

Uncovering the role of non-covalent interactions in solid-state photoswitches by non-spherical structure refinements with NoSpherA2

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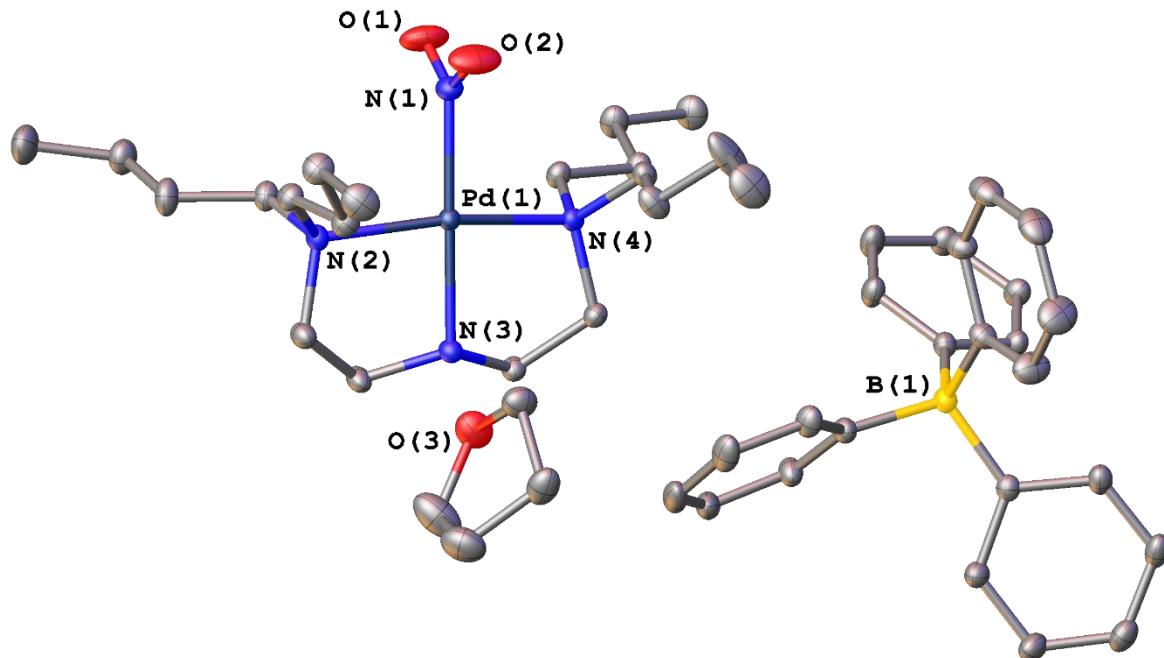
Supplementary Information

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1. Complex 1: [Pd(Bu₄dien)(NO₂)]BPh₄.THF

(a)



(b)

