## Experimental and Supplementary Information for

## Diverse Reactivity of an $\mathbf{A l ( I )}$-centred Anion Towards Ketones

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### 1.1. General information

Except stated otherwise, all the experiments were conducted using standard Schlenk line and/or glovebox techniques under an inert atmosphere of argon. NMR spectra were recorded with an Agilent ProPulse spectrometer ( ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ at $500 \mathrm{MHz},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ at 126 MHz$)$. The spectra are referenced relative to residual protio solvent resonances. Elemental analyses were performed at Elemental Microanalysis Ltd., Okehampton, Devon, UK. Solvents were dried by passage through a commercially available solvent purification system and stored under argon in ampoules over $4 \AA$ molecular sieves. $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$ and $\mathrm{d}_{8}$-THF was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, dried over a potassium mirror before distilling and storage over molecular sieves. $\left[\left\{\mathrm{SiN}^{\mathrm{Dipp}}\right\} \mathrm{AlK}\right]_{2}(\mathbf{8})$ was prepared according to the reported procedure. ${ }^{1}$ All other chemicals were purchased from Merck. Acetophenone, 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone and 2,2,4,4-tetramethyl-3-pentanone were degassed by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles and stored over $4 \AA$ molecular sieves, while benzophenone was sublimed and stored in the glovebox under an argon atmosphere, before usage.

### 1.2. Synthetic Procedures

Synthesis of $K\left[\left\{S i N^{D i p p}\right\} A l-\kappa^{2}-O, O^{\prime}-\left\{O C^{P h} 2 C^{H}(C H=C H C H=C H) C=C^{P h} O\right\}\right]$ (11)
In a J Young's tube, $\left[\left\{\mathrm{SiN}^{\text {Dipp }}\right\} \mathrm{AlK}\right]_{2},(\mathbf{8}, 28 \mathrm{mg}, 0.025 \mathrm{mmol})$, was dissolved in 0.4 mL of toluene before the addition of benzophenone $(18 \mathrm{mg}, 0.10 \mathrm{mmol})$ to the bright yellow solution. The reaction mixture was then kept at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight to afford a colourless solution with bright yellow oil. THF was then added to the reaction mixture to afford a homogeneous bright yellow solution. Bright yellow single crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained by slow evaporation at room temperature. Yield $37 \mathrm{mg}, 80 \%$. Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{72} \mathrm{H}_{101} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{6}\left(11\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{8} \mathrm{O}\right)_{2}, 1211.86\right) \mathrm{C}, 71.30$; H, 8.39; N, 2.31 \%. Found: C, 70.84; H, 8.06, N, 2.70 \%. The recrystallised yellow crystalline solids were then collected and put under vacuum before re-dissolved in $\mathrm{d}_{8}$-THF for NMR characterisation. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$, THF- $d_{8}$ ) $\delta$ 7.78-7.69 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.50-7.45 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.04-6.99 (m, $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), ~ 6.99-6.91(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.91-6.84(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.84-6.80(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.78-6.73(\mathrm{~m}$, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.72-6.67(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.66-6.58(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}), 6.53-6.44(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.43-6.17$ $(\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.04\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph}}=\mathrm{CCH}=\mathrm{CH}\right), 5.60\left(\mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J}=9.8,5.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph} 2}-\right.$ $\mathrm{CHCH}=\mathrm{CH}), 5.21\left(\mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J}=9.8,5.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph} 2}-\mathrm{CHCH}=\mathrm{CH}\right), 5.10(\mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J}=9.4,5.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph}}=\mathrm{CCH}=\mathrm{CH}\right), 4.71-4.60\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}\right), 4.24-4.03\left(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}\right), 3.69(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=5.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{AlOC}_{\mathrm{Ph} 2}-\mathrm{CH}\right), 1.48-1.39\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right) 1.30(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe}), 1.25-1.22\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right)$, 1.19 (d, J = $6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe}$ ), 1.15 (d, J = $6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe} 2), 1.13(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe}$ ), $1.02(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe}), 0.82-0.75\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 0.73(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiMe}), 0.66-0.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 0.49\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 0.46\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 0.41\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right)$, $0.04\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right),-0.45\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right),-0.55\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si}_{2} e_{2}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( 126 MHz , $\left.298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-d_{8}\right) \delta 162.2\left(\mathrm{Al}-\mathrm{OC}^{\mathrm{Ph}}=\mathrm{C}\right), 153.7(\mathrm{Ar} C), 152.7(\mathrm{ArC}), 152.4(\mathrm{ArC}), 151.3(\mathrm{ArC}), 150.5$ $(\mathrm{ArC}), 148.7(\mathrm{ArC}), 147.6(\mathrm{ArC}), 147.2(\mathrm{ArC}), 147.1(\mathrm{ArC}), 143.8(\mathrm{ArC}), 135.7(\mathrm{ArC}), 133.2(\mathrm{ArC})$, $132.9(\mathrm{ArC}), 131.8(\mathrm{ArC}), 131.4\left(\mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph} 2}-\mathrm{CHCH}=\mathrm{CH}\right), 131.0(\mathrm{ArC}), 130.7(\mathrm{ArC}), 129.2(\mathrm{ArC})$, $129.0(\mathrm{ArC}), 126.9(\mathrm{ArC}), 126.9(\mathrm{ArC}), 126.7(\mathrm{ArC}), 126.2(\mathrm{ArC}), 124.8(\mathrm{ArC}), 124.7(\mathrm{ArC}), 123.9$ $(\mathrm{ArC}), 123.8(\mathrm{ArC}), 123.6(\mathrm{ArC}), 123.5(\mathrm{ArC}), 122.7\left(\mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph}} 2-\mathrm{CHCH}=\mathrm{CH}\right), 121.7(\mathrm{ArC}), 121.6$ -S2-
$(\mathrm{ArC}), 112.0\left(\mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph}}=\mathrm{CCH}=C \mathrm{H}\right), 109.9\left(\mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph}}=C\right), 87.0\left(\mathrm{AlOCPh}_{2}\right), 54.0\left(\mathrm{AlOC}^{\mathrm{Ph} 2}-\mathrm{CH}\right), 27.9$ ( $\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}$ ), 27.9 ( $\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}$ ), $27.8\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right), 27.8\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right), 27.7(\mathrm{CHMe})$ ), $27.6(\mathrm{CHMe})$, $27.4(\mathrm{CHMe})$, 27.0 (CHMe2), 26.6 ( $\mathrm{CH} M e_{2}$ ), 26.3 ( CHMe ), 25.4 ( CHMe ), $24.8\left(\mathrm{CHMe}\right.$ ), $15.1\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 13.1$ $\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 5.0\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 4.4\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 2.8\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 1.9\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right)$.

