713 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2048  | 3.1810  | 12.3130 |

Zero-point correction= 0.293779 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.310449

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.311394

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.248479

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2733.520330

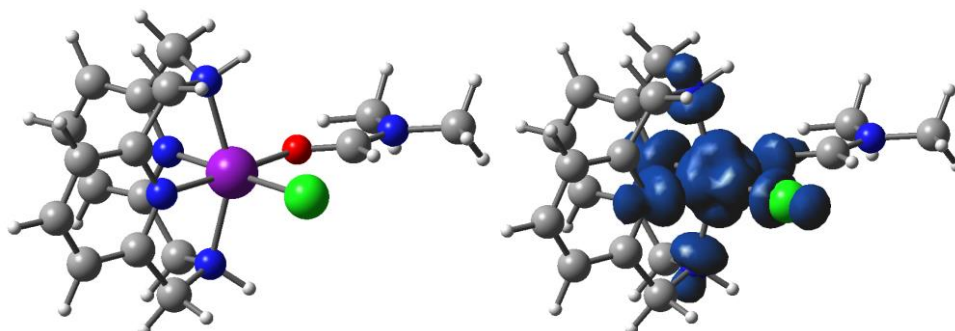
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2733.503659

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2733.502715

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2733.565629

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000304 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000042 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S42.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{DMF})\text{Cl}]^+$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ni1  | -0.27648 | -0.52648 | 0.04669  | -0.499581       | 1.643457     |
| C2   | 0.6286   | 1.98016  | 1.2039   | 0.015928        | -0.002838    |
| N3   | 0.33993  | 1.39708  | 0.03806  | 0.434072        | 0.089813     |
| N4   | 0.19042  | -0.28152 | -2.06695 | -0.391525       | 0.054761     |
| H5   | -0.53737 | -0.68792 | -2.64557 | 0.388246        | -0.002667    |
| C6   | 1.23608  | 3.23177  | 1.24035  | -0.481069       | -0.009868    |
| H7   | 1.47368  | 3.70185  | 2.18845  | 0.190156        | 0.000946     |
| N8   | 1.67107  | -1.01152 | 0.06745  | 0.229961        | 0.082974     |
| C9   | 1.54226  | 3.85321  | 0.03115  | -0.232446       | -0.003269    |
| H10  | 2.02242  | 4.82634  | 0.02843  | 0.191407        | 0.000222     |
| C11  | 1.25641  | 3.21509  | -1.17431 | -0.440237       | -0.009616    |
| H12  | 1.50988  | 3.67195  | -2.12477 | 0.190144        | 0.000957     |
| N13  | 0.15489  | -0.2526  | 2.16454  | -0.401229       | 0.054477     |
| H14  | -0.58318 | -0.64994 | 2.73642  | 0.388555        | -0.002654    |
| C15  | 0.64827  | 1.96406  | -1.13076 | -0.023328       | -0.004278    |
| C16  | 0.25765  | 1.16561  | -2.35185 | -0.02019        | 0.003492     |
| H17  | 0.9397   | 1.38308  | -3.18194 | 0.182271        | 0.001992     |
| H18  | -0.74118 | 1.48722  | -2.66501 | 0.210533        | -0.000256    |
| C19  | 1.44326  | -1.02203 | -2.31916 | 0.028988        | 0.001178     |
| H20  | 1.99554  | -0.60566 | -3.16929 | 0.181117        | 0.001853     |
| C21  | 2.32382  | -1.07897 | -1.09437 | -0.051166       | -0.007357    |
| C22  | 3.70643  | -1.2354  | -1.12201 | -0.373717       | -0.000343    |
| H23  | 4.23702  | -1.28608 | -2.0666  | 0.190428        | 0.000887     |
| C24  | 4.38692  | -1.3104  | 0.09223  | -0.228716       | -0.004005    |
| H25  | 5.466    | -1.42446 | 0.10213  | 0.191772        | 0.000284     |
| C26  | 3.68617  | -1.21855 | 1.29374  | -0.352029       | 0.000096     |
| C27  | 2.3043   | -1.06264 | 1.24091  | -0.080366       | -0.008099    |
| C28  | 0.21667  | 1.19884  | 2.42906  | 0.000383        | 0.001463     |
| H29  | 0.88393  | 1.42865  | 3.26776  | 0.181944        | 0.002008     |
| H30  | 4.20097  | -1.25597 | 2.24764  | 0.190465        | 0.000896     |
| C31  | 1.40339  | -0.98785 | 2.45     | 0.045466        | 0.000953     |
| H32  | 1.12335  | -2.01035 | 2.72438  | 0.216197        | -0.00033     |
| H33  | 1.94105  | -0.55773 | 3.30271  | 0.181097        | 0.001855     |
| H34  | -0.78757 | 1.52454  | 2.71967  | 0.210426        | -0.000243    |

|      |          |          |          |           |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cl35 | -0.97181 | -2.81138 | 0.03459  | -0.542693 | 0.079073  |
| H36  | 1.16646  | -2.04844 | -2.58193 | 0.216626  | -0.000326 |
| O37  | -2.22183 | 0.20298  | 0.05517  | -0.454686 | 0.029384  |
| C38  | -3.27132 | -0.46781 | -0.05656 | 0.533777  | 0.006344  |
| H39  | -3.22303 | -1.55747 | -0.16165 | 0.154678  | 0.001507  |
| N40  | -4.49173 | 0.05854  | -0.0541  | 0.124835  | -0.004124 |
| C41  | -4.70681 | 1.48823  | 0.08342  | -0.360035 | 0.000159  |
| C42  | -5.67011 | -0.77949 | -0.18909 | -0.25125  | -0.000377 |
| H43  | -5.23468 | 1.87047  | -0.79522 | 0.182824  | -0.000099 |
| H44  | -5.31185 | 1.68852  | 0.97253  | 0.183239  | -0.000093 |
| H45  | -3.74308 | 1.98564  | 0.17662  | 0.199195  | -0.000041 |
| H46  | -5.37142 | -1.82384 | -0.28662 | 0.178153  | -0.000019 |
| H47  | -6.31039 | -0.6725  | 0.69133  | 0.185776  | -0.000077 |
| H48  | -6.23888 | -0.48753 | -1.07672 | 0.185603  | -0.000054 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2983.08747638 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0048, after 2.0000

|                | 1      | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------|
|                | A      | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 3.1414 | 21.6665 | 34.5771 |
| Red. masses -- | 3.0516 | 3.9051  | 4.8579  |

Zero-point correction= 0.397608 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.422276

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.423221

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.338806

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2982.689868

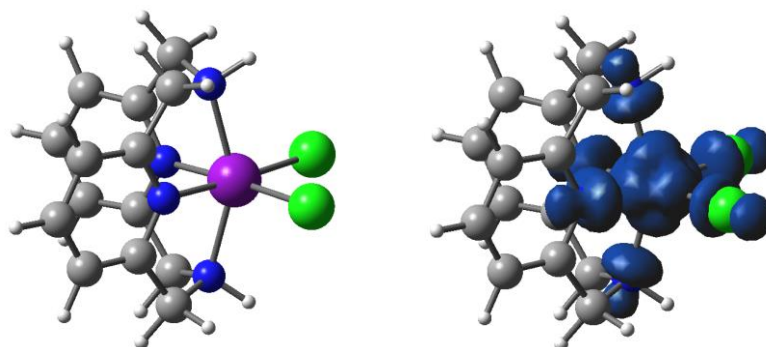
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2982.665200

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2982.664256

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2982.748671

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000000 | 0.000002  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000000 | 0.000001  | YES        |

**Table S43.** DFT-optimized geometry of Ni<sup>II</sup>(dapp)Cl<sub>2</sub> (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -2.10556 | -2.54361 | -1.20896 | -0.421897       | -0.006167    |
| C2   | -0.9735  | -1.73502 | -1.16661 | -0.119731       | -0.000087    |
| C3   | -0.98045 | -1.72998 | 1.16712  | -0.114366       | 0.000122     |
| C4   | -2.11284 | -2.53856 | 1.20603  | -0.398385       | -0.006269    |
| C5   | -2.67208 | -2.951   | -0.00219 | -0.24308        | -0.004488    |
| H6   | -2.53742 | -2.83787 | -2.15942 | 0.1889          | 0.000937     |
| H7   | -2.55029 | -2.82872 | 2.15522  | 0.188932        | 0.00096      |
| H8   | -3.55922 | -3.57604 | -0.00346 | 0.190081        | 0.00029      |
| C9   | -2.11158 | 2.5397   | -1.20575 | -0.398207       | -0.006267    |
| C10  | -0.97961 | 1.73054  | -1.16697 | -0.114409       | 0.000121     |
| C11  | -0.97239 | 1.73556  | 1.16676  | -0.119785       | -0.000087    |
| C12  | -2.10403 | 2.54474  | 1.20924  | -0.421672       | -0.006165    |
| C13  | -2.67048 | 2.95244  | 0.00254  | -0.243077       | -0.004487    |
| H14  | -2.549   | 2.83007  | -2.15488 | 0.188933        | 0.00096      |
| H15  | -2.53564 | 2.8392   | 2.15975  | 0.188899        | 0.000937     |
| H16  | -3.55729 | 3.57792  | 0.00391  | 0.190082        | 0.00029      |
| N17  | -0.44342 | -1.36712 | 0.00116  | 0.566638        | 0.092361     |
| N18  | -0.44262 | 1.36741  | -0.00107 | 0.56649         | 0.092355     |
| N19  | 0.51326  | 0.00034  | -2.11525 | -0.394889       | 0.056501     |
| H20  | 1.35463  | 0.00342  | -2.68227 | 0.388516        | -0.00249     |
| N21  | 0.5135   | -0.00063 | 2.11525  | -0.394886       | 0.056494     |
| H22  | 1.35492  | -0.00416 | 2.68218  | 0.388513        | -0.00249     |
| C23  | -0.24042 | 1.23843  | -2.38844 | 0.053013        | 0.003448     |
| H24  | -0.93243 | 1.11671  | -3.2301  | 0.178875        | 0.001858     |
| C25  | -0.24083 | -1.2383  | 2.38851  | 0.053097        | 0.003448     |
| H26  | -0.93265 | -1.11624 | 3.23027  | 0.178875        | 0.001858     |
| C27  | -0.22462 | -1.24845 | -2.38407 | 0.060611        | 0.003098     |
| H28  | 0.51329  | -2.0123  | -2.65095 | 0.215241        | -0.000321    |
| H29  | -0.90662 | -1.14354 | -3.23603 | 0.178477        | 0.001859     |
| C30  | -0.22368 | 1.24856  | 2.38415  | 0.060514        | 0.003098     |
| H31  | -0.90569 | 1.14399  | 3.23616  | 0.178476        | 0.001859     |
| H32  | 0.51466  | 2.012    | 2.65103  | 0.215235        | -0.000321    |
| H33  | 0.48446  | 2.00749  | -2.67543 | 0.213803        | -0.000347    |
| H34  | 0.48369  | -2.00777 | 2.67535  | 0.213805        | -0.000347    |

|      |         |          |          |           |          |
|------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Ni35 | 1.04592 | -0.0003  | -0.00005 | -0.319056 | 1.561465 |
| Cl36 | 2.68526 | 1.76745  | 0.0494   | -0.571297 | 0.078006 |
| Cl37 | 2.68397 | -1.76923 | -0.04972 | -0.571271 | 0.07801  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -3194.54937549 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0049, after 2.0000

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 42.3562 | 49.5796 | 50.0640 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.1904  | 12.1411 | 8.7128  |

Zero-point correction= 0.293701 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.312669

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.313613

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.245064

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -3194.255675

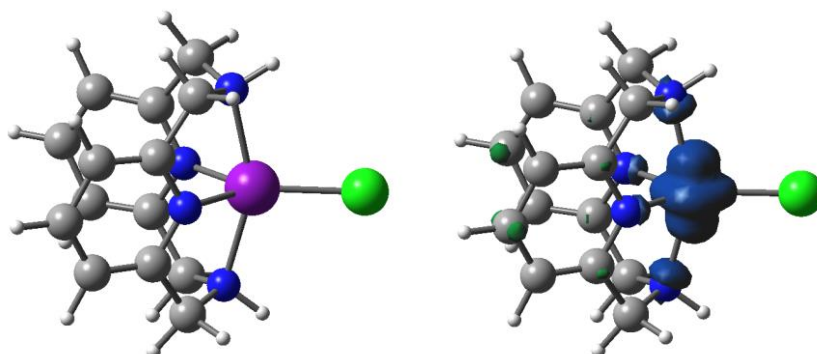
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -3194.236707