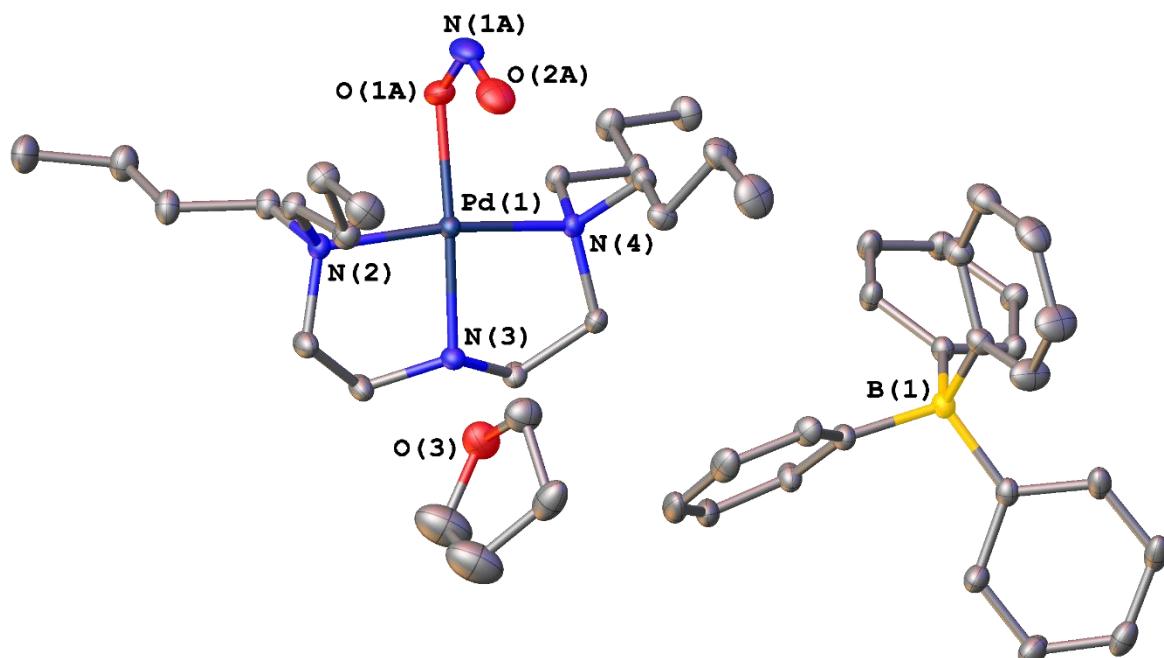


Figure S1.1 Single crystal X-ray structures showing the atomic connectivity in the asymmetric units of the ground state (a) and 100% photoexcited state (b) isomers of **1**,¹ with selected non-hydrogen atoms labelled. Ellipsoids are shown and 50% probability and hydrogen atoms are removed for clarity.

Table S1.1 Single-crystal X-ray structure data for **1** collected for HAR using NoSpherA2 in Olex2.²

	Ground state (GS)	Excited state (ES)
Photoexcitation level/%	0	100
Empirical formula	C ₄₈ H ₇₃ BN ₄ O ₃ Pd	C ₄₈ H ₇₃ BN ₄ O ₃ Pd
Formula weight	871.379	871.379
Temperature/K	100(1)	100(1)
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i>	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i>
<i>a</i> /Å	11.5486(1)	11.4841(1)
<i>b</i> /Å	13.4064(2)	13.3657(1)
<i>c</i> /Å	29.7815(3)	30.0180(3)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90	90
$\beta/^\circ$	95.424(1)	94.602(1)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90	90
Volume/Å³	4590.28(9)	4592.70(7)
Z	4	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{gcm}^{-3}$	1.261	1.260
μ/mm^{-1}	0.448	0.448
F(000)	1853.0	1853.0
Radiation	Mo K α ($\lambda = 0.71073$)	Mo K α ($\lambda = 0.71073$)
2θ range for data collection/°	6.44 to 72.64	6.68 to 72.64
Completeness (resolution)	0.9978 (0.6 Å)	0.9977 (0.6 Å)
Reflections collected	116467	116537
Independent reflections	22256 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0541$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0420$]	22260 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0542$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0425$]
Data/restraints/parameters	22256/339/1159	22260/282/1111
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.059	1.047
Final <i>R</i> indexes [$I >=2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0333$, $wR_2 = 0.0647$	$R_1 = 0.0350$, $wR_2 = 0.0715$
Final <i>R</i> indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0477$, $wR_2 = 0.0707$	$R_1 = 0.0517$, $wR_2 = 0.0791$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³	1.11/-0.85	1.89/-1.14

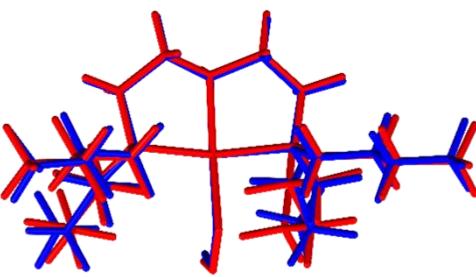
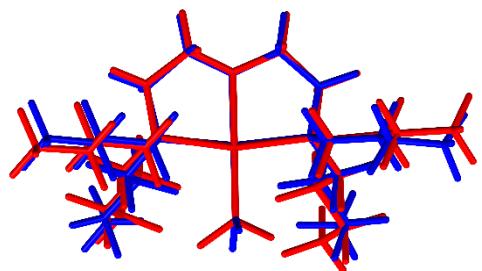
Table S1.2 Experimental bond lengths for non-hydrogen atoms determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction for the ground state (GS) structure of **1** at 100 K. All bond lengths are all given in Å.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å	Atom	Atom	Length/Å
Pd(1)	N(1)	2.0171(9)	C(46)	C(47)	1.532(2)
Pd(1)	N(2)	2.0922(9)	C(47)	C(48)	1.506(2)
Pd(1)	N(3)	2.0244(8)	C(21)	C(22)	1.4023(16)
Pd(1)	N(4)	2.0952(8)	C(21)	C(26)	1.4034(16)
O(1)	N(1)	1.2253(13)	C(21)	B(1)	1.6445(15)
O(2)	N(1)	1.2201(13)	C(22)	C(23)	1.3926(17)
N(2)	C(1)	1.5013(13)	C(23)	C(24)	1.387(2)
N(2)	C(5)	1.4943(13)	C(24)	C(25)	1.3946(19)
N(2)	C(9)	1.5081(13)	C(25)	C(26)	1.3947(16)
N(3)	C(2)	1.4800(13)	C(27)	C(28)	1.4001(14)
N(3)	C(3)	1.4796(13)	C(27)	C(32)	1.4036(15)
N(4)	C(4)	1.5042(13)	C(27)	B(1)	1.6427(15)
N(4)	C(13)	1.4920(13)	C(28)	C(29)	1.3925(16)
N(4)	C(17)	1.5066(12)	C(29)	C(30)	1.3890(19)
C(1)	C(2)	1.5149(15)	C(30)	C(31)	1.3930(18)
C(3)	C(4)	1.5140(14)	C(31)	C(32)	1.3943(15)
C(5)	C(6)	1.5172(15)	C(33)	C(34)	1.4070(14)
C(6)	C(7)	1.5266(15)	C(33)	C(38)	1.4032(14)
C(7)	C(8)	1.5210(16)	C(33)	B(1)	1.6470(15)
C(9)	C(10)	1.5198(15)	C(34)	C(35)	1.3944(15)
C(10)	C(11)	1.5215(16)	C(35)	C(36)	1.3898(16)
C(11)	C(12)	1.5180(18)	C(36)	C(37)	1.3940(15)
C(13)	C(14)	1.5155(14)	C(37)	C(38)	1.3929(14)
C(14)	C(15)	1.4920(17)	C(39)	C(40)	1.4022(15)
C(15)	C(16)	1.4849(19)	C(39)	C(44)	1.4077(14)
C(17)	C(18)	1.5257(14)	C(39)	B(1)	1.6467(15)
C(18)	C(19)	1.5261(15)	C(40)	C(41)	1.3992(15)
C(19)	C(20)	1.5206(16)	C(41)	C(42)	1.3920(17)
O(3)	C(45)	1.4278(15)	C(42)	C(43)	1.3879(17)
O(3)	C(48)	1.4351(18)	C(43)	C(44)	1.3928(16)
C(45)	C(46)	1.5091(18)			