Figure S1. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{~d}_{8}-\mathrm{THF}$ ) spectrum of 11. *toluene


Figure S2. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{~d}_{8}$-THF) spectrum of $\mathbf{1 1}$. *toluene $^{\text {then }}$

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Figure S3. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ COSY spectrum of $\mathbf{1 1}$.


Figure S4. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HSQC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 1}$.


Figure S5. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HMBC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 1}$.


Synthesis of $K\left[\left\{S_{i N} N^{D i p p}\right\} A l-\kappa^{2}-O, O^{\prime}-(O C P h M e)_{2}\right]$ (12)
In a J Young's tube, $\left[\left\{\mathrm{SiN}^{\text {Dipp }}\right\} \mathrm{AlK}\right]_{2}(\mathbf{8}, 28 \mathrm{mg}, 0.025 \mathrm{mmol})$ was dissolved in 0.4 mL of d ${ }^{6}$-benzene before the addition of acetophenone $(11.5 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 11.8 \mathrm{mg}, 0.10 \mathrm{mmol})$ via a micropipette. The resulting pale yellow reaction mixture was kept at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight to afford a colourless solution with colourless crystals. A single crystal suitable for X-ray crystallography was picked from the crystalline solid. The reaming colourless solids were then collected, washed with hexane $(0.5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 2)$, and dried under vacuum to give $\mathbf{1 2}$ as a colourless powder. Yield $29 \mathrm{mg}, 72 \%$. Synthesis was also conducted in toluene with the same result. Yield $30 \mathrm{mg}, 74 \%$. Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{53} \mathrm{H}_{74} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\left(\mathbf{1 2 .} \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right) \mathrm{C}, 71.25 ; \mathrm{H}$, 8.35; N, 3.14 \%. Found: C, $70.72 ; \mathrm{H}, 8.25, \mathrm{~N}, 2.86 \%$. The powder was dissolved in THF-d 8 for NMR characterisation. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-\mathrm{d}_{8}$ ) $\delta 7.85-7.15$ (m, 2H, ArH of AlOCPh), 7.11 $6.93\left(\mathrm{~d}_{\text {app }}, 4 \mathrm{H}, m-\mathrm{C}_{6} H_{3}\right), 6.92-6.77(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ArH}$ of AlOCPh$), 6.77-6.68\left(\mathrm{t}_{\text {app }}, 2 \mathrm{H}, p-\mathrm{C}_{6} H_{3}\right), 4.19(\mathrm{~m}$, $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}$ ), $1.32-1.20(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{AlOCMePh}), 1.16\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 1.13(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}$ ), $1.08\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 1.06-0.98(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{AlOCMePh}), 0.96\left(\mathrm{~s}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right)$, $0.86(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{HCHMe}), 0.03\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right),-0.04(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiMe} 2) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( 126 MHz , $\left.298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-d_{8}\right) \delta 163.0(\mathrm{ArC}$ of AlOCMePh$), 160.6(\mathrm{ArC}$ of AlOCMePh$), 150.5(\mathrm{ArC}$ of AlOCMePh$)$, $148.7\left(i-C_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 147.9(\mathrm{ArC}$ of AlOCMePh$), 143.6\left(o-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 127.3(\mathrm{ArC}$ of AlOCMePh$), 126.9(\mathrm{ArC}$ of AlOCMe Ph$), 125.9\left(m-C_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 123.4$ ( ArC of AlOCMe Ph ), 123.3 ( ArC of AlOCMePh ), 121.5 ( $p-$ $C_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}$ ), 83.8 ( AlOC ), $28.0\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right), 28.0\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right), 26.7$ ( AlOCMePh ), 26.1 ( AlOCMePh ), 25.8 (CHMe $)$, $25.6(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 24.2(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 23.7(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 15.9\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 1.9(\mathrm{SiMe} 2), 1.6\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{2}\right)$.

Figure S6. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{~d}_{8}$-THF) spectrum of 12. *unidentified impurities, plausibly THF coordinated species