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -3194.235763

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -3194.304311

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000011 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S44.** DFT-optimized geometry of Ni<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cl1  | -0.000183 | -3.642276 | 0.000000  | -0.548952       | 0.022849     |
| Ni2  | 0.000345  | -1.306523 | 0.000000  | -0.833216       | 1.038842     |
| N3   | 1.428238  | 0.099915  | 0.000000  | 0.317363        | 0.019652     |
| C4   | 1.677447  | 0.724348  | 1.163904  | -0.181355       | -0.040599    |
| C5   | 1.677447  | 0.724348  | -1.163904 | -0.181355       | -0.040599    |
| N6   | 0.000164  | -0.796299 | 2.142134  | -0.378166       | 0.02864      |
| N7   | 0.000164  | -0.796299 | -2.142134 | -0.378166       | 0.02864      |
| H8   | 0.000176  | -1.62267  | 2.730335  | 0.36898         | -0.001363    |
| H9   | 0.000176  | -1.62267  | -2.730335 | 0.36898         | -0.001363    |
| C10  | 2.269884  | 1.981931  | 1.203246  | -0.06539        | 0.024279     |
| C11  | 2.269884  | 1.981931  | -1.203246 | -0.06539        | 0.024279     |
| N12  | -1.428064 | 0.09973   | 0.000000  | 0.317544        | 0.019691     |
| C13  | 1.247679  | -0.048392 | 2.38779   | -0.03911        | 0.004487     |
| C14  | 1.247679  | -0.048392 | -2.38779  | -0.03911        | 0.004487     |
| H15  | 2.020983  | -0.788655 | 2.623735  | 0.196032        | -0.00136     |
| H16  | 2.020983  | -0.788655 | -2.623735 | 0.196032        | -0.00136     |
| H17  | 1.164421  | 0.624421  | 3.251225  | 0.1652          | 0.001427     |
| H18  | 1.164421  | 0.624421  | -3.251225 | 0.1652          | 0.001427     |
| C19  | -1.247367 | -0.048434 | 2.387839  | -0.039222       | 0.004465     |
| C20  | -1.247367 | -0.048434 | -2.387839 | -0.039222       | 0.004465     |
| H21  | -1.16396  | 0.624613  | 3.251084  | 0.165206        | 0.001428     |
| H22  | -1.16396  | 0.624613  | -3.251084 | 0.165206        | 0.001428     |
| H23  | -2.020577 | -0.788653 | 2.624192  | 0.196043        | -0.001356    |
| H24  | -2.020577 | -0.788653 | -2.624192 | 0.196043        | -0.001356    |
| C25  | -1.67748  | 0.724037  | 1.163893  | -0.181538       | -0.040523    |
| C26  | -1.67748  | 0.724037  | -1.163893 | -0.181538       | -0.040523    |
| C27  | -2.270484 | 1.981363  | 1.203247  | -0.06523        | 0.02425      |
| C28  | -2.270484 | 1.981363  | -1.203247 | -0.06523        | 0.02425      |
| H29  | -2.461044 | 2.46519   | 2.156019  | 0.175772        | -0.000443    |
| H30  | -2.461044 | 2.46519   | -2.156019 | 0.175772        | -0.000443    |
| C31  | -2.591431 | 2.610235  | 0.000000  | -0.299647       | -0.055926    |
| H32  | -3.052044 | 3.592736  | 0.000000  | 0.180355        | 0.002592     |
| H33  | 2.460253  | 2.46583   | 2.156021  | 0.175762        | -0.000445    |

|     |          |          |           |           |           |
|-----|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | 2.460253 | 2.46583  | -2.156021 | 0.175762  | -0.000445 |
| C35 | 2.590537 | 2.610966 | 0.000000  | -0.299759 | -0.05607  |
| H36 | 3.050671 | 3.593689 | 0.000000  | 0.180346  | 0.002599  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2733.94579996 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.8038, after 0.7513

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A'      | A'      | A''     |
| Frequencies -- | 24.2531 | 44.7978 | 60.7323 |
| Red. masses -- | 15.1080 | 5.2579  | 3.3707  |

Zero-point correction= 0.290282 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.307683

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.308627

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.243594

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2733.655518

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2733.638117

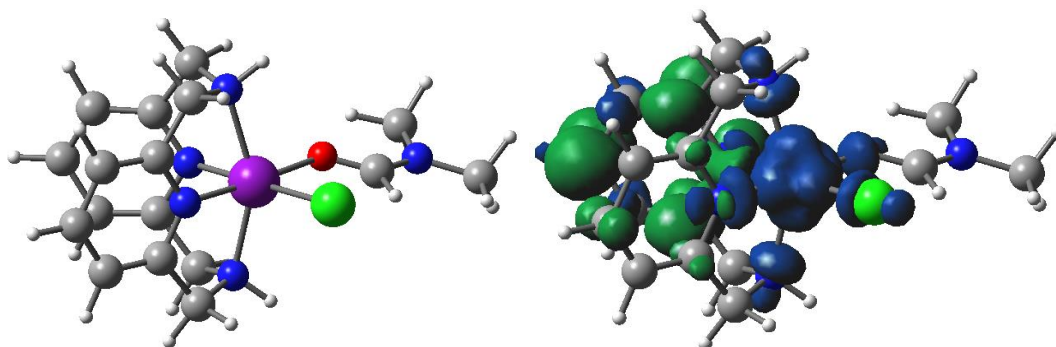
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2733.637173

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2733.702206

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000009 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S45.** DFT-optimized geometry of Ni<sup>I</sup>(dapp)Cl(DMF) (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ni1  | -0.40163 | -0.43297 | -0.09114 | -0.72044        | 1.551684     |
| C2   | 0.9062   | 1.80041  | 1.21317  | -0.05918        | -0.217473    |
| N3   | 0.35097  | 1.48693  | 0.00099  | -0.0108         | -0.081226    |
| N4   | 0.20444  | -0.16209 | -2.19989 | -0.35934        | 0.046794     |
| H5   | -0.49732 | -0.4647  | -2.8691  | 0.361392        | -0.004225    |
| C6   | 2.0489   | 2.56601  | 1.33392  | 0.03535         | 0.17328      |
| H7   | 2.4364   | 2.79647  | 2.32317  | 0.14462         | -0.001842    |
| N8   | 1.49715  | -1.04414 | 0.0108   | 0.277699        | 0.046039     |
| C9   | 2.69861  | 3.03914  | 0.17429  | -0.41855        | -0.428828    |
| H10  | 3.59254  | 3.64948  | 0.24076  | 0.151361        | 0.02049      |
| C11  | 2.18932  | 2.62226  | -1.07394 | -0.00077        | 0.173951     |
| H12  | 2.6887   | 2.89739  | -1.99956 | 0.144704        | -0.001835    |
| N13  | -0.05179 | -0.25949 | 2.09017  | -0.31045        | 0.048831     |
| H14  | -0.82708 | -0.58905 | 2.65813  | 0.360451        | -0.004327    |
| C15  | 1.04218  | 1.85536  | -1.12272 | -0.01672        | -0.223246    |
| C16  | 0.43577  | 1.2944   | -2.37454 | -0.18481        | -0.01161     |
| H17  | 1.06368  | 1.50396  | -3.25039 | 0.155268        | 0.0028       |
| H18  | -0.55199 | 1.73895  | -2.54674 | 0.172709        | -0.009695    |
| C19  | 1.41122  | -0.98595 | -2.38697 | 0.036999        | 0.015662     |
| H20  | 2.03797  | -0.62144 | -3.21109 | 0.167332        | 0.002674     |
| C21  | 2.22051  | -1.07935 | -1.11736 | -0.15493        | -0.089442    |
| C22  | 3.60012  | -1.24935 | -1.07765 | -0.37442        | 0.043335     |
| H23  | 4.17545  | -1.27482 | -1.99742 | 0.173264        | 0.000518     |
| C24  | 4.22272  | -1.36948 | 0.16629  | -0.19611        | -0.085032    |
| H25  | 5.29879  | -1.49643 | 0.22781  | 0.17825         | 0.003452     |
| C26  | 3.4559   | -1.30404 | 1.33135  | -0.40207        | 0.048541     |
| C27  | 2.08101  | -1.13269 | 1.2141   | -0.08613        | -0.091992    |
| C28  | 0.15807  | 1.18609  | 2.35845  | -0.20407        | -0.012726    |
| H29  | 0.6797   | 1.35081  | 3.31037  | 0.155427        | 0.002761     |
| H30  | 3.91781  | -1.37364 | 2.31088  | 0.173275        | 0.000509     |
| C31  | 1.1248   | -1.0969  | 2.3804   | 0.018811        | 0.017767     |
| H32  | 0.75961  | -2.11586 | 2.55382  | 0.198501        | -0.002002    |
| H33  | 1.64768  | -0.77574 | 3.29046  | 0.167581        | 0.002639     |

|      |          |          |          |          |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34  | -0.84256 | 1.62872  | 2.43583  | 0.17188  | -0.009736 |
| Cl35 | -1.32483 | -2.71606 | -0.19433 | -0.6576  | 0.055139  |
| H36  | 1.07421  | -1.9945  | -2.65331 | 0.199187 | -0.001985 |
| O37  | -2.37495 | 0.39139  | -0.22715 | -0.46799 | 0.019349  |
| C38  | -3.43926 | -0.20215 | 0.02999  | 0.443612 | 0.008305  |
| H39  | -3.43772 | -1.27333 | 0.2666   | 0.14859  | 0.001148  |
| N40  | -4.64181 | 0.37753  | 0.0358   | 0.110361 | -0.004746 |
| C41  | -4.80962 | 1.78693  | -0.26467 | -0.35893 | -0.001969 |
| C42  | -5.83906 | -0.38207 | 0.34382  | -0.2593  | -0.001391 |
| H43  | -5.45083 | 1.90939  | -1.14315 | 0.180005 | -0.000083 |
| H44  | -5.27618 | 2.29674  | 0.58392  | 0.178158 | -0.000096 |
| H45  | -3.83264 | 2.22555  | -0.46179 | 0.198071 | -0.00008  |
| H46  | -5.57428 | -1.42032 | 0.54875  | 0.176014 | -0.000016 |
| H47  | -6.33737 | 0.03752  | 1.22317  | 0.181691 | 0.000019  |
| H48  | -6.53405 | -0.35308 | -0.50102 | 0.182038 | -0.00009  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2983.08747638 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0048, after 2.0000

|                |        |         |         |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------|
|                | 1      | 2       | 3       |
|                | A      | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 3.1414 | 21.6665 | 34.5771 |
| Red. masses -- | 3.0516 | 3.9051  | 4.8579  |

Zero-point correction= 0.397608 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.422276

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.423221

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.338806

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2982.689868

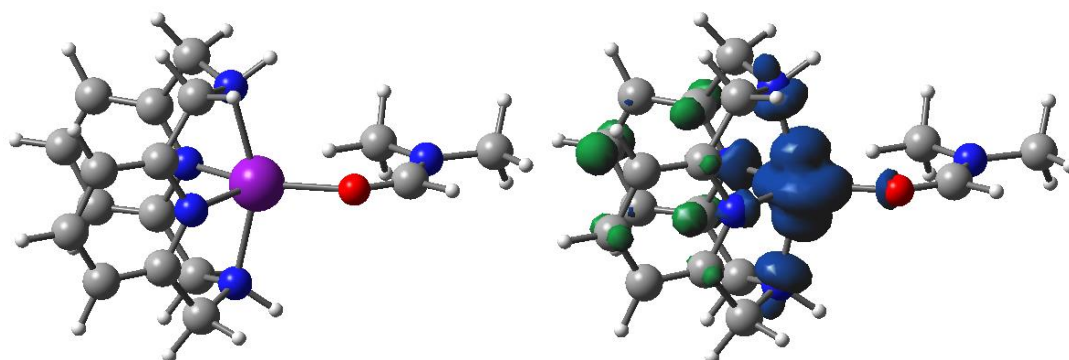
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2982.665200

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2982.664256

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2982.748671

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000000 | 0.000002  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000000 | 0.000001  | YES        |

**Table S46.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{DMF})]^+$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ni1  | 0.61405  | -0.33048 | 0.00001  | -0.20389        | 1.052823     |
| C2   | -1.7679  | -1.50978 | 1.16313  | -0.04816        | -0.019495    |
| N3   | -1.10582 | -1.44183 | 0.00007  | 0.14225         | 0.012603     |
| N4   | 0.12768  | -0.25356 | -2.137   | -0.44099        | 0.026824     |
| H5   | 0.919    | -0.45375 | -2.73943 | 0.371773        | -0.001226    |
| C6   | -3.13855 | -1.74663 | 1.2049   | -0.15114        | 0.011121     |
| H7   | -3.65848 | -1.79882 | 2.15619  | 0.177449        | -0.000276    |
| N8   | -0.40819 | 1.33584  | -0.00005 | 0.27748         | 0.029727     |
| C9   | -3.82717 | -1.89065 | 0.00012  | -0.23619        | -0.031053    |
| H10  | -4.89675 | -2.07401 | 0.00013  | 0.182952        | 0.001555     |
| C11  | -3.13858 | -1.74674 | -1.2047  | -0.15114        | 0.011121     |
| H12  | -3.65852 | -1.79901 | -2.15597 | 0.177449        | -0.000276    |
| N13  | 0.12771  | -0.25338 | 2.13703  | -0.441          | 0.026824     |
| H14  | 0.91904  | -0.45352 | 2.73946  | 0.371773        | -0.001226    |
| C15  | -1.76792 | -1.50988 | -1.16297 | -0.04815        | -0.019495    |
| C16  | -0.90463 | -1.28331 | -2.38273 | -0.10457        | -0.003235    |
| H17  | -1.52982 | -1.03466 | -3.24963 | 0.167414        | 0.001744     |
| H18  | -0.37703 | -2.21461 | -2.61709 | 0.197185        | -0.000731    |
| C19  | -0.30101 | 1.13652  | -2.38964 | -0.02983        | -0.001649    |
| H20  | -0.98298 | 1.20825  | -3.24647 | 0.168767        | 0.000977     |
| C21  | -0.93319 | 1.75376  | -1.16574 | -0.03062        | -0.034439    |
| C22  | -1.97069 | 2.6781   | -1.20375 | -0.36888        | 0.019369     |
| H23  | -2.3797  | 2.99947  | -2.15631 | 0.177837        | -0.000298    |
| C24  | -2.48401 | 3.16237  | -0.00012 | -0.23241        | -0.057978    |
| H25  | -3.2958  | 3.88229  | -0.00014 | 0.181606        | 0.002821     |
| C26  | -1.97068 | 2.6782   | 1.20356  | -0.36888        | 0.019369     |
| C27  | -0.93318 | 1.75386  | 1.16561  | -0.0306         | -0.034439    |
| C28  | -0.90459 | -1.28311 | 2.38286  | -0.10456        | -0.003235    |
| H29  | -1.52976 | -1.0344  | 3.24975  | 0.167414        | 0.001744     |
| H30  | -2.37968 | 2.99965  | 2.1561   | 0.177837        | -0.000298    |
| C31  | -0.30098 | 1.13672  | 2.38955  | -0.02984        | -0.001649    |
| H32  | 0.60071  | 1.70665  | 2.64167  | 0.198437        | -0.00143     |
| H33  | -0.98294 | 1.20852  | 3.24638  | 0.168767        | 0.000977     |