Table S1.3 Experimental bond lengths for non-hydrogen atoms determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction for the excited state (ES) structure of **1** at 100 K. All bond lengths are all given in Å.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å	Atom	Atom	Length/Å
Pd(1)	O(1A)	2.0418(9)	C(46)	C(47)	1.538(3)
Pd(1)	N(2)	2.0804(9)	C(47)	C(48)	1.478(3)
Pd(1)	N(3)	2.0137(9)	C(21)	C(22)	1.4046(17)
Pd(1)	N(4)	2.0901(9)	C(21)	C(26)	1.4021(17)
O(1A)	N(1A)	1.3010(15)	C(21)	B(1)	1.6430(17)
O(2A)	N(1A)	1.2070(17)	C(22)	C(23)	1.3919(19)
N(2)	C(1)	1.5033(15)	C(23)	C(24)	1.390(2)
N(2)	C(5)	1.4953(14)	C(24)	C(25)	1.388(2)
N(2)	C(9)	1.5028(15)	C(25)	C(26)	1.3960(17)
N(3)	C(2)	1.4854(14)	C(27)	C(28)	1.4019(15)
N(3)	C(3)	1.4790(14)	C(27)	C(32)	1.4044(16)
N(4)	C(4)	1.5046(14)	C(27)	B(1)	1.6385(16)
N(4)	C(13)	1.4921(14)	C(28)	C(29)	1.3958(17)
N(4)	C(17)	1.5022(14)	C(29)	C(30)	1.390(2)
C(1)	C(2)	1.5134(16)	C(30)	C(31)	1.392(2)
C(3)	C(4)	1.5141(15)	C(31)	C(32)	1.3921(16)
C(5)	C(6)	1.5178(16)	C(33)	C(34)	1.4087(15)
C(6)	C(7)	1.5257(17)	C(33)	C(38)	1.4036(14)
C(7)	C(8)	1.5202(19)	C(33)	B(1)	1.6450(16)
C(9)	C(10)	1.5258(16)	C(34)	C(35)	1.3926(16)
C(10)	C(11)	1.5198(18)	C(35)	C(36)	1.3921(17)
C(11)	C(12)	1.5217(19)	C(36)	C(37)	1.3911(16)
C(13)	C(14)	1.5163(16)	C(37)	C(38)	1.3940(15)
C(14)	C(15)	1.5225(17)	C(39)	C(40)	1.4021(17)
C(15)	C(16)	1.517(2)	C(39)	C(44)	1.4094(15)
C(17)	C(18)	1.5273(15)	C(39)	B(1)	1.6473(17)
C(18)	C(19)	1.5201(17)	C(40)	C(41)	1.3980(17)
C(19)	C(20)	1.5194(17)	C(41)	C(42)	1.3883(18)
O(3)	C(45)	1.4219(18)	C(42)	C(43)	1.392(2)
O(3)	C(48)	1.432(2)	C(43)	C(44)	1.3862(18)
C(45)	C(46)	1.518(2)			