Figure S7. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{~d}_{8}$-THF) spectrum of 12.


Figure S8. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HSQC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 2}$.


Figure $\mathbf{S 9} .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HMBC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 2}$.


Synthesis of $K\left[\left\{S_{i N}{ }^{\text {Dipp }}\right\} A l(H) O C\left({ }^{i} \mathrm{Pr}\right)=\mathrm{CMe}_{2}\right]$ (13)
In a J Young's tube, $\left[\left\{\operatorname{SiN}^{\text {Dipp }}\right\} \mathrm{AlK}\right]_{2}(\mathbf{8}, 28 \mathrm{mg}, 0.025 \mathrm{mmol})$ was dissolved in 0.4 mL of toluene before the addition of 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone $(7.1 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 5.7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.05 \mathrm{mmol})$ via a micropipette. The resulting bright yellow reaction mixture was kept at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight to afford a colourless solution with colourless crystals. A single crystal suitable for X-ray crystallography was picked from the crystalline solid. The remaining colourless solids were then collected, washed with hexane $(0.5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 2)$, and dried under vacuum to give 13 as a colourless powder. Yield $30 \mathrm{mg}, 89 \%$. Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{37} \mathrm{H}_{64} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (13) C, 65.82; H, 9.55; N, 4.15 \%. Found: C, 64.76 ; H, 8.93, N, $3.92 \% .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-\mathrm{d}_{8}$ ) $\delta 6.81\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, m-\mathrm{C}_{6} H_{3}\right), 6.65\left(\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{J}=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, p-\mathrm{C}_{6} H_{3}\right), 4.26$ (sept, $\mathrm{J}=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}$ on $\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}$ ), 4.20 (sept, $\mathrm{J}=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}$ on $\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}$ ), $1.82(\mathrm{sept}, \mathrm{J}=$ $7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCCHMe} 2), 1.33\left(\mathrm{~s}^{\mathrm{app}}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCCMe} 2\right), 1.17-1.14\left(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe} e_{2}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right), 1.13(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=$ $6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right), 1.06\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right), 0.89\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{br}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 0.40$ $\left(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OCCH} M e_{2}\right),-0.05\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right),-0.09\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ resonance correlated to AlH was not observed. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$, THF- $\mathrm{d}_{8}$ ) $\delta 155.7$ (OC), $151.5\left(i-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 148.8$ $\left(o-C_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 147.9\left(o-C_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 123.3\left(m-C_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 123.2\left(m-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 121.2\left(p-\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 94.7(\mathrm{OCCMe}), 35.4$ (OCCHMe2), $29.0\left(\mathrm{CHMe}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right)$, $27.9\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right)$, $27.8\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right)$, $26.4\left(\mathrm{CHMe} e_{2}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right)$, $26.0\left(\mathrm{CHMe} 2_{2}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right)$, $24.2\left(\mathrm{CHMe} e_{2}\right.$ on $\left.\mathrm{N}^{\text {Dipp }}\right)$, $21.2\left(\mathrm{OCCH} e_{2}\right)$, $20.5\left(\mathrm{OCCMe}_{2}\right), 19.4$ ( $\mathrm{OCCMe}_{2}$ ), $16.2\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 2.4\left(\mathrm{SiMe}_{2}\right),-1.4\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right)$.