|     |          |          |          |          |           |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34 | -0.37698 | -2.21439 | 2.61727  | 0.197185 | -0.000731 |
| H35 | 0.60068  | 1.70643  | -2.64181 | 0.198437 | -0.00143  |
| O36 | 2.39031  | -1.35776 | 0.00004  | -0.45203 | 0.002425  |
| C37 | 3.62465  | -1.20899 | 0.00005  | 0.367465 | -0.000629 |
| H38 | 4.27131  | -2.09644 | 0.00001  | 0.143789 | 0.001364  |
| N39 | 4.30524  | -0.06059 | -0.00003 | -0.045   | -0.00202  |
| C40 | 3.66067  | 1.23915  | -0.00007 | -0.43387 | -0.00478  |
| C41 | 5.75841  | -0.06405 | -0.0001  | -0.34966 | -0.000145 |
| H42 | 3.95945  | 1.80188  | 0.88983  | 0.18134  | -0.000084 |
| H43 | 3.95937  | 1.80179  | -0.89005 | 0.181341 | -0.000084 |
| H44 | 2.57406  | 1.1072   | -0.00001 | 0.18509  | -0.000848 |
| H45 | 6.12805  | -1.09042 | -0.00007 | 0.174291 | -0.000111 |
| H46 | 6.13533  | 0.4494   | -0.88965 | 0.183043 | -0.000048 |
| H47 | 6.1354   | 0.44947  | 0.88938  | 0.183041 | -0.000048 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2522.47498140 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7954, after 0.7509

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 10.1681 | 25.4599 | 39.6304 |
| Red. masses -- | 4.4230  | 5.1798  | 2.5143  |

Zero-point correction= 0.394456 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.417296

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.418240

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.340044

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2522.080525

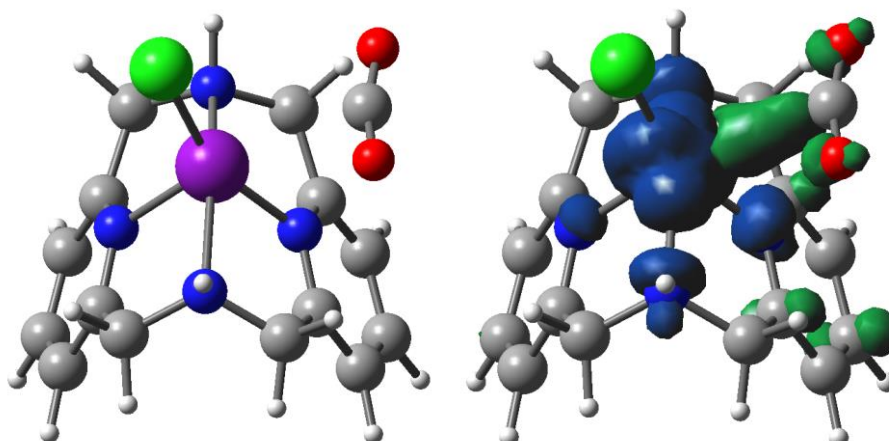
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2522.057685

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2522.056741

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2522.134938

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000016 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S47.** TS geometry optimized for  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl} \cdots \text{CO}_2]^{\ddagger}$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cl1  | 2.312207 | -2.44841 | 0.00062  | -0.49456        | 0.020924     |
| Ni2  | 0.785414 | -0.67505 | 0.000296 | -0.85677        | 0.994439     |
| N3   | -1.21803 | -1.24835 | 0.000469 | 0.308342        | 0.024369     |
| C4   | -1.87017 | -1.14135 | -1.16207 | -0.13643        | -0.02408     |
| C5   | -1.87032 | -1.14033 | 1.162812 | -0.13649        | -0.02407     |
| N6   | 0.294697 | -0.45748 | -2.14031 | -0.30262        | 0.027661     |
| N7   | 0.294569 | -0.45602 | 2.140715 | -0.30264        | 0.027661     |
| H8   | 1.010186 | -0.87156 | -2.72782 | 0.371876        | -0.00125     |
| H9   | 1.00989  | -0.86992 | 2.728559 | 0.371876        | -0.00125     |
| C10  | -3.25511 | -1.00396 | -1.20525 | -0.1406         | 0.01235      |
| C11  | -3.25528 | -1.00292 | 1.205677 | -0.14057        | 0.01235      |
| N12  | 0.217426 | 1.207139 | -0.00039 | 0.511921        | 0.042671     |
| C13  | -0.9767  | -1.16746 | -2.38152 | -0.01398        | 0.006853     |
| C14  | -0.97708 | -1.16537 | 2.382458 | -0.01396        | 0.006851     |
| H15  | -0.72568 | -2.20973 | -2.60731 | 0.198148        | -0.00039     |
| H16  | -0.72645 | -2.20746 | 2.609484 | 0.198147        | -0.0004      |
| H17  | -1.51169 | -0.7648  | -3.25122 | 0.164663        | 0.001822     |
| H18  | -1.51213 | -0.76159 | 3.251602 | 0.164668        | 0.001823     |
| C19  | 0.258396 | 0.992424 | -2.39623 | -0.15281        | -0.00391     |
| C20  | 0.258787 | 0.994089 | 2.395565 | -0.15262        | -0.0039      |
| H21  | -0.39446 | 1.248767 | -3.2407  | 0.165307        | 0.001043     |
| H22  | -0.39365 | 1.251292 | 3.240106 | 0.165303        | 0.001042     |
| H23  | 1.276235 | 1.29618  | -2.66221 | 0.204937        | -0.00145     |
| H24  | 1.276841 | 1.297717 | 2.66086  | 0.204951        | -0.00145     |
| C25  | -0.16191 | 1.760113 | -1.16616 | 0.465386        | -0.02151     |
| C26  | -0.16174 | 1.76094  | 1.165054 | 0.465659        | -0.02152     |
| C27  | -0.87913 | 2.950732 | -1.20376 | -0.84152        | 0.022661     |
| C28  | -0.87895 | 2.951583 | 1.201923 | -0.84179        | 0.022669     |
| H29  | -1.17431 | 3.378114 | -2.15669 | 0.17802         | -0.0001      |
| H30  | -1.17397 | 3.379647 | 2.154594 | 0.17802         | -0.0001      |

|     |          |          |          |          |          |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| C31 | -1.22561 | 3.565584 | -0.00111 | -0.28248 | -0.05026 |
| H32 | -1.78818 | 4.49346  | -0.0014  | 0.181991 | 0.002396 |
| H33 | -3.77096 | -0.91885 | -2.15636 | 0.177628 | -0.00015 |
| H34 | -3.77126 | -0.91695 | 2.15664  | 0.177626 | -0.00015 |
| C35 | -3.95542 | -0.95653 | 0.000145 | -0.25796 | -0.01984 |
| H36 | -5.03523 | -0.84734 | 0.000024 | 0.18309  | 0.000938 |
| C37 | 3.209014 | 0.707854 | -0.00023 | 0.608063 | -0.04935 |
| O38 | 3.339519 | 0.787911 | 1.166985 | -0.28892 | -0.0027  |
| O39 | 3.339527 | 0.786803 | -1.16752 | -0.28892 | -0.0027  |

---

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2922.91875485 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.8073, after 0.7511

|                |           |         |         |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|
|                | 1         | 2       | 3       |
|                | A         | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | -163.6985 | 39.0797 | 44.8788 |
| Red. masses -- | 14.8272   | 9.5317  | 5.8446  |

Zero-point correction= 0.302330 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.323098

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.324042

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.251473

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2922.616425

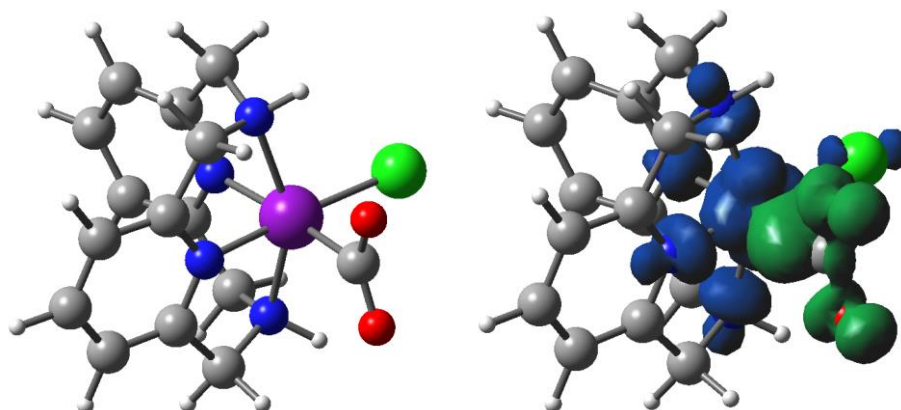
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2922.595657

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2922.594713

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2922.667282

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000015 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S48.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Ni}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2^{2-})\text{Cl}$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cl1  | -1.503527 | 2.819906  | 0.000182  | -0.371032       | 0.046364     |
| Ni2  | -0.811762 | 0.595639  | 0.000053  | -0.837024       | 1.108931     |
| N3   | 1.207724  | 0.958632  | -0.000029 | 0.326941        | 0.030846     |
| C4   | 1.855328  | 0.943922  | -1.166315 | -0.127098       | -0.002759    |
| C5   | 1.855497  | 0.943837  | 1.166166  | -0.127202       | -0.002758    |
| N6   | -0.347037 | 0.336749  | -2.112917 | -0.306448       | 0.039359     |
| N7   | -0.34675  | 0.336702  | 2.113087  | -0.306525       | 0.039335     |
| H8   | -1.067519 | 0.811331  | -2.645943 | 0.387382        | -0.00227     |
| H9   | -1.067144 | 0.811252  | 2.646262  | 0.387373        | -0.002269    |
| C10  | 3.247105  | 0.94906   | -1.208129 | -0.342714       | 0.004124     |
| C11  | 3.24728   | 0.948967  | 1.207773  | -0.342698       | 0.004126     |
| N12  | -0.36452  | -1.334628 | 0.000021  | 0.59047         | 0.076819     |
| C13  | 0.960666  | 0.958941  | -2.385057 | 0.025834        | 0.003865     |
| C14  | 0.961023  | 0.958823  | 2.385055  | 0.025937        | 0.00386      |
| H15  | 0.776285  | 2.003924  | -2.656211 | 0.20938         | -0.00018     |
| H16  | 0.776735  | 2.003799  | 2.656306  | 0.209378        | -0.00018     |
| H17  | 1.468142  | 0.489637  | -3.23638  | 0.175074        | 0.002175     |
| H18  | 1.468617  | 0.489449  | 3.236267  | 0.175071        | 0.002174     |
| C19  | -0.427072 | -1.105995 | -2.391268 | -0.115757       | 0.001525     |
| C20  | -0.426769 | -1.106072 | 2.391338  | -0.115782       | 0.001544     |
| H21  | 0.215689  | -1.399469 | -3.229567 | 0.173932        | 0.001512     |
| H22  | 0.216128  | -1.399589 | 3.229517  | 0.173925        | 0.001511     |
| H23  | -1.461727 | -1.324672 | -2.672679 | 0.219981        | -0.000375    |
| H24  | -1.461373 | -1.32477  | 2.67292   | 0.219973        | -0.000375    |
| C25  | -0.094296 | -1.926145 | -1.168491 | 0.338609        | -0.006546    |
| C26  | -0.094169 | -1.926183 | 1.168476  | 0.338519        | -0.006559    |
| C27  | 0.435364  | -3.212028 | -1.206097 | -0.658689       | -0.001312    |
| C28  | 0.435495  | -3.212071 | 1.205971  | -0.658533       | -0.001311    |
| H29  | 0.656662  | -3.685143 | -2.156703 | 0.188564        | 0.000681     |
| H30  | 0.6569    | -3.685222 | 2.156535  | 0.188562        | 0.000681     |
| C31  | 0.689604  | -3.861869 | -0.000087 | -0.338847       | -0.006872    |
| H32  | 1.108111  | -4.863076 | -0.000128 | 0.190406        | 0.000363     |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H33 | 3.771926  | 0.932532  | -2.157396 | 0.186744  | 0.000356  |
| H34 | 3.77224   | 0.932372  | 2.156962  | 0.186743  | 0.000356  |
| C35 | 3.943229  | 0.959203  | -0.000229 | -0.205934 | -0.002583 |
| H36 | 5.028521  | 0.955329  | -0.000308 | 0.188171  | 0.000205  |
| C37 | -2.739197 | 0.078661  | 0.000003  | 0.725275  | -0.170277 |
| O38 | -3.169278 | -0.049673 | 1.145181  | -0.488965 | -0.082043 |
| O39 | -3.169389 | -0.049386 | -1.145161 | -0.488999 | -0.082039 |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2922.93740857 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.9513, after 0.7520