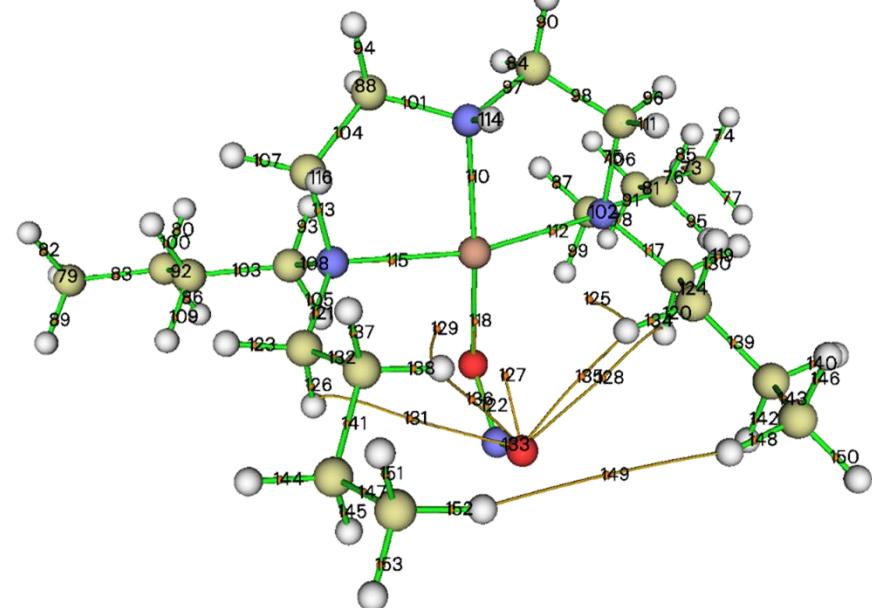
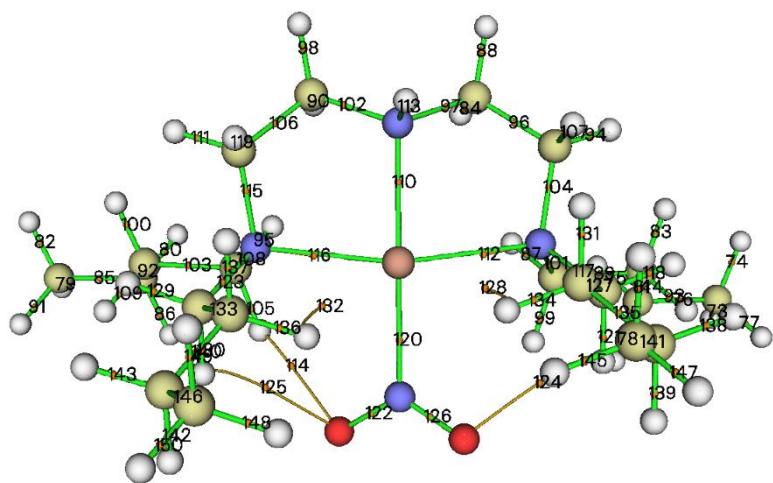
(a)



GS nitro-(η^1 -NO₂): RMSD = 0.3861

ES nitrito-(η^1 -ONO): RMSD = 0.1802

(b)



(c)