Figure S10. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-\mathrm{d}_{8}$ ) spectrum of 13. *silicone grease


Figure S11. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$, THF-d 8 ) spectrum of 13. *silicone grease


Figure S12. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}^{-1} \mathrm{H}$ COSY spectrum of $\mathbf{1 3}$.


Figure S13. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HSQC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 3}$.


Figure S14. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HMBC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 3}$.


Synthesis of 14; Reaction of $\left[\left\{\mathrm{SiN}^{\text {Dipp }}\right\} \mathrm{AlK}_{2}\right]_{2}$ (8) with 2,2,4,4-tetramethylpentanone
In a J Young's tube, $\left[\left\{\mathrm{SiN}^{\text {Dipp }}\right\} \mathrm{AlK}\right]_{2}(\mathbf{8}, 28 \mathrm{mg}, 0.025 \mathrm{mmol})$ was dissolved in 0.4 mL of toluene before the addition of 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone ( $8.6 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 7.1 \mathrm{mg}, 0.05 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) via a micropipette. The resulting bright yellow reaction mixture was kept at $60{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight to afford a colourless solution with colourless crystals. A single crystal suitable for X-ray crystallography was picked from the crystalline solid. The colourless solids were then collected, washed with hexane $(0.5 \mathrm{~mL} \times 2)$, and dried under vacuum to give $\mathbf{1 4}$ as a colourless powder. Yield $28 \mathrm{mg}, 83 \%$. Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{39} \mathrm{H}_{68} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (14) C, $66.01 ;$ H, $9.73 ;$ N, 3.98 \%. Found: C, $65.97 ;$ H, $9.76, ~ N, 3.74 \%$. NMR characterisation was performed with a mixture of diastereomers of compound $14 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-d_{8}$ ) $\delta$ $6.83-6.74(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.69-6.67(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.64-6.55(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar} H), 6.48-6.46(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{Ar} H), 6.15\left(\mathrm{t}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, p-\mathrm{C}_{6} H_{3}\right), 4.30\left(\mathrm{sept}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}\right), 4.18(\mathrm{sept}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}$ ), 4.05 (sept, $J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}$ ), 3.97 (sept, $J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C} H \mathrm{Me}_{2}$ ), 3.77 (sept, $J=6.8$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe} 2), 3.63(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{AlOCH}), 3.19\left(\mathrm{br}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCH}_{2} \mathrm{Al}\right), 2.75(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{AlOCH}), 2.16(\mathrm{t}, J=$ $\left.14.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCH}_{2} \mathrm{Al}\right), 1.33-1.31$ (m, 6H, CHMe $), 1.28\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 1.25(\mathrm{~d}, J$ $\left.=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} \mathrm{Ce}_{2}\right), 1.21\left(\mathrm{br}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCH}_{2} \mathrm{Al}\right), 1.20-1.18\left(\mathrm{~m}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHMe}\right.$ ), 1.17 ( s br, $9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CMe} e^{2}$ ), $1.16-1.10\left(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 1.10\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 1.07\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 1.04$ $\left(\mathrm{d}, J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH} \mathrm{Me}_{2}\right), 1.02-1.00\left(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCH}_{2} \mathrm{Al}\right), 0.97\left(\mathrm{~s}\right.$ br, $\left.9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CMe} e_{3}\right), 0.91-0.59(\mathrm{~m}$, $8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{2}$ ), $0.49\left(\mathrm{~s}\right.$ br, $\left.9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CMe} e_{3}\right), 0.45\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 0.39\left(\mathrm{~s}\right.$ br, $9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CMe} 3$ ), $0.36\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right)$, $0.33\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 0.29\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 0.11\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right),-0.45\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right),-0.56\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right)$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-d_{8}$ ) $\delta 153.7$ ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 153.7 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 153.3 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), $152.8\left(4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}\right.$ ), 152.5 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 152.2 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 151.3 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 150.0 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 148.3 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 148.0(4 ArC ), 147.7 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), 145.4 ( $4^{\circ} \mathrm{ArC}$ ), $123.7(\mathrm{ArCH}), 123.6$ ( ArCH ), $123.4(\mathrm{ArCH}), 123.1$ ( ArCH$), 122.9$ ( ArCH ), $122.7(\mathrm{ArCH}), 122.0(\mathrm{ArCH}), 121.4(\mathrm{ArCH}), 121.3(\mathrm{ArCH}), 121.1(\mathrm{ArCH}), 120.7(\mathrm{ArCH}), 119.7$ $(\mathrm{ArCH}), 87.2(\mathrm{AlOCH}), 84.0(\mathrm{AlOCH}), 39.5\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right), 39.2\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right), 38.9\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right), 38.5\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right), 36.8$ $\left(\mathrm{CHCH}_{2} \mathrm{Al}\right), 34.6\left(\mathrm{CHCH}_{2} \mathrm{Al}\right), 32.1\left(\mathrm{AlCHCH}_{2}\right), 31.4\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right), 31.4\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right), 31.3\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right), 30.8\left(\mathrm{CMe}_{3}\right)$, $29.9\left(\mathrm{AlCHCH}_{2}\right), 29.0\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right), 29.0\left(C \mathrm{HMe}_{2}\right), 28.4\left(\mathrm{CHMe}_{2}\right), 28.2(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 27.7(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 27.6$
( CHMe$)_{2}$ ), $\left.27.4(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 27.3(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 27.3(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 27.1(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 27.1(\mathrm{CHMe} 2), 27.0(\mathrm{CHMe})_{2}\right)$, 27.0 (CHMe2), 26.9 ( $\mathrm{CHMe} e_{2}$ ), 26.8 ( $\mathrm{CH} M e_{2}$ ), 26.7 ( CHMe ), 26.7 ( CHMe ), 26.3 ( CHMe ), 26.0 $\left(\mathrm{CH} M e_{2}\right), 15.5\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 15.4\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 15.3\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 15.0\left(\mathrm{SiCH}_{2}\right), 6.1\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 4.8\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 4.7$ $\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 3.7\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 2.1\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 1.0\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right), 0.6\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right),-0.6\left(\mathrm{Si} M e_{2}\right)$.