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 39.8408 | 54.2709 | 57.2680 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.4457  | 6.9532  | 3.6769  |

Zero-point correction= 0.304436 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.324797

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.325741

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.255105

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2922.632973

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2922.612611

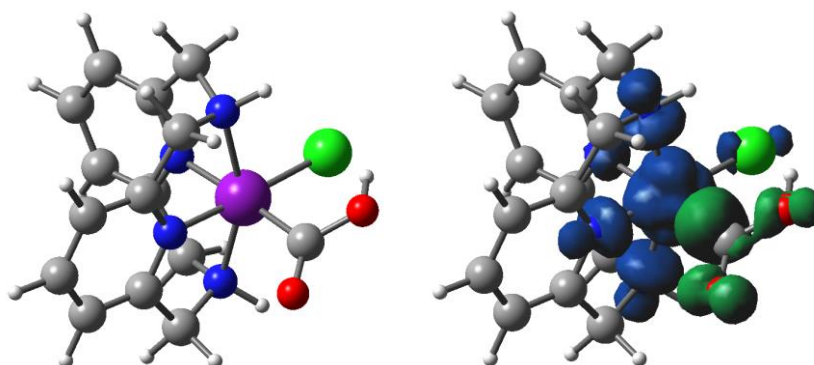
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2922.611667

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2922.682304

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000011 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S49.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{III}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{H}^-)\text{Cl}]^+$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cl1  | 0.055571  | -3.036443 | -0.157943 | -0.319924       | 0.041185     |
| Ni2  | -0.445344 | -0.797044 | -0.064333 | -0.519669       | 0.954498     |
| N3   | 1.446038  | -0.313944 | -0.052869 | 0.405824        | 0.016233     |
| C4   | 2.071644  | -0.190788 | 1.122728  | -0.054722       | 0.003184     |
| C5   | 2.033075  | -0.003602 | -1.213332 | 0.002486        | 0.003906     |
| N6   | -0.180236 | -0.572904 | 2.05741   | -0.348755       | 0.072222     |
| N7   | -0.247032 | -0.283792 | -2.118766 | -0.378098       | 0.077242     |
| H8   | -0.631948 | -1.319408 | 2.576986  | 0.404026        | -0.003095    |
| H9   | -0.701136 | -0.969553 | -2.714522 | 0.406899        | -0.003432    |
| C10  | 3.377911  | 0.281115  | 1.175914  | -0.509963       | -0.005644    |
| C11  | 3.338855  | 0.473301  | -1.232721 | -0.495335       | -0.006657    |
| N12  | -0.843381 | 1.110341  | 0.090816  | 0.680962        | 0.0634       |
| C13  | 1.276393  | -0.665487 | 2.307999  | 0.044064        | -0.003198    |
| C14  | 1.200068  | -0.285128 | -2.434849 | 0.003752        | -0.002644    |
| H15  | 1.512417  | -1.722653 | 2.467965  | 0.229922        | -0.000065    |
| H16  | 1.457227  | -1.287453 | -2.792476 | 0.228056        | -0.000084    |
| H17  | 1.561222  | -0.124824 | 3.216295  | 0.194004        | 0.002747     |
| H18  | 1.433546  | 0.41778   | -3.241094 | 0.19382         | 0.002836     |
| C19  | -0.79313  | 0.709797  | 2.457892  | -0.040627       | 0.000914     |
| C20  | -0.921468 | 1.017189  | -2.307555 | 0.167503        | -0.003129    |
| H21  | -0.260761 | 1.163702  | 3.300077  | 0.195809        | 0.002215     |
| H22  | -0.466448 | 1.588591  | -3.12269  | 0.192207        | 0.001991     |
| H23  | -1.813853 | 0.503605  | 2.796394  | 0.226561        | -0.000309    |
| H24  | -1.960356 | 0.814065  | -2.5827   | 0.23295         | -0.000299    |
| C25  | -0.867807 | 1.672723  | 1.300815  | 0.33479         | -0.003972    |
| C26  | -0.931327 | 1.823368  | -1.035163 | -0.07199        | -0.002147    |
| C27  | -1.004487 | 3.050161  | 1.430454  | -0.618479       | -0.003274    |
| C28  | -1.067318 | 3.205426  | -0.978463 | -0.82494        | 0.001238     |
| H29  | -1.021801 | 3.507872  | 2.41314   | 0.198229        | 0.000884     |
| H30  | -1.13064  | 3.786626  | -1.891463 | 0.198495        | 0.000799     |
| C31  | -1.107725 | 3.817606  | 0.272626  | -0.264821       | -0.002567    |
| H32  | -1.206806 | 4.895497  | 0.344772  | 0.198664        | 0.000111     |
| H33  | 3.884039  | 0.387651  | 2.128612  | 0.198992        | 0.00024      |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | 3.814553  | 0.731356  | -2.172081 | 0.198899  | 0.000255  |
| C35 | 4.010157  | 0.61623   | -0.020075 | -0.210219 | -0.000677 |
| H36 | 5.026559  | 0.995244  | -0.006408 | 0.198652  | 0.000146  |
| C37 | -2.345674 | -1.190003 | -0.11043  | 0.716052  | -0.113514 |
| O38 | -3.148264 | -0.430278 | -0.592403 | -0.41159  | -0.06784  |
| O39 | -2.715489 | -2.334164 | 0.46065   | -0.337398 | -0.024689 |
| H40 | -1.903594 | -2.88515  | 0.568411  | 0.354911  | 0.000991  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2923.37233053 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.8264, after 0.7505

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 44.2675 | 51.2368 | 56.7712 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.1691  | 8.5114  | 3.3071  |

Zero-point correction= 0.318825 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.338675

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.339619

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.270263

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2923.053506

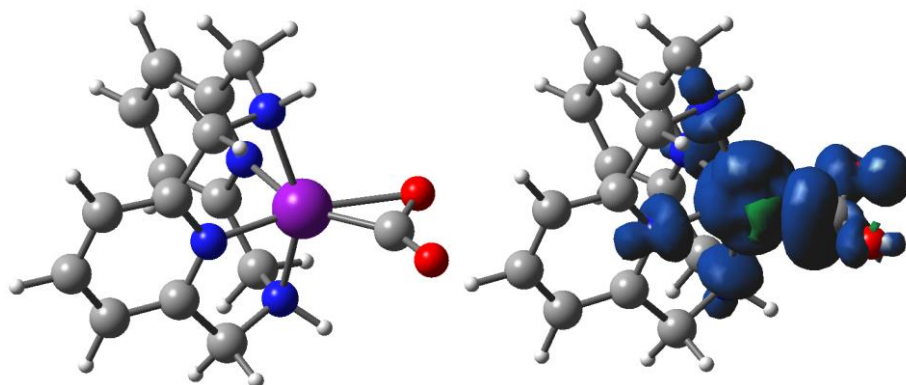
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2923.033655

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2923.032711

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2923.102068

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000012 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S50.** DFT-optimized geometry of Ni<sup>II</sup>(dapp)(CO<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>) (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ni1  | -1.181111 | 0.313441  | 0.000005  | -1.258511       | 1.81229      |
| N2   | -0.062275 | -1.352818 | -0.000275 | 0.341233        | 0.077903     |
| C3   | 0.405715  | -1.812403 | 1.165814  | -0.182706       | -0.002438    |
| C4   | 0.405967  | -1.811866 | -1.166461 | -0.182562       | -0.002448    |
| N5   | -0.624004 | 0.213933  | 2.140256  | -0.444397       | 0.028077     |
| N6   | -0.623723 | 0.214837  | -2.140296 | -0.444405       | 0.02806      |
| H7   | -1.429956 | 0.41625   | 2.721564  | 0.380821        | -0.001053    |
| H8   | -1.429682 | 0.41726   | -2.721555 | 0.380821        | -0.001052    |
| C9   | 1.363039  | -2.821641 | 1.205222  | -0.102867       | -0.032822    |
| C10  | 1.363294  | -2.821103 | -1.206114 | -0.10285        | -0.03282     |
| N11  | 0.603787  | 1.346842  | 0.000277  | 0.278213        | 0.073304     |
| C12  | -0.204704 | -1.176004 | 2.391395  | 0.013294        | 0.003389     |
| C13  | -0.204126 | -1.174913 | -2.391934 | 0.013122        | 0.003395     |
| H14  | -1.105302 | -1.742135 | 2.654448  | 0.207289        | -0.000279    |
| H15  | -1.104505 | -1.741086 | -2.655633 | 0.207289        | -0.000279    |
| H16  | 0.484902  | -1.250875 | 3.241296  | 0.174778        | 0.00146      |
| H17  | 0.485832  | -1.249254 | -3.241599 | 0.174776        | 0.00146      |
| C18  | 0.405756  | 1.237705  | 2.392134  | -0.039899       | 0.017127     |
| C19  | 0.405847  | 1.238909  | -2.39163  | -0.039794       | 0.017122     |
| H20  | 1.047702  | 0.975156  | 3.242189  | 0.173071        | 0.002526     |
| H21  | 1.047819  | 0.976951  | -3.241851 | 0.173068        | 0.002526     |
| H22  | -0.11546  | 2.16453   | 2.655938  | 0.204575        | 0.000525     |
| H23  | -0.115526 | 2.165801  | -2.654883 | 0.20457         | 0.000526     |
| C24  | 1.245516  | 1.49761   | 1.16428   | -0.145129       | 0.010533     |
| C25  | 1.245576  | 1.498224  | -1.163621 | -0.145242       | 0.010545     |
| C26  | 2.583089  | 1.880109  | 1.20557   | -0.13848        | -0.011443    |
| C27  | 2.583143  | 1.880744  | -1.204648 | -0.138429       | -0.011446    |
| H28  | 3.091807  | 1.997021  | 2.156636  | 0.184775        | 0.000654     |
| H29  | 3.091909  | 1.998166  | -2.155626 | 0.184775        | 0.000654     |
| C30  | 3.252019  | 2.087368  | 0.000534  | -0.233088       | 0.012844     |
| H31  | 4.297035  | 2.380007  | 0.000630  | 0.18814         | -0.00052     |
| H32  | 1.73987   | -3.18392  | 2.155808  | 0.185762        | 0.000774     |
| H33  | 1.740332  | -3.18295  | -2.156784 | 0.18576         | 0.000774     |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| C34 | 1.836681  | -3.335847 | -0.000514 | -0.271528 | 0.000495  |
| H35 | 2.588729  | -4.118192 | -0.000608 | 0.187942  | 0.00029   |
| C36 | -3.133226 | 0.33895   | -0.000056 | 1.091065  | -0.093048 |
| O37 | -4.240234 | -0.247133 | -0.000317 | -0.773001 | 0.000723  |
| O38 | -2.962567 | 1.622922  | 0.000359  | -0.492255 | 0.081672  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2462.32860407 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0128, after 2.0001

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 39.7065 | 48.3675 | 56.3325 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.1951  | 7.8507  | 3.3700  |

Zero-point correction= 0.301636 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.320443

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.321387

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.253614

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2462.026968

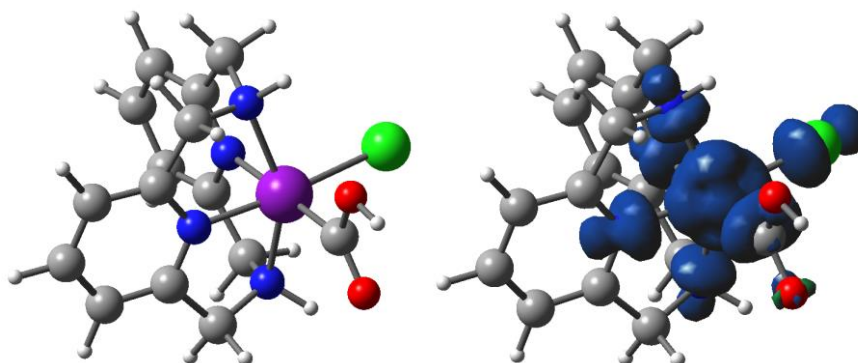
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2462.008161