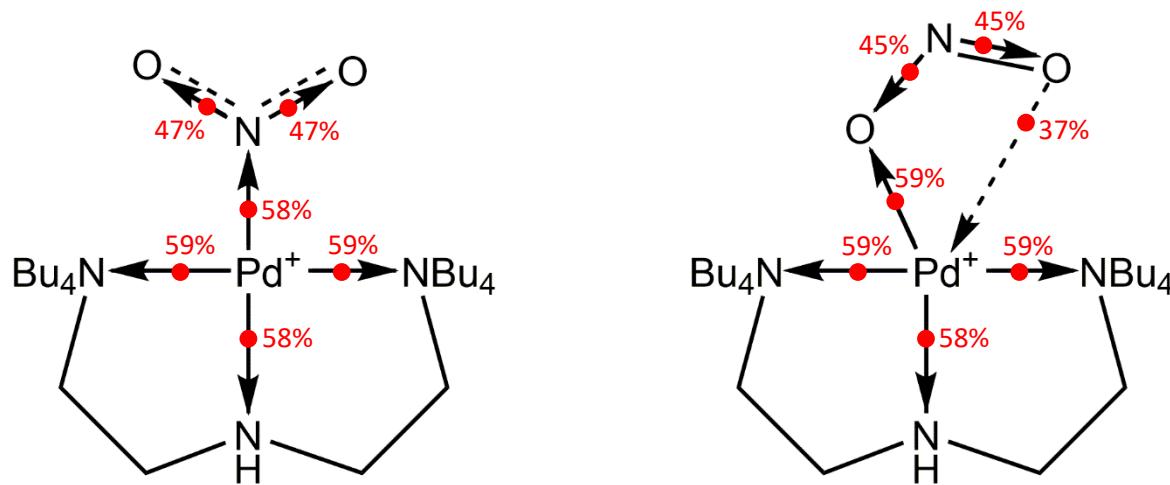


Figure S1.2 Theoretical analysis of the ground and photoexcited isomers of the photoactive $[\text{Pd}(\text{Bu}_4\text{dien})(\text{NO}_2)]^+$ cation in **1**, from gas-phase molecular DFT calculations using Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Pd and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O]. **(a)** Molecular overlays between the geometry optimised structures (red) and experimental crystal structures (blue) of the cations in the GS and ES. **(b)** Diagrams showing the positions of (3,-1) bond critical points for the optimised GS and ES cations, generated from theoretical topology analysis in Multiwfn⁴ (note: though CPs are found in each instance of interaction, the software does not generate the complete bond paths to Pd in the figures in some cases). **(c)** Graphical representations of the Pd^{II} square plane for the GS and ES cations, highlighting the positions of key (3,-1) bond critical points (red points) as a percentage along the relevant bond paths. % positions are always defined along the direction highlighted by the arrows (e.g. $\text{Pd}\rightarrow\text{N}$ is defined as the % along the path from Pd to N).

Table S1.4 List of (3,-1) bond critical points (CPs) generated from theoretical topological analysis of the GS photoactive cation of **1**. Wavefunction calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Pd and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O] and CPs searched and visualised using Multiwfn.⁴

CP #	XYZ Coordinates (Bohr)			Type	Atom1 – Atom2
73	-10.6146	-8.3370905	-2.9121	(3,-1)	H(12C) – C(12)
74	-11.0199	-7.40527806	-1.02951	(3,-1)	H(12A) – C(12)
75	-7.03457	-7.21984872	-1.53897	(3,-1)	H(11A) – C(11)
76	-9.17633	-6.74246675	-2.1701	(3,-1)	C(12) – C(11)
77	-11.2972	-6.30939098	-2.84558	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12B)
78	-7.31035	-6.13304809	-3.34308	(3,-1)	C(11) – H(11B)
79	11.23849	-7.89559283	-1.87616	(3,-1)	H(20B) – C(20)
80	7.616283	-6.88300501	-0.53364	(3,-1)	H(19A) – C(19)
81	-7.63524	-5.07107049	-1.39944	(3,-1)	C(11) – C(10)
82	11.61646	-6.60067287	-0.21657	(3,-1)	H(20A) – C(20)
83	-7.95197	-3.96210853	0.572071	(3,-1)	H(10A) – C(10)
84	-2.00107	-3.39056212	4.433096	(3,-1)	H(2A) – C(2)
85	9.672739	-6.33291781	-1.35439	(3,-1)	C(20) – C(19)
86	7.714017	-6.12279334	-2.51407	(3,-1)	C(19) – H(19B)
87	-3.95449	-3.90550023	-0.12746	(3,-1)	H(9B) – C(9)
88	-2.43921	-2.21405609	6.240763	(3,-1)	H(2B) – C(2)
89	-6.16269	-3.36747657	-0.62981	(3,-1)	C(10) – C(9)
90	2.551774	-2.92813313	4.692567	(3,-1)	H(3B) – C(3)
91	11.71313	-5.83595826	-2.21167	(3,-1)	C(20) – H(20C)
92	8.001229	-4.69731011	-0.81046	(3,-1)	C(19) – C(18)
93	-8.25111	-2.86714784	-1.22939	(3,-1)	C(10) – H(10B)
94	-5.60559	-1.63663058	3.82743	(3,-1)	H(1B) – C(1)
95	4.26109	-3.66895336	0.351241	(3,-1)	H(17A) – C(17)
96	-3.37284	-1.50296767	4.20765	(3,-1)	C(2) – C(1)
97	-1.3822	-1.56298378	4.673064	(3,-1)	C(2) – N(3)
98	2.742164	-1.51243968	6.360893	(3,-1)	H(3A) – C(3)
99	-4.31587	-2.72229696	-1.89102	(3,-1)	C(9) – H(9A)
100	8.261477	-3.22821572	0.915981	(3,-1)	H(18B) – C(18)
101	-4.4872	-1.98537644	-0.04427	(3,-1)	C(9) – N(2)
102	1.590538	-1.23724614	4.752079	(3,-1)	C(3) – N(3)
103	6.388641	-3.02202061	-0.29558	(3,-1)	C(18) – C(17)
104	-4.32814	-0.77240764	2.426717	(3,-1)	C(1) – N(2)
105	4.456796	-2.7360447	-1.59009	(3,-1)	C(17) – H(17B)
106	3.541836	-0.85428526	4.258472	(3,-1)	C(3) – C(4)
107	-4.68126	0.3033856	4.135576	(3,-1)	C(1) – H(1A)
108	4.614635	-1.72519225	0.127786	(3,-1)	C(17) – N(4)
109	8.410806	-2.45776088	-1.06151	(3,-1)	C(18) – H(18A)
110	0.018307	-0.35864791	2.630927	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – N(3)