Figure S15. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{THF}-\mathrm{d}_{8}$ ) spectrum of $\mathbf{1 4 .}$


Figure S16. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$, THF- $\mathrm{d}_{8}$ ) spectrum of $\mathbf{1 4 .}$.


|  | 1 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 140 | 1 | 120 | 110 | T | 90 | 80 | 1 | 60 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 200 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 130 |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 100 \\ & \mathrm{f} 1(\mathrm{ppm}) \end{aligned}$ |  |  | 70 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 0 | $-$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -S16- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Figure S17. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}^{-1} \mathrm{H}$ COSY spectrum of $\mathbf{1 4 .}$


Figure S18. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HSQC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 4}$.
Huculallllul


Figure S19. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HMBC spectrum of $\mathbf{1 4 .}$


### 1.3. Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction Analysis

Single Crystal X-ray diffraction data for compounds 11 - $\mathbf{1 4}$ were collected on a SuperNova, EosS2 diffractometer using $\operatorname{CuK} \alpha(\lambda=1.54184 \AA)$ radiation throughout. The crystals were maintained at 150 K during data collection. Using Olex $2,{ }^{2}$ the structures were solved with the olex 2 .solve ${ }^{3}$ structure solution program or ShelXT and refined with the ShelXL ${ }^{4}$ refinement package using Least-Squares minimization.

The asymmetric unit in the structure of $\mathbf{1 2}$ is a monomer, which contributes to the formation of $1-\mathrm{D}$ polymers in the gross structure.