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2462.007217

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2462.074990

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000014 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S51.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{H}^-)\text{Cl}$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Cl1  | -1.568263 | -2.859777 | -0.055966 | -0.622459       | 0.076974     |
| Ni2  | -0.895923 | -0.447466 | -0.036529 | -0.675544       | 1.663281     |
| N3   | 1.062025  | -1.060176 | 0.012393  | 0.362832        | 0.072019     |
| C4   | 1.672933  | -1.16014  | 1.194222  | -0.068318       | 0.00602      |
| C5   | 1.737299  | -1.143519 | -1.135012 | -0.082988       | 0.003694     |
| N6   | -0.425326 | -0.22564  | 2.10307   | -0.344854       | 0.037971     |
| N7   | -0.315559 | -0.20895  | -2.147066 | -0.343634       | 0.036951     |
| H8   | -1.209717 | -0.570485 | 2.646033  | 0.38257         | -0.001999    |
| H9   | -1.065745 | -0.559313 | -2.732965 | 0.384771        | -0.002224    |
| C10  | 3.04418   | -1.388338 | 1.272492  | -0.499445       | -0.003306    |
| C11  | 3.111126  | -1.371674 | -1.140084 | -0.474444       | -0.003828    |
| N12  | -0.080426 | 1.424626  | -0.007592 | 0.542835        | 0.085201     |
| C13  | 0.758987  | -1.05086  | 2.392379  | 0.012043        | 0.007753     |
| C14  | 0.89342   | -1.01569  | -2.382112 | 0.01329         | 0.003437     |
| H15  | 0.403777  | -2.057932 | 2.635722  | 0.211169        | -0.000176    |
| H16  | 0.566049  | -2.020188 | -2.670963 | 0.210575        | -0.000226    |
| H17  | 1.314295  | -0.681809 | 3.263392  | 0.173487        | 0.002216     |
| H18  | 1.495377  | -0.620264 | -3.209576 | 0.173649        | 0.002166     |
| C19  | -0.265133 | 1.213356  | 2.376137  | 0.007414        | -0.00369     |
| C20  | -0.162085 | 1.234406  | -2.398311 | -0.017064       | 0.002887     |
| H21  | 0.387774  | 1.396043  | 3.238404  | 0.174903        | 0.001864     |
| H22  | 0.520008  | 1.434812  | -3.233704 | 0.174737        | 0.001927     |
| H23  | -1.255239 | 1.60778   | 2.628524  | 0.210099        | -0.000399    |
| H24  | -1.146947 | 1.620178  | -2.682483 | 0.211827        | -0.000427    |
| C25  | 0.240012  | 1.967365  | 1.168627  | 0.130897        | -0.000113    |
| C26  | 0.289848  | 1.978829  | -1.163924 | 0.176288        | -0.004463    |
| C27  | 0.951998  | 3.162484  | 1.230089  | -0.499552       | -0.016093    |
| C28  | 1.00358   | 3.174     | -1.183688 | -0.514532       | -0.01444     |
| H29  | 1.214714  | 3.599103  | 2.187767  | 0.186587        | 0.000923     |
| H30  | 1.307174  | 3.619439  | -2.125034 | 0.186487        | 0.00092      |
| C31  | 1.328549  | 3.770208  | 0.033730  | -0.344991       | -0.005038    |
| H32  | 1.891271  | 4.698034  | 0.050345  | 0.188368        | 0.000326     |
| H33  | 3.536623  | -1.464248 | 2.236159  | 0.186098        | 0.000792     |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | 3.656265  | -1.434512 | -2.075915 | 0.18611   | 0.000795  |
| C35 | 3.764244  | -1.501011 | 0.084297  | -0.203355 | -0.00171  |
| H36 | 4.835662  | -1.671606 | 0.112804  | 0.187784  | 0.000192  |
| C37 | -2.807212 | 0.158231  | -0.127193 | 0.676158  | 0.059545  |
| O38 | -3.488933 | 0.407616  | -1.124449 | -0.570839 | -0.003068 |
| O39 | -3.437476 | 0.33507   | 1.092674  | -0.453572 | -0.018857 |
| H40 | -4.349219 | 0.633832  | 0.904391  | 0.364615  | 0.012202  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2923.54299883 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

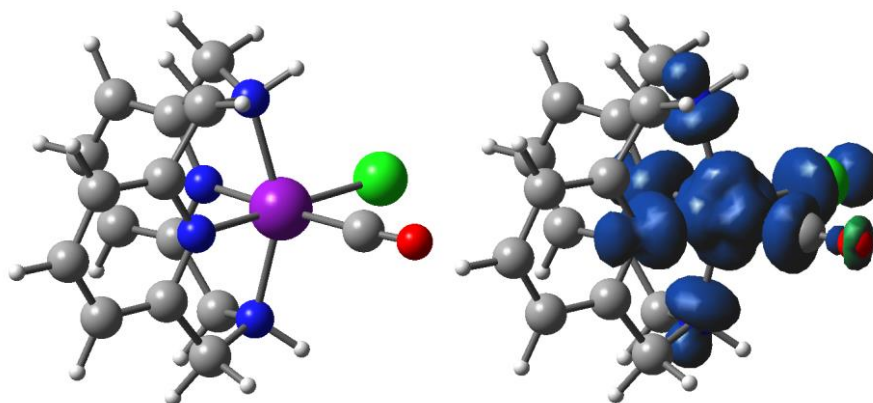
S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0065, after 2.0000

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 30.2227 | 37.8228 | 41.8623 |
| Red. masses -- | 8.5705  | 10.6552 | 5.4623  |

Zero-point correction= 0.314736 (Hartree/Particle)  
Thermal correction to Energy= 0.335967  
Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.336911  
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.262336  
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2923.228263  
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2923.207032  
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2923.206088  
Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2923.280663

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000018 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000004 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S52.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})\text{Cl}]^+$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -0.272551 | -1.922734 | 1.168644  | -0.023478       | 0.000842     |
| N2   | 0.08573   | -1.386091 | 0.000164  | 0.310481        | 0.10277      |
| N3   | 0.503889  | 0.232272  | -2.105366 | -0.406184       | 0.074797     |
| H4   | 1.286953  | 0.524168  | -2.68213  | 0.396758        | -0.003012    |
| C5   | -1.025997 | -3.091364 | 1.208715  | -0.57917        | -0.009811    |
| H6   | -1.319023 | -3.526022 | 2.158044  | 0.19413         | 0.001073     |
| N7   | -0.872383 | 1.195906  | -0.000096 | 0.395832        | 0.108288     |
| C8   | -1.399578 | -3.677772 | 0.000778  | -0.186928       | -0.003961    |
| H9   | -1.993847 | -4.585578 | 0.001017  | 0.194626        | 0.000273     |
| C10  | -1.026384 | -3.09174  | -1.207467 | -0.579054       | -0.009803    |
| H11  | -1.319718 | -3.526713 | -2.156556 | 0.194123        | 0.001073     |
| N12  | 0.504556  | 0.232989  | 2.104620  | -0.406074       | 0.074908     |
| H13  | 1.287977  | 0.525133  | 2.680772  | 0.396807        | -0.003016    |
| C14  | -0.272918 | -1.923096 | -1.168057 | -0.02351        | 0.000845     |
| C15  | 0.2513    | -1.198925 | -2.381914 | 0.001587        | 0.002978     |
| H16  | -0.425582 | -1.328965 | -3.233142 | 0.18736         | 0.002349     |
| H17  | 1.209549  | -1.651973 | -2.656429 | 0.222789        | -0.000298    |
| C18  | -0.638551 | 1.128685  | -2.388021 | 0.019685        | 0.001348     |
| H19  | -1.240237 | 0.759489  | -3.225553 | 0.188391        | 0.002425     |
| C20  | -1.503851 | 1.336294  | -1.168975 | -0.038311       | -0.004416    |
| C21  | -2.851001 | 1.67986   | -1.207841 | -0.385162       | -0.006938    |
| H22  | -3.36368  | 1.790379  | -2.156954 | 0.19507         | 0.001018     |
| C23  | -3.522245 | 1.860925  | 0.000206  | -0.246561       | -0.004887    |
| H24  | -4.575165 | 2.122789  | 0.000321  | 0.195976        | 0.000288     |
| C25  | -2.85064  | 1.680266  | 1.20811   | -0.385248       | -0.006942    |
| C26  | -1.503512 | 1.336688  | 1.168905  | -0.038689       | -0.004422    |
| C27  | 0.252103  | -1.19807  | 2.381985  | 0.001556        | 0.002976     |
| H28  | -0.424445 | -1.327751 | 3.233537  | 0.187377        | 0.002352     |
| H29  | -3.363018 | 1.791112  | 2.157349  | 0.195076        | 0.001017     |
| C30  | -0.637705 | 1.129504  | 2.387625  | 0.019981        | 0.001341     |
| H31  | -0.230641 | 2.100779  | 2.689139  | 0.219056        | -0.000412    |
| H32  | -1.238998 | 0.76063   | 3.225586  | 0.188413        | 0.002429     |

|      |           |           |           |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cl33 | 3.179216  | -0.553806 | -0.000399 | -0.468297 | 0.102202  |
| H34  | 1.210475  | -1.650978 | 2.656301  | 0.222805  | -0.000298 |
| H35  | -0.231686 | 2.099864  | -2.690114 | 0.219036  | -0.000412 |
| C36  | 2.011343  | 2.122619  | -0.000244 | 0.628308  | 0.100442  |
| O37  | 2.693001  | 3.029507  | -0.000082 | -0.283147 | -0.026824 |
| Ni38 | 0.983178  | 0.405354  | -0.000132 | 0.07459   | 1.497417  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2847.37740863 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0079, after 2.0000

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 40.2193 | 50.9674 | 52.3686 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.2064  | 7.7263  | 8.1071  |

Zero-point correction= 0.300990 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.320623

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.321568

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.251861

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2847.076419

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2847.056785

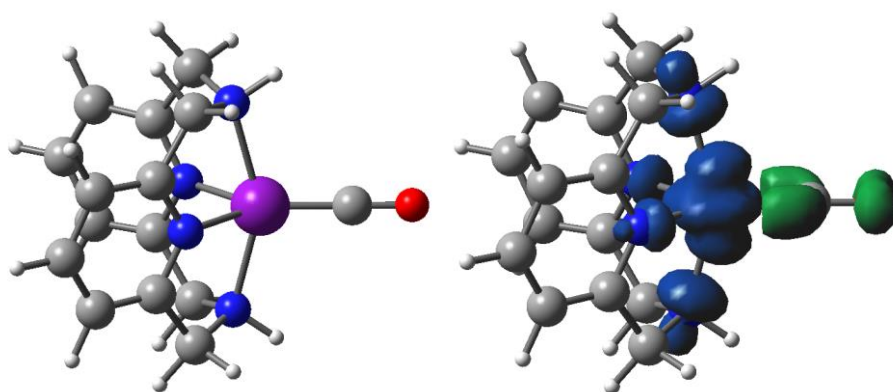
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2847.055841

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2847.125548

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000102 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000022 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S53.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})]^+$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -0.676358 | 1.72861   | -1.164869 | -0.284199       | -0.017399    |
| N2   | -0.101753 | 1.408147  | -0.000054 | 0.267498        | 0.043736     |
| N3   | 0.807873  | -0.000021 | 2.119118  | -0.442364       | 0.049312     |
| H4   | 1.638942  | 0.000178  | 2.700565  | 0.383222        | -0.00222     |
| C5   | -1.857602 | 2.462758  | -1.205475 | -0.03561        | 0.000938     |
| H6   | -2.314585 | 2.715333  | -2.156251 | 0.188483        | 0.000245     |
| N7   | -0.100963 | -1.409067 | 0.000026  | 0.266814        | 0.043687     |
| C8   | -2.443444 | 2.844706  | -0.000183 | -0.309527       | -0.00811     |
| H9   | -3.367453 | 3.413607  | -0.000232 | 0.19075         | 0.000374     |
| C10  | -1.857695 | 2.462823  | 1.205175  | -0.035596       | 0.00094      |
| H11  | -2.314752 | 2.715453  | 2.155902  | 0.188483        | 0.000245     |
| N12  | 0.808008  | -0.000144 | -2.119078 | -0.44237        | 0.049297     |
| H13  | 1.639137  | -0.000011 | -2.700439 | 0.383222        | -0.00222     |
| C14  | -0.676453 | 1.728665  | 1.1647    | -0.284188       | -0.017402    |
| C15  | 0.065392  | 1.248205  | 2.386945  | 0.004639        | 0.00896      |
| H16  | -0.622072 | 1.139488  | 3.233997  | 0.179341        | 0.00247      |
| H17  | 0.80158   | 2.010664  | 2.664271  | 0.210571        | -0.000246    |
| C18  | 0.065941  | -1.248588 | 2.386999  | 0.004249        | 0.008966     |
| H19  | -0.621454 | -1.140203 | 3.234149  | 0.179318        | 0.002471     |
| C20  | -0.675933 | -1.729076 | 1.164799  | -0.284024       | -0.0174      |
| C21  | -1.857685 | -2.46243  | 1.205327  | -0.035056       | 0.000943     |
| H22  | -2.314945 | -2.714669 | 2.156059  | 0.188478        | 0.000245     |
| C23  | -2.443689 | -2.844026 | 0.000005  | -0.309647       | -0.008105    |
| H24  | -3.368129 | -3.412227 | -0.000003 | 0.190755        | 0.000373     |
| C25  | -1.857629 | -2.462488 | -1.205306 | -0.035074       | 0.000942     |
| C26  | -0.675879 | -1.729127 | -1.164758 | -0.284001       | -0.017394    |
| C27  | 0.065604  | 1.248101  | -2.387024 | 0.004675        | 0.008962     |
| H28  | -0.621764 | 1.139401  | -3.234157 | 0.17934         | 0.002469     |
| H29  | -2.314843 | -2.714774 | -2.156048 | 0.188478        | 0.000245     |
| C30  | 0.066047  | -1.24869  | -2.38695  | 0.004251        | 0.008965     |
| H31  | 0.802588  | -2.010883 | -2.664032 | 0.21056         | -0.000245    |
| H32  | -0.621324 | -1.140299 | -3.234118 | 0.179318        | 0.00247      |

|      |          |           |           |           |           |
|------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H33  | 0.801856 | 2.010529  | -2.664267 | 0.21057   | -0.000246 |
| H34  | 0.802503 | -2.010749 | 2.664113  | 0.210561  | -0.000245 |
| C35  | 3.124737 | 0.000625  | 0.000193  | 1.10956   | -0.042605 |
| O36  | 4.281031 | 0.000979  | 0.000157  | -0.380927 | -0.045438 |
| Ni37 | 1.345078 | -0.000053 | 0.00006   | -0.960555 | 0.942022  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2386.81507488 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7817, after 0.7504