111	5.770512	-0.58959519	3.87549	(3,-1)	H(4A) – C(4)
112	-2.43914	-0.30224592	0.544757	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – N(2)
113	-0.12999	0.68988262	4.893236	(3,-1)	N(3) – H(3)
114	3.213169	-1.70954513	-3.09913	(3,-1)	H(17B) ... O(1)
115	4.359007	-0.17513343	2.400537	(3,-1)	C(4) – N(4)
116	2.437865	-0.11448571	0.544523	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – N(4)
117	-5.05214	0.76160971	0.254633	(3,-1)	N(2) – C(5)
118	-6.92605	1.41534019	0.329406	(3,-1)	H(5A) – C(5)
119	4.474816	1.15667089	3.951092	(3,-1)	C(4) – H(4B)
120	-0.01647	0.23004774	-1.85159	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – N(1)
121	-5.69124	1.51237323	-1.46385	(3,-1)	C(5) – H(5B)
122	0.799158	0.0695472	-4.07133	(3,-1)	O(1) – N(1)
123	4.94726	1.06948561	0.003754	(3,-1)	N(4) – C(13)
124	-3.93892	1.50035489	-2.78131	(3,-1)	H(5B) ... O(2)
125	3.822251	0.60997591	-3.15315	(3,-1)	O(1) ... H(13A)
126	-0.88006	0.96667765	-3.91275	(3,-1)	N(1) – O(2)
127	-5.17974	2.94895727	0.285973	(3,-1)	C(5) – C(6)
128	-2.30591	2.9685138	0.231197	(3,-1)	H(6B) ... Pd(1)
129	6.769723	1.86422108	-0.08749	(3,-1)	C(13) – H(13B)
130	5.490564	1.59644156	-1.82588	(3,-1)	C(13) – H(13A)
131	-4.71724	4.36899359	1.944402	(3,-1)	H(6A) – C(6)
132	2.07756	3.07355619	-0.24149	(3,-1)	H(14A) ... Pd(1)
133	4.915483	3.2505081	-0.29384	(3,-1)	C(13) – C(14)
134	-3.49404	4.3829634	0.199286	(3,-1)	C(6) – H(6B)
135	-5.60273	5.29373816	0.054107	(3,-1)	C(6) – H(6A)
136	3.129062	4.54891147	-0.51154	(3,-1)	H(14A) – C(14)
137	4.411841	4.87426652	1.15399	(3,-1)	H(14B) – C(14)
138	-7.66349	6.14328664	-0.085	(3,-1)	H(7B) – C(7)
139	-6.4286	6.1863319	-1.81898	(3,-1)	C(7) – H(7A)
140	5.16231	5.55394368	-0.89607	(3,-1)	C(14) – C(15)
141	-5.95442	7.65367797	-0.13137	(3,-1)	C(7) – C(8)
142	5.860878	6.20070667	-2.91714	(3,-1)	C(15) – H(15B)
143	7.150985	6.505207	-1.25224	(3,-1)	C(15) – H(15A)
144	-5.53044	9.14960822	1.521923	(3,-1)	H(8A) – C(8)
145	-4.28933	9.19222184	-0.21854	(3,-1)	C(8) – H(8B)
146	5.336764	7.87623474	-1.45242	(3,-1)	C(15) – C(16)
147	-6.30675	9.89420489	-0.32574	(3,-1)	C(8) – H(8C)
148	3.565181	9.27047705	-1.70214	(3,-1)	C(16) – C(16C)
149	4.859956	9.57560158	-0.0273	(3,-1)	C(16) – C(16A)
150	5.524207	10.07695928	-1.99726	(3,-1)	C(16) – C(16B)

Table S1.5 List of (3,-1) bond critical points (CPs) generated from theoretical topological analysis of the ES photoactive cation of **1**. Wavefunction calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Pd and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O] and CPs searched and visualised using Multiwfn.⁴