Similarly, in 13, the asymmetric unit also comprises a monomer (which gives rise to 1-D polymers in the gross structure) plus a molecule of benzene with half site-occupancy. The latter straddles a crystallographic inversion centre, which necessarily means that it is disordered with itself. As such, this moiety was refined as a rigid hexagon and with the inclusion of ADP restraints. The hydride in the main feature was located and refined without restraints. A residual electron density maximum, proximate to K1, may indicate a modicum of disorder at this centre. However, efforts to model same did not improve convergence and indicated that, at best, that any alkali metal disorder was $<5 \%$. Given the paucity of evidence for such disorder credibility, partitioning K1 between two sites was abandoned. The asymmetric unit in the structure of $\mathbf{1 4}$ corresponds to one quarter of a tetramer. Disorder prevailed in two regions. In particular, the methyl groups which form part of the tert-butyl functionalities based on C32 and C36 were each treated for an 80:20 site-occupancy split while the Dipp moiety attached to N1 was modelled to take account of a 2-component disorder in a 55:45 ratio. All hydrogens were included at calculated positions, but those attached at C8, C18, C30, C48, C57 and C69 were refined with free $U_{\text {iso }}$ values as a measure of credibility with which to assess any interactions with the potassium centres present. Distance and ADP restraints were employed, on merit, in disordered regions to assist convergence.

Table S1: Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds $\mathbf{1 1} \mathbf{- 1 4}$.

| Compound | 11 | 12 | 13 | 13 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{64} \mathrm{H}_{86} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{Si}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{46} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{67} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{OSi}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{39} \mathrm{H}_{68} \mathrm{AlKN}_{2} \mathrm{OSi}_{2}$ |
| Formula weight | 1069.60 | 801.26 | 714.21 | 703.21 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic | orthorhombic | orthorhombic | monoclinic |
| Space group | Cc | Pbca | Pbcn | C2/c |
| $a / \AA$ | 21.7511(4) | 22.4043(4) | 20.3555(1) | 44.6873(10) |
| $b / \AA$ | 13.3392(2) | 17.8222(3) | 23.0087(1) | 12.4327(1) |
| $c / \AA$ | 20.8348(3) | 22.5974(5) | 18.3408(1) | 37.5655(8) |
| $\alpha /{ }^{\circ}$ | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| $\beta /{ }^{\circ}$ | 101.877(2) | 90 | 90 | 127.202(3) |
| $\gamma /{ }^{\circ}$ | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Volume/ $\AA^{3}$ | 5915.64(17) | 9023.0(3) | 8589.98(7) | 16623.8(7) |
| Z | 4 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| $\rho_{\text {calc }} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$ | 1.201 | 1.180 | 1.105 | 1.124 |
| $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 1.686 | 2.012 | 2.035 | 2.094 |
| $F(000)$ | 2304.0 | 3456.0 | 3112.0 | 6144.0 |
| Crystal size $/ \mathrm{mm}^{3}$ | $0.102 \times 0.071 \times 0.037$ | $0.137 \times 0.028 \times 0.024$ | $0.209 \times 0.163 \times 0.104$ | $0.112 \times 0.068 \times 0.057$ |
| $2 \theta$ range $/{ }^{\circ}$ | 7.822 to 144.238 | 7.448 to 146.122 | 7.54 to 145.934 | 7.522 to 146.568 |
| Index ranges | $\begin{aligned} & -26 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 26, \\ & -16 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 12, \\ & -21 \leq 1 \leq 25 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} -27 & \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 24, \\ -18 & \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 21, \\ -27 & \leq 1 \leq 27 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -24 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 25, \\ & -28 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 23, \\ & -22 \leq 1 \leq 22 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -53 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 55, \\ & -15 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 15, \\ & -46 \leq 1 \leq 46 \end{aligned}$ |
| Reflections collected | 15239 | 30723 | 112622 | 156548 |
| Independent reflections | 7932, 0.0209 | 8870, 0.0464 | 8574, 0.0487 | 16566, 0.0535 |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 7932/2/683 | 8870/0/512 | 8574/42/470 | 16566/499/1030 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $F^{2}$ | 1.035 | 1.015 | 1.022 | 1.019 |
| Final $R$ indexes [ $I>=2 \sigma(I)$ ] | 0.0281, 0.0720 | 0.0386, 0.0875 | 0.0443, 0.1260 | 0.0414, 0.1008 |
| Final $R$ indexes [all data] | 0.0295, 0.0731 | 0.0571, 0.0959 | 0.0471, 0.1289 | 0.0512, 0.1066 |
| Largest diff. peak/hole (e $\AA^{-3-}$ ) | 0.24/-0.21 | 0.31/-0.25 | 0.97/-0.56 | 0.60/-0.46 |
| Flack parameter | 0.027(7) | - | - | - |

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