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 43.0940 | 46.2916 | 57.8090 |
| Red. masses -- | 5.1756  | 9.7757  | 3.2718  |

Zero-point correction= 0.299682 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.317056

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.318001

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.254004

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2386.515393

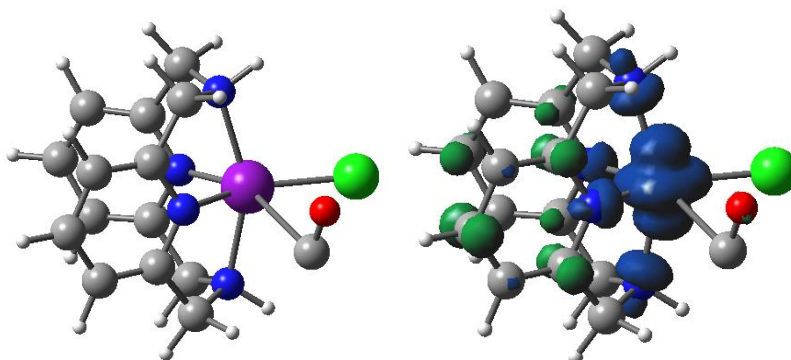
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2386.498018

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2386.497074

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2386.561070

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000079 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000007 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S54.** TS geometry optimized for  $[\text{Ni}(\text{dapp})\text{Cl} \cdots \text{CO}]^\ddagger$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -1.94774 | -0.91984 | 1.1426   | -0.17541        | -0.036828    |
| N2   | -1.28559 | -1.11999 | -0.00694 | 0.288389        | 0.024792     |
| N3   | 0.34448  | -0.56971 | -2.12561 | -0.33772        | 0.027739     |
| H4   | 1.00488  | -1.08502 | -2.69762 | 0.369186        | -0.001267    |
| C5   | -3.30514 | -0.61362 | 1.15552  | -0.05578        | 0.022575     |
| H6   | -3.82138 | -0.45436 | 2.09695  | 0.176389        | -0.00031     |
| N7   | 0.49301  | 1.11171  | 0.00782  | 0.479253        | 0.013147     |
| C8   | -3.97568 | -0.49431 | -0.06191 | -0.29083        | -0.043048    |
| H9   | -5.03335 | -0.2523  | -0.08349 | 0.181301        | 0.001927     |
| C10  | -3.2625  | -0.64152 | -1.25188 | -0.06105        | 0.022798     |
| H11  | -3.74505 | -0.50468 | -2.21446 | 0.176444        | -0.000314    |
| N12  | 0.27502  | -0.54549 | 2.15596  | -0.38           | 0.028175     |
| H13  | 0.9077   | -1.0625  | 2.75703  | 0.369764        | -0.001318    |
| C14  | -1.90674 | -0.94649 | -1.18355 | -0.15765        | -0.035783    |
| C15  | -1.00895 | -1.09423 | -2.38958 | -0.04962        | 0.002931     |
| H16  | -1.47131 | -0.62144 | -3.26589 | 0.164795        | 0.001589     |
| H17  | -0.89949 | -2.16139 | -2.61461 | 0.197204        | -0.000923    |
| C18  | 0.52768  | 0.87118  | -2.3802  | 0.089491        | 0.003835     |
| H19  | -0.04866 | 1.21549  | -3.24877 | 0.165106        | 0.001249     |
| C20  | 0.18185  | 1.69564  | -1.16342 | -0.0311         | -0.044048    |
| C21  | -0.41112 | 2.95203  | -1.215   | -0.59888        | 0.028615     |
| H22  | -0.65175 | 3.40198  | -2.17307 | 0.174827        | -0.00046     |
| C23  | -0.7044  | 3.60718  | -0.01843 | -0.27018        | -0.066421    |
| H24  | -1.16724 | 4.58853  | -0.02877 | 0.17916         | 0.003173     |
| C25  | -0.43539 | 2.96561  | 1.19131  | -0.51655        | 0.031854     |
| C26  | 0.1582   | 1.70887  | 1.1661   | 0.075362        | -0.028719    |
| C27  | -1.09528 | -1.04223 | 2.38446  | -0.04751        | 0.004405     |
| H28  | -1.58199 | -0.53583 | 3.22816  | 0.164567        | 0.001619     |
| H29  | -0.69561 | 3.42621  | 2.13913  | 0.174701        | -0.000469    |
| C30  | 0.47782  | 0.89556  | 2.39636  | 0.076069        | -0.007078    |
| H31  | 1.53997  | 1.02829  | 2.63099  | 0.199128        | -0.001467    |
| H32  | -0.10104 | 1.25912  | 3.25531  | 0.16375         | 0.001222     |
| Cl33 | 2.3703   | -2.51413 | 0.03849  | -0.52973        | 0.023484     |

|      |          |          |          |          |           |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34  | -1.01184 | -2.10323 | 2.64669  | 0.196813 | -0.000949 |
| H35  | 1.58827  | 1.02037  | -2.61324 | 0.196446 | -0.001726 |
| C36  | 3.71222  | 0.91572  | 0.57368  | 0.065042 | -0.010349 |
| O37  | 4.22777  | 1.03278  | -0.43465 | -0.07732 | -0.002895 |
| Ni38 | 0.72332  | -0.85622 | 0.02548  | -0.74386 | 1.039242  |

---

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2847.50133298 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.8088, after 0.7514

|                |          |         |         |
|----------------|----------|---------|---------|
|                | 1        | 2       | 3       |
|                | A        | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | -25.4659 | 21.3217 | 35.4868 |
| Red. masses -- | 11.4941  | 11.8906 | 13.2404 |

Zero-point correction= 0.296101 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.316665

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.317609

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.243696

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2847.205232

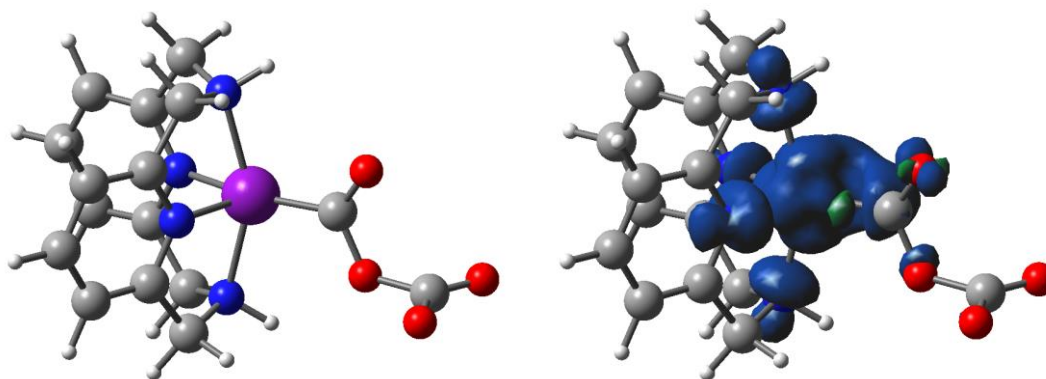
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2847.184668

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2847.183724

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2847.257637

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000001 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000000 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S55.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C})$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ni1  | 0.34754   | -0.558925 | -0.342659 | -0.457916       | 1.683136     |
| C2   | -1.955292 | -1.529184 | 1.125706  | -0.226951       | 0.037812     |
| N3   | -1.539715 | -1.217619 | -0.107069 | 0.277492        | 0.070644     |
| N4   | -0.505473 | 0.041482  | -2.255712 | -0.370978       | 0.063233     |
| H5   | 0.140807  | -0.207397 | -2.997039 | 0.390794        | -0.002806    |
| C6   | -3.301609 | -1.766943 | 1.382449  | -0.107748       | 0.009848     |
| H7   | -3.634569 | -2.017093 | 2.383813  | 0.190845        | 0.000796     |
| N8   | -0.267591 | 1.257256  | 0.144416  | 0.461833        | 0.117871     |
| C9   | -4.206576 | -1.657271 | 0.328426  | -0.301514       | 0.008417     |
| H10  | -5.2638   | -1.82989  | 0.50154   | 0.193007        | -0.000386    |
| C11  | -3.758514 | -1.296962 | -0.941124 | -0.08713        | 0.005018     |
| H12  | -4.450757 | -1.177243 | -1.767378 | 0.191032        | 0.000796     |
| N13  | 0.298249  | -0.785455 | 1.817598  | -0.352094       | 0.066955     |
| H14  | 1.151786  | -1.248584 | 2.112056  | 0.391531        | -0.002719    |
| C15  | -2.39747  | -1.075383 | -1.123484 | -0.249239       | 0.038436     |
| C16  | -1.768495 | -0.695065 | -2.443883 | -0.016318       | -0.012282    |
| H17  | -2.483069 | -0.131794 | -3.055142 | 0.181558        | 0.002734     |
| H18  | -1.536179 | -1.616076 | -2.989239 | 0.213008        | 0.000118     |
| C19  | -0.626969 | 1.511498  | -2.217735 | -0.103913       | 0.018996     |
| H20  | -1.445528 | 1.867594  | -2.853951 | 0.182508        | 0.002323     |
| C21  | -0.794667 | 2.030907  | -0.809659 | 0.12002         | -0.030717    |
| C22  | -1.414452 | 3.232736  | -0.482491 | -0.390817       | -0.010034    |
| H23  | -1.843615 | 3.858299  | -1.257416 | 0.190204        | 0.000878     |
| C24  | -1.483556 | 3.598744  | 0.860455  | -0.361148       | -0.0076      |
| H25  | -1.968119 | 4.527059  | 1.144767  | 0.192585        | 0.000338     |
| C26  | -0.955106 | 2.760839  | 1.840841  | -0.450439       | -0.011051    |
| C27  | -0.34857  | 1.574603  | 1.440413  | 0.132609        | -0.030783    |
| C28  | -0.863878 | -1.62199  | 2.167594  | -0.010594       | -0.010282    |
| H29  | -1.263782 | -1.37132  | 3.156938  | 0.181259        | 0.002846     |
| H30  | -1.023197 | 3.015876  | 2.892736  | 0.190864        | 0.000871     |
| C31  | 0.291206  | 0.579532  | 2.378757  | -0.105166       | 0.017747     |
| H32  | 1.335526  | 0.875275  | 2.524383  | 0.214616        | -0.000499    |
| H33  | -0.195823 | 0.612888  | 3.360054  | 0.182014        | 0.002276     |

|     |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H34 | -0.522516 | -2.661666 | 2.213714  | 0.21341   | 0.000129  |
| H35 | 0.301174  | 1.926757  | -2.624207 | 0.216525  | -0.00052  |
| C36 | 2.280423  | -0.373263 | -0.708903 | 0.646729  | -0.044646 |
| O37 | 2.797064  | -0.033842 | -1.776333 | -0.569507 | 0.010054  |
| O38 | 3.077861  | -0.626935 | 0.370261  | -0.308617 | -0.007513 |
| C39 | 4.541801  | -0.490266 | 0.203688  | 0.668528  | 0.007176  |
| O40 | 5.10658   | -1.539356 | -0.134251 | -0.67579  | -0.000156 |
| O41 | 4.973822  | 0.632932  | 0.496308  | -0.677093 | 0.002543  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2651.32014766 A.U. after 2 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0107, after 2.0000

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 16.2786 | 22.8855 | 35.0716 |
| Red. masses -- | 7.3522  | 10.8654 | 9.8670  |

Zero-point correction= 0.316183 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.337757

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.338701

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.262174

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2651.003964

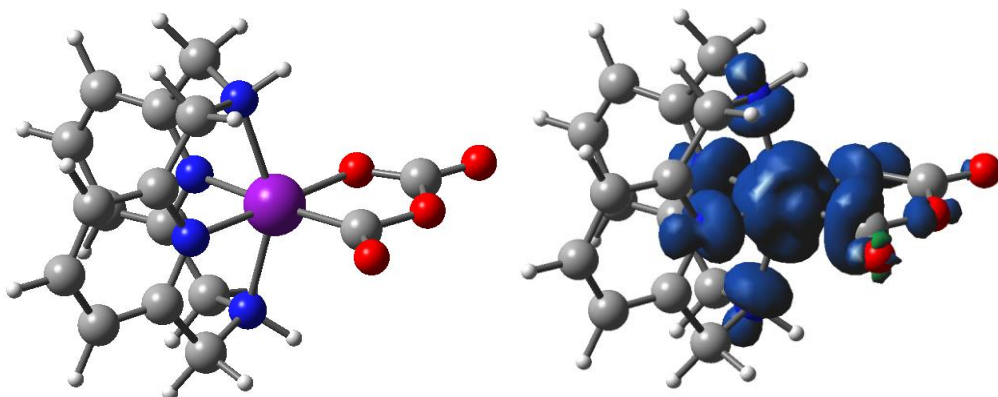
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2650.982391