CP #	XYZ Coordinates (Bohr)			Type	Atoms
73	-10.7025	-8.26687	-2.70173	(3,-1)	H(12C) – C(12)
74	-11.2114	-7.07432	-0.9996	(3,-1)	H(12A) – C(12)
75	-7.19173	-7.1808	-1.14082	(3,-1)	H(11A) – C(11)
76	-9.23286	-6.67005	-2.02853	(3,-1)	C(12) – (C11)
77	-11.2502	-6.21351	-2.95758	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12B)
78	-7.233	-6.31412	-3.07918	(3,-1)	C(11) – H(11B)
79	10.70243	-8.26692	-2.70174	(3,-1)	H(20B) – C(20)
80	7.191657	-7.18082	-1.14086	(3,-1)	H(19B) – C(19)
81	-7.65975	-5.002	-1.31685	(3,-1)	C(11) – C(10)
82	11.21136	-7.07443	-0.99956	(3,-1)	H(20A) – C(20)
83	9.23281	-6.6701	-2.02852	(3,-1)	C(20) – C(19)
84	-2.26888	-3.26614	4.59452	(3,-1)	H(2A) – C(2)
85	-8.07027	-3.64274	0.474946	(3,-1)	H(10A) – C(10)
86	7.232975	-6.31411	-3.07921	(3,-1)	C(19) – H(19A)
87	-4.02466	-3.90877	0.08521	(3,-1)	H(9B) – C(9)
88	2.268881	-3.26613	4.59453	(3,-1)	H(3B) – C(3)
89	11.2502	-6.21357	-2.95752	(3,-1)	C(20) – H(20C)
90	-2.63549	-1.9562	6.318058	(3,-1)	H(2B) – C(2)
91	-6.1544	-3.29464	-0.62456	(3,-1)	C(10) – C(9)
92	7.659716	-5.00203	-1.31684	(3,-1)	C(19) – C(18)
93	4.024643	-3.90877	0.085234	(3,-1)	H(17A) – C(17)
94	2.63548	-1.95619	6.318067	(3,-1)	H(3A) – C(3)
95	-8.15104	-2.767	-1.46435	(3,-1)	C(10) – H(10B)
96	-5.70963	-1.29	3.801037	(3,-1)	H(1B) – C(1)
97	-1.47679	-1.48143	4.738006	(3,-1)	C(2) – N(3)
98	-3.46929	-1.3041	4.236124	(3,-1)	C(2) – C(1)
99	-4.16914	-2.8421	-1.78276	(3,-1)	C(9) – H(9A)
100	8.070248	-3.6428	0.474969	(3,-1)	H(18B) – C(18)
101	1.476782	-1.48143	4.738012	(3,-1)	C(3) – N(3)
102	-4.4505	-1.97013	-0.0156	(3,-1)	C(9) – N(2)
103	6.154388	-3.29467	-0.62453	(3,-1)	C(18) – C(17)
104	3.469281	-1.3041	4.236136	(3,-1)	C(3) – C(4)
105	4.169128	-2.84211	-1.78274	(3,-1)	C(17) – H(17B)
106	-4.33829	-0.6023	2.409077	(3,-1)	C(1) – N(2)
107	5.709626	-1.28999	3.801055	(3,-1)	H(4A) – C(4)
108	4.450491	-1.97014	-0.01558	(3,-1)	C(17) – N(4)
109	8.151033	-2.76703	-1.46432	(3,-1)	C(18) – H(18A)
110	-1.2E-06	-0.44256	2.711972	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – N(3)
111	-4.65221	0.59677	4.027171	(3,-1)	C(1) – H(1A)
112	-2.39835	-0.32992	0.584261	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – N(2)
113	4.338283	-0.6023	2.40909	(3,-1)	C(4) – N(4)
114	-5.1E-06	0.622537	4.947088	(3,-1)	N(3) – H(3)
115	2.398349	-0.32993	0.584268	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – N(4)