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2650.981447

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2651.057974

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000051 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000006 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S56.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C,O})$  (triplet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x         | y         | z         | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -1.116286 | 1.815794  | -1.164997 | -0.092796       | -0.009146    |
| N2   | -0.590849 | 1.428202  | -0.000390 | 0.080863        | 0.068195     |
| N3   | 0.239181  | -0.012868 | 2.132388  | -0.452048       | 0.031247     |
| H4   | 1.066363  | -0.073103 | 2.716338  | 0.382584        | -0.002142    |
| C5   | -2.208734 | 2.677674  | -1.206566 | -0.385147       | -0.007445    |
| H6   | -2.631488 | 2.985303  | -2.156973 | 0.187404        | 0.000765     |
| N7   | -0.799427 | -1.321215 | 0.000448  | 0.268312        | 0.064962     |
| C8   | -2.75016  | 3.118058  | -0.000458 | -0.200398       | -0.000473    |
| H9   | -3.60631  | 3.784968  | -0.000473 | 0.188963        | 0.000112     |
| C10  | -2.208257 | 2.67836   | 1.205714  | -0.384928       | -0.007431    |
| H11  | -2.630684 | 2.986485  | 2.156106  | 0.187405        | 0.000765     |
| N12  | 0.238158  | -0.014246 | -2.132680 | -0.452207       | 0.031248     |
| H13  | 1.065157  | -0.074754 | -2.716856 | 0.382602        | -0.002142    |
| C14  | -1.115797 | 1.816544  | 1.164219  | -0.093364       | -0.009126    |
| C15  | -0.41695  | 1.281401  | 2.391329  | 0.013617        | 0.011408     |
| H16  | -1.119437 | 1.222013  | 3.231596  | 0.176973        | 0.002408     |
| H17  | 0.364262  | 1.994191  | 2.676496  | 0.207326        | -0.000126    |
| C18  | -0.596968 | -1.199701 | 2.390757  | 0.010268        | -0.003196    |
| H19  | -1.27765  | -1.042738 | 3.236263  | 0.177647        | 0.001857     |
| C20  | -1.373583 | -1.625147 | 1.166835  | -0.018906       | -0.003981    |
| C21  | -2.583973 | -2.311683 | 1.207954  | -0.415643       | 0.001504     |
| H22  | -3.04891  | -2.552574 | 2.157906  | 0.187815        | 0.000792     |
| C23  | -3.186054 | -2.663728 | 0.001404  | -0.217317       | -0.00722     |
| H24  | -4.133364 | -3.193163 | 0.00176   | 0.189408        | 0.000332     |
| C25  | -2.584491 | -2.31246  | -1.205661 | -0.415716       | 0.001496     |
| C26  | -1.374091 | -1.625953 | -1.165526 | -0.019004       | -0.003969    |
| C27  | -0.418245 | 1.279781  | -2.39216  | 0.013273        | 0.011427     |
| H28  | -1.121373 | 1.21965   | -3.231838 | 0.176983        | 0.002408     |
| H29  | -3.049898 | -2.553929 | -2.155237 | 0.187815        | 0.000792     |
| C30  | -0.597894 | -1.201347 | -2.389991 | 0.010651        | -0.003214    |
| H31  | 0.074271  | -2.021035 | -2.666006 | 0.210573        | -0.000421    |
| H32  | -1.278816 | -1.045125 | -3.235450 | 0.177655        | 0.001859     |

|      |          |           |           |           |           |
|------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H33  | 0.362685 | 1.992398  | -2.678509 | 0.207328  | -0.000126 |
| H34  | 0.075158 | -2.019265 | 2.667246  | 0.21056   | -0.000421 |
| C35  | 2.336428 | -1.379372 | -0.000390 | 0.678925  | 0.102726  |
| O36  | 2.467543 | -2.593335 | -0.000546 | -0.573885 | -0.001689 |
| O37  | 2.384275 | 1.239694  | -0.000453 | -0.583534 | 0.037906  |
| C38  | 3.536166 | 0.700261  | -0.000047 | 1.004111  | -0.016195 |
| O39  | 3.589905 | -0.693261 | -0.000309 | -0.445498 | 0.004268  |
| O40  | 4.632731 | 1.271585  | 0.000591  | -0.679903 | -0.000258 |
| Ni41 | 0.808511 | -0.080599 | -0.000339 | -0.088769 | 1.700246  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2651.34477864 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 2.0067, after 2.0000

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 32.1242 | 40.4677 | 43.2278 |
| Red. masses -- | 10.2610 | 5.2356  | 7.3858  |

Zero-point correction= 0.316984 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.337995

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.338939

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.266092

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2651.027794

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2651.006784

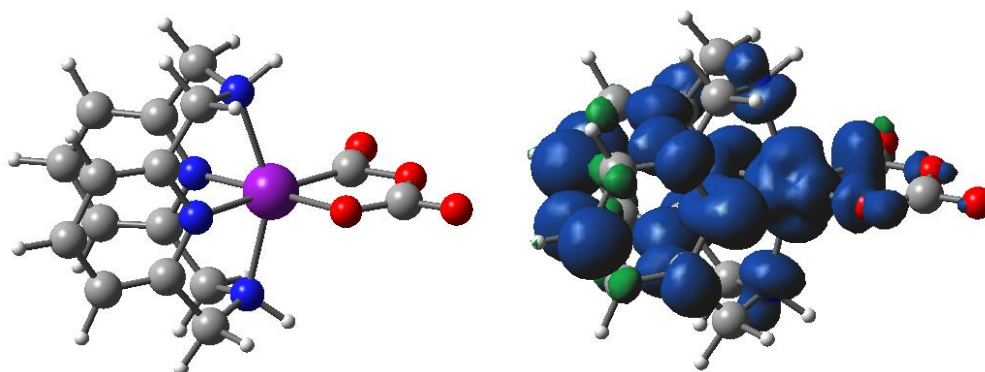
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2651.005840

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2651.078686

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000024 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000004 | 0.000300  | YES        |



**Table S57.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_2\text{CO}_2^{2-}\text{-C,O})]^-$  (quartet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -1.22112 | 1.60842  | -1.17098 | -0.24024        | 0.20062      |
| N2   | -0.57799 | 1.36999  | -0.00024 | -0.10948        | 0.180586     |
| N3   | 0.31346  | -0.0127  | 2.17203  | -0.4061         | 0.028658     |
| H4   | 1.11082  | -0.05056 | 2.79923  | 0.357284        | -0.000325    |
| C5   | -2.48871 | 2.16342  | -1.20821 | -0.05165        | -0.155358    |
| H6   | -2.96938 | 2.34804  | -2.16485 | 0.154005        | 0.002053     |
| N7   | -0.70446 | -1.3221  | 0.00023  | 0.066288        | 0.189661     |
| C8   | -3.13819 | 2.47492  | -0.00029 | -0.35408        | 0.324072     |
| H9   | -4.13025 | 2.91378  | -0.00031 | 0.159502        | -0.014695    |
| C10  | -2.48857 | 2.16386  | 1.20767  | -0.05162        | -0.155372    |
| H11  | -2.96913 | 2.34881  | 2.1643   | 0.154006        | 0.002053     |
| N12  | 0.31328  | -0.0134  | -2.17213 | -0.40612        | 0.028651     |
| H13  | 1.11056  | -0.05145 | -2.79942 | 0.357282        | -0.000325    |
| C14  | -1.22099 | 1.60884  | 1.1705   | -0.2402         | 0.2006       |
| C15  | -0.4059  | 1.25726  | 2.38385  | -0.04594        | -0.002906    |
| H16  | -1.04014 | 1.22483  | 3.28015  | 0.157285        | 0.001634     |
| H17  | 0.3593   | 2.0272   | 2.54236  | 0.179617        | 0.006975     |
| C18  | -0.51972 | -1.21306 | 2.38268  | -0.04948        | -0.010245    |
| H19  | -1.14417 | -1.12409 | 3.28207  | 0.157488        | 0.001048     |
| C20  | -1.36839 | -1.48888 | 1.17233  | -0.2337         | 0.211313     |
| C21  | -2.68468 | -1.91441 | 1.20925  | -0.03083        | -0.167968    |
| H22  | -3.18162 | -2.04916 | 2.16594  | 0.153207        | 0.002121     |
| C23  | -3.3612  | -2.16411 | 0.00046  | -0.3943         | 0.333048     |
| H24  | -4.39077 | -2.50564 | 0.00054  | 0.15844         | -0.01517     |
| C25  | -2.68476 | -1.91481 | -1.20846 | -0.03084        | -0.167985    |
| C26  | -1.36847 | -1.48927 | -1.17177 | -0.23361        | 0.211311     |
| C27  | -0.40615 | 1.25646  | -2.3843  | -0.04585        | -0.002959    |
| H28  | -1.0405  | 1.2237   | -3.28052 | 0.157285        | 0.001634     |
| H29  | -3.18176 | -2.04989 | -2.16508 | 0.153206        | 0.002121     |
| C30  | -0.51988 | -1.21387 | -2.38227 | -0.04955        | -0.010214    |
| H31  | 0.17359  | -2.04967 | -2.537   | 0.181797        | 0.006856     |
| H32  | -1.14439 | -1.12526 | -3.28166 | 0.157487        | 0.001048     |
| H33  | 0.35899  | 2.02637  | -2.54317 | 0.179616        | 0.006976     |

|      |         |          |          |          |           |
|------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34  | 0.17372 | -2.04882 | 2.53768  | 0.181796 | 0.006856  |
| C35  | 2.4686  | -1.31091 | 0.00008  | 0.697079 | 0.072187  |
| O36  | 2.64318 | -2.52111 | 0.00015  | -0.59749 | -0.004689 |
| O37  | 2.46401 | 1.311    | -0.00026 | -0.57833 | 0.027632  |
| C38  | 3.62465 | 0.79763  | -0.00011 | 0.976262 | -0.01465  |
| O39  | 3.71218 | -0.59241 | 0.00005  | -0.45671 | 0.00285   |
| O40  | 4.71214 | 1.39372  | -0.00002 | -0.69471 | -0.00081  |
| Ni41 | 0.89085 | -0.05961 | -0.00005 | -0.4381  | 1.671105  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2651.44654112 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 3.7656, after 3.7501

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 26.8782 | 52.4221 | 54.1294 |
| Red. masses -- | 10.6179 | 5.6149  | 8.9598  |

Zero-point correction= 0.311956 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.333156

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.334100

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.261163

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2651.134585

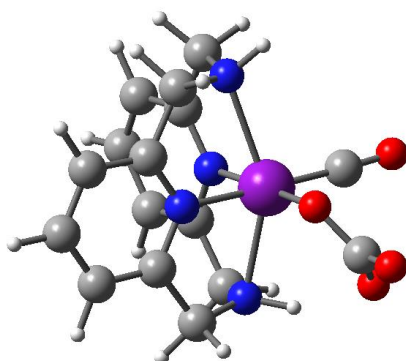
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2651.113385

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2651.112441

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2651.185378

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000037 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000005 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S58.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})(\text{CO}_3^{2-})$  (singlet), computed at the RB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| C1   | -0.73882 | 2.0555   | -1.00134 | 0.009842        |
| N2   | -0.10443 | 1.386693 | -0.02417 | 0.053329        |
| N3   | 0.800523 | -0.3113  | 1.990534 | -0.48256        |
| H4   | 1.753667 | -0.66322 | 1.881858 | 0.42005         |
| C5   | -1.31919 | 3.297979 | -0.76016 | -0.66892        |
| H6   | -1.83467 | 3.813276 | -1.56373 | 0.186469        |
| N7   | -1.10798 | -1.08172 | 0.104065 | 0.132262        |
| C8   | -1.23617 | 3.849997 | 0.512432 | -0.15752        |
| H9   | -1.68382 | 4.815849 | 0.723194 | 0.18982         |
| C10  | -0.59491 | 3.135142 | 1.51646  | -0.91074        |
| H11  | -0.53191 | 3.519763 | 2.52909  | 0.186961        |
| N12  | -0.5859  | 0.022783 | -2.42901 | -0.5193         |
| H13  | -0.07782 | -0.24249 | -3.26168 | 0.369633        |
| C14  | -0.04069 | 1.893596 | 1.218619 | 0.388022        |
| C15  | 0.673123 | 1.084748 | 2.292064 | -0.39239        |
| H16  | 0.155752 | 1.257244 | 3.24687  | 0.170563        |
| H17  | 1.67789  | 1.508482 | 2.406997 | 0.203033        |
| C18  | -0.21697 | -1.2419  | 2.390176 | -0.2465         |
| H19  | -0.64231 | -1.00386 | 3.376076 | 0.169557        |
| C20  | -1.36412 | -1.35361 | 1.400295 | 0.188367        |
| C21  | -2.6379  | -1.73452 | 1.807437 | -0.4713         |
| H22  | -2.82209 | -1.94293 | 2.855838 | 0.190149        |
| C23  | -3.65674 | -1.82077 | 0.865947 | -0.23208        |
| H24  | -4.65932 | -2.1088  | 1.164741 | 0.193348        |
| C25  | -3.38129 | -1.50358 | -0.45808 | -0.406          |
| C26  | -2.08836 | -1.13287 | -0.81651 | 0.114526        |
| C27  | -0.78407 | 1.458074 | -2.39259 | -0.07701        |
| H28  | -1.72853 | 1.765587 | -2.86582 | 0.170183        |
| H29  | -4.15743 | -1.52965 | -1.21526 | 0.190075        |
| C30  | -1.75695 | -0.81641 | -2.25958 | -0.12761        |
| H31  | -1.56334 | -1.76821 | -2.76753 | 0.209408        |
| H32  | -2.6554  | -0.38951 | -2.7295  | 0.171539        |
| H33  | 0.020879 | 1.920583 | -2.97446 | 0.204756        |
| H34  | 0.239953 | -2.23456 | 2.484708 | 0.204136        |

|      |          |          |          |          |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| C35  | 1.331112 | -2.04182 | -0.72719 | 0.580067 |
| O36  | 1.74506  | -3.07125 | -0.99701 | -0.31163 |
| O37  | 2.281094 | 0.314381 | -0.79551 | -0.68283 |
| C38  | 3.384869 | -0.05542 | -0.11149 | 0.81794  |
| O39  | 4.452328 | 0.531838 | -0.43432 | -0.74465 |
| O40  | 3.273976 | -0.95218 | 0.790363 | -0.72438 |
| Ni41 | 0.644134 | -0.42357 | -0.36245 | 1.441382 |