116	4.652193	0.59678	4.027178	(3,-1)	C(4) – H(4B)
117	-4.9064	0.816916	0.079667	(3,-1)	N(2) – C(5)
118	5.53E-06	-0.19377	-1.83709	(3,-1)	Pd(1) – O(1A)
119	-6.77237	1.491894	-0.09378	(3,-1)	H(5A) – C(5)
120	-5.32945	1.521115	-1.71132	(3,-1)	C(5) – H(5B)
121	4.906405	0.8169	0.07967	(3,-1)	N(4) – C(13)
122	1.42E-06	0.764202	-4.16759	(3,-1)	O(1A) – N(1A)
123	6.772389	1.491866	-0.09379	(3,-1)	H(13B) – C(13)
124	-5.01568	3.024749	0.044152	(3,-1)	C(5) – C(6)
125	-2.17382	2.944062	0.268807	(3,-1)	Pd(1) ... H(6B)
126	5.329459	1.52108	-1.71133	(3,-1)	C(13) – H(13A)
127	-1E-05	2.286559	-2.13512	(3,-1)	Pd(1) ... O(2A)
128	-2.86043	2.495311	-2.75241	(3,-1)	H(5B) ... O(2A)
129	2.173841	2.944055	0.268786	(3,-1)	Pd(1) ... H(14A)
130	-4.85502	4.506161	1.692769	(3,-1)	H(6A) – C(6)
131	2.860424	2.495269	-2.75245	(3,-1)	H(13A) ... O(2A)
132	5.015704	3.024732	0.044135	(3,-1)	C(13) – C(14)
133	-1.1E-05	2.553902	-4.31788	(3,-1)	N(1A) – O(2A)
134	-3.31015	4.422125	0.209293	(3,-1)	C(6) – H(6B)
135	-1.573	3.960236	-1.46794	(3,-1)	H(6B) ... O(2A)
136	1.573	3.960233	-1.46796	(3,-1)	O(2A) ... H(14A)
137	4.855042	4.50616	1.692738	(3,-1)	H(14B) – C(14)
138	3.310181	4.422114	0.209263	(3,-1)	C(14) – H(14A)
139	-5.33678	5.34725	-0.37517	(3,-1)	C(6) – C(7)
140	-7.31665	6.204588	-0.9622	(3,-1)	H(7B) – C(7)
141	5.336814	5.347227	-0.37521	(3,-1)	C(14) – C(15)
142	-5.75243	6.172321	-2.40723	(3,-1)	C(7) – H(7A)
143	-5.61049	7.701312	-0.71581	(3,-1)	C(7) – C(8)
144	7.31669	6.204545	-0.96225	(3,-1)	H(15A) – C(15)
145	5.752457	6.172286	-2.40727	(3,-1)	C(15) – H(15B)
146	-5.50336	9.255948	0.933	(3,-1)	H(8A) – C(8)
147	5.610539	7.701285	-0.71586	(3,-1)	C(15) – C(16)
148	-3.93945	9.220651	-0.52758	(3,-1)	C(8) – H(8B)
149	2.89E-05	9.191332	-0.59044	(3,-1)	H(8B) ... H(16C)
150	-5.88538	9.932486	-1.05942	(3,-1)	C(8) – H(8C)
151	5.50347	9.255939	0.932936	(3,-1)	H(16A) – C(16)
152	3.939515	9.220631	-0.52759	(3,-1)	C(16) – H(16C)
153	5.885424	9.932454	-1.0595	(3,-1)	C(16) – H(16B)

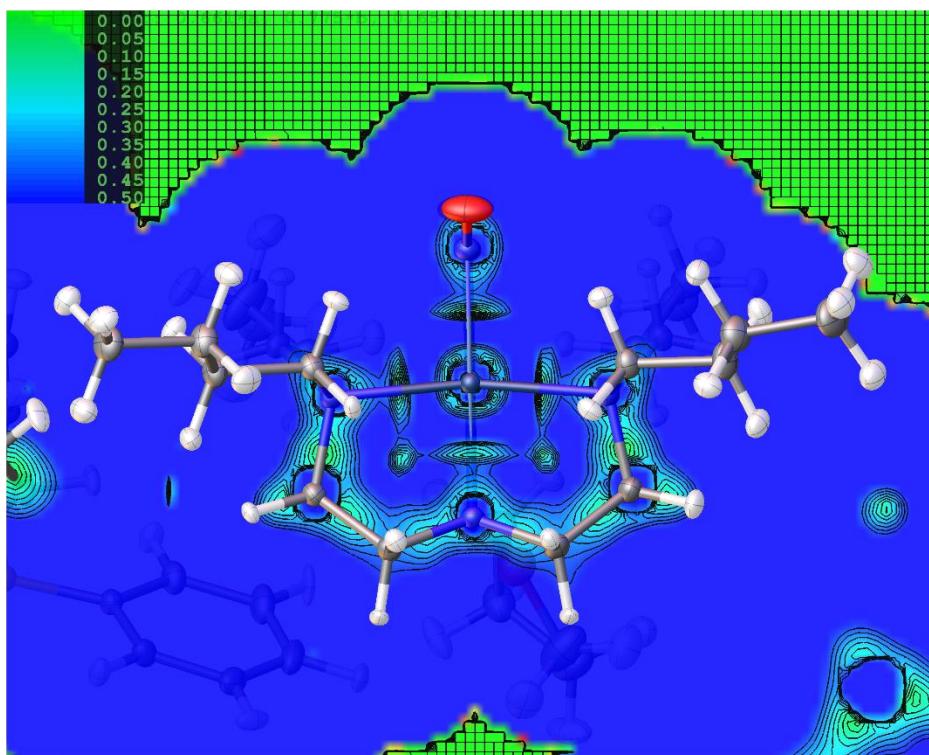
Table S1.6 Theoretical