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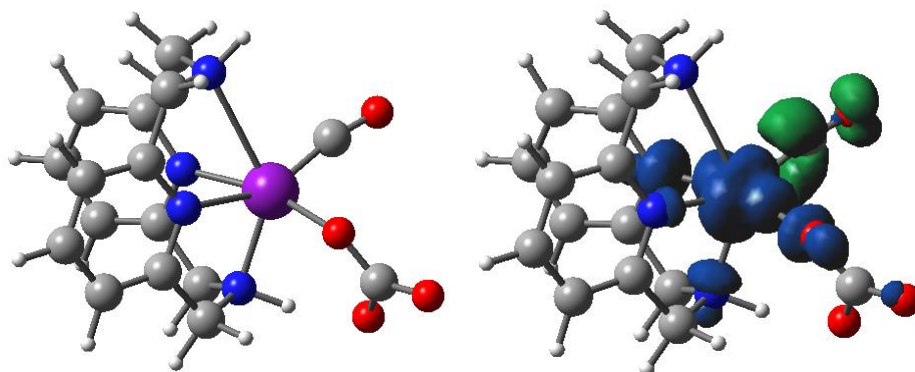
SCF Done: E(RB3P86) = -2651.29917081 A.U. after 2 cycles

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 37.0108 | 42.7917 | 45.9767 |
| Red. masses -- | 4.1829  | 5.1689  | 8.0874  |

Zero-point correction= 0.314391 (Hartree/Particle)  
 Thermal correction to Energy= 0.336444  
 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.337388  
 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.262875  
 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2650.984780  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2650.962727  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2650.961783  
 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2651.036295

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000026 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000004 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S59.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO})(\text{CO}_3^{2-})]^-$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -1.37501 | 1.42032  | -1.5289  | -0.14024        | -0.004331    |
| N2   | -0.4006  | 1.27299  | -0.62558 | 0.13108         | 0.006796     |
| N3   | 0.99132  | 0.38926  | 1.60935  | -0.51192        | 0.034954     |
| H4   | 2.02193  | 0.23478  | 1.71261  | 0.434943        | -0.000942    |
| C5   | -2.29402 | 2.46951  | -1.45509 | -0.16927        | -0.000279    |
| H6   | -3.07676 | 2.55835  | -2.20239 | 0.171201        | 0.000092     |
| N7   | -0.98317 | -1.13878 | 0.55158  | 0.169778        | 0.035885     |
| C8   | -2.19914 | 3.37538  | -0.40484 | -0.27916        | -0.000917    |
| H9   | -2.90145 | 4.19921  | -0.32197 | 0.179452        | 0.00006      |
| C10  | -1.21651 | 3.18369  | 0.56184  | -0.30628        | 0.002311     |
| H11  | -1.13969 | 3.84065  | 1.42261  | 0.173626        | -0.000006    |
| N12  | -0.97872 | -0.90154 | -2.3143  | -0.36985        | 0.000566     |
| H13  | -0.57011 | -1.36019 | -3.11654 | 0.340134        | -0.000152    |
| C14  | -0.34068 | 2.10809  | 0.42128  | 0.082401        | -0.00702     |
| C15  | 0.72716  | 1.81286  | 1.45215  | -0.32829        | -0.001205    |
| H16  | 0.4529   | 2.29121  | 2.40378  | 0.145925        | 0.001138     |
| H17  | 1.66554  | 2.27045  | 1.11829  | 0.196612        | 0.000196     |
| C18  | 0.14855  | -0.3408  | 2.53868  | -0.19175        | -0.005422    |
| H19  | -0.13905 | 0.25832  | 3.41527  | 0.155534        | 0.000882     |
| C20  | -1.10249 | -0.86223 | 1.85958  | 0.061192        | 0.011694     |
| C21  | -2.30607 | -1.03137 | 2.53998  | -0.19811        | -0.011051    |
| H22  | -2.37082 | -0.79623 | 3.59754  | 0.177508        | 0.000793     |
| C23  | -3.41706 | -1.47582 | 1.83055  | -0.27674        | -0.004785    |
| H24  | -4.37227 | -1.60854 | 2.32899  | 0.182067        | 0.000275     |
| C25  | -3.29615 | -1.71004 | 0.46452  | -0.34578        | 0.004004     |
| C26  | -2.05663 | -1.52795 | -0.15064 | 0.167183        | 0.004495     |
| C27  | -1.45985 | 0.41586  | -2.66405 | -0.01691        | -0.003638    |
| H28  | -2.49884 | 0.41154  | -3.03593 | 0.14703         | -0.000267    |
| H29  | -4.15277 | -2.01657 | -0.12717 | 0.174442        | 0.000549     |
| C30  | -1.89246 | -1.79644 | -1.63397 | -0.23332        | -0.002956    |
| H31  | -1.49191 | -2.81169 | -1.74344 | 0.187421        | -0.00053     |
| H32  | -2.89884 | -1.80632 | -2.08605 | 0.146197        | -0.000226    |
| H33  | -0.83809 | 0.78493  | -3.48858 | 0.18367         | -0.000088    |

|      |         |          |          |          |           |
|------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H34  | 0.72367 | -1.19731 | 2.91278  | 0.185638 | -0.000406 |
| C35  | 1.6021  | -2.15095 | -0.78126 | 0.745892 | 0.000322  |
| O36  | 2.19629 | -3.12679 | -1.00126 | -0.39802 | -0.050913 |
| O37  | 2.62948 | 0.43402  | -0.77403 | -0.69337 | 0.053851  |
| C38  | 3.70263 | 0.52168  | -0.0222  | 0.70275  | 0.002829  |
| O39  | 4.79115 | 0.94696  | -0.54158 | -0.80192 | 0.003708  |
| O40  | 3.63917 | 0.18961  | 1.23116  | -0.7769  | 0.000363  |
| Ni41 | 0.92107 | -0.59383 | -0.24348 | -0.20385 | 0.929371  |

SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2651.45468070 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 0.7911, after 0.7505

|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 16.5141 | 26.8233 | 33.3245 |
| Red. masses -- | 9.9695  | 11.0125 | 8.9442  |

Zero-point correction= 0.311323 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.334149

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.335093

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.256012

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2651.143358

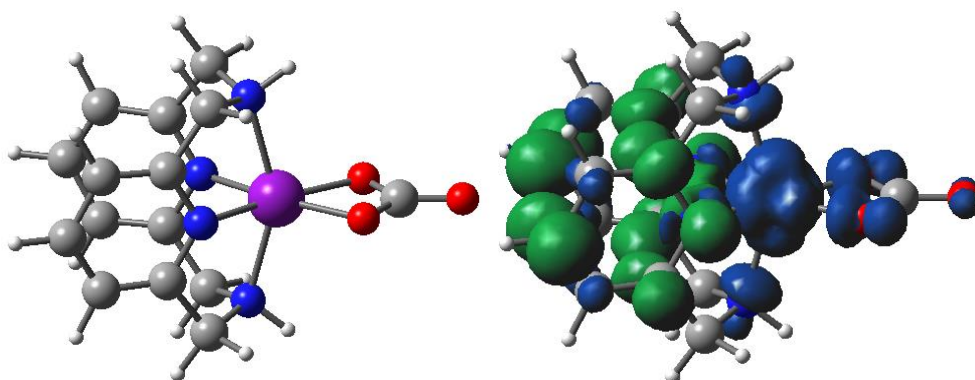
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2651.120532

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2651.119587

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2651.198668

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000027 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000003 | 0.000300  | YES        |

**Table S60.** DFT-optimized geometry of  $[\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}(\text{dapp})(\text{CO}_3^{2-})]^-$  (doublet), computed at the UB3P86/6-31+G(d,p) level using C-PCM.



Spin Density Distribution

| atom | x        | y        | z        | Mulliken charge | Spin density |
|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| C1   | -1.04185 | 1.13635  | 1.55991  | -0.16853        | -0.181774    |
| N2   | -0.37178 | -0.02973 | 1.37525  | -0.03221        | -0.052066    |
| N3   | 0.57582  | -2.16936 | -0.04595 | -0.39829        | 0.041933     |
| H4   | 1.37424  | -2.79729 | -0.06106 | 0.356387        | -0.004441    |
| C5   | -2.36051 | 1.16366  | 1.97912  | 0.031078        | 0.136254     |
| H6   | -2.86085 | 2.11687  | 2.12429  | 0.152865        | -0.00052     |
| N7   | -0.37201 | 0.02971  | -1.37546 | -0.03232        | -0.05214     |
| C8   | -3.0367  | -0.04916 | 2.19808  | -0.31681        | -0.298177    |
| H9   | -4.07024 | -0.05671 | 2.52766  | 0.159591        | 0.013911     |
| C10  | -2.35786 | -1.25089 | 1.93131  | 0.030243        | 0.137521     |
| H11  | -2.85594 | -2.21025 | 2.03851  | 0.152915        | -0.00053     |
| N12  | 0.57585  | 2.16931  | 0.04558  | -0.39828        | 0.041954     |
| H13  | 1.37426  | 2.79725  | 0.06053  | 0.356394        | -0.004443    |
| C14  | -1.03939 | -1.20361 | 1.51295  | -0.16048        | -0.183381    |
| C15  | -0.20013 | -2.40806 | 1.18829  | -0.14174        | -0.004156    |
| H16  | -0.8248  | -3.30848 | 1.11641  | 0.158007        | 0.003278     |
| H17  | 0.53184  | -2.5704  | 1.98923  | 0.179632        | -0.006312    |
| C18  | -0.20485 | -2.35492 | -1.28648 | -0.13806        | -0.002022    |
| H19  | -0.83127 | -3.25626 | -1.2494  | 0.158032        | 0.003282     |
| C20  | -1.04217 | -1.13635 | -1.55991 | -0.16843        | -0.1818      |
| C21  | -2.36097 | -1.16367 | -1.97866 | 0.031318        | 0.136303     |
| H22  | -2.86134 | -2.11688 | -2.12367 | 0.152851        | -0.000519    |
| C23  | -3.03725 | 0.04916  | -2.1974  | -0.31696        | -0.298354    |
| H24  | -4.0709  | 0.05671  | -2.52662 | 0.159577        | 0.013921     |
| C25  | -2.35831 | 1.25088  | -1.93082 | 0.03051         | 0.137624     |
| C26  | -1.0397  | 1.20361  | -1.51293 | -0.16049        | -0.183479    |
| C27  | -0.20459 | 2.3549   | 1.28626  | -0.13784        | -0.001983    |
| H28  | -0.83101 | 3.25624  | 1.24928  | 0.158045        | 0.003282     |
| H29  | -2.85643 | 2.21025  | -2.03781 | 0.152902        | -0.000533    |
| C30  | -0.20036 | 2.40804  | -1.18852 | -0.14185        | -0.00419     |
| H31  | 0.53148  | 2.57032  | -1.98959 | 0.179628        | -0.006317    |
| H32  | -0.82496 | 3.30849  | -1.11652 | 0.15801         | 0.003279     |

|      |         |          |          |          |           |
|------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| H33  | 0.52515 | 2.4854   | 2.09498  | 0.179523 | -0.006361 |
| H34  | 0.52473 | -2.4854  | -2.09535 | 0.179511 | -0.006363 |
| O35  | 2.87224 | -0.0325  | 1.09773  | -0.64216 | 0.06647   |
| C36  | 3.58927 | -0.00003 | 0.00005  | 1.203935 | 0.009479  |
| O37  | 2.87284 | 0.03248  | -1.098   | -0.64217 | 0.06643   |
| O38  | 4.85042 | -0.00004 | 0.00043  | -0.84857 | 0.007979  |
| Ni39 | 1.13497 | 0.00007  | -0.0002  | -0.47575 | 1.656965  |

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SCF Done: E(UB3P86) = -2537.88081413 A.U. after 1 cycles

Annihilation of the first spin contaminant:

S\*\*2 before annihilation 1.6932, after 0.7848

|                |         |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                | 1       | 2       | 3       |
|                | A       | A       | A       |
| Frequencies -- | 32.8221 | 44.9884 | 54.7500 |
| Red. masses -- | 7.0370  | 8.6726  | 4.9955  |

Zero-point correction= 0.303019 (Hartree/Particle)

Thermal correction to Energy= 0.322453

Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.323398

Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.254903

Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -2537.577795

Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -2537.558361

Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -2537.557416

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -2537.625911

| Item          | Value    | Threshold | Converged? |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Maximum Force | 0.000023 | 0.000450  | YES        |
| RMS Force     | 0.000002 | 0.000300  | YES        |



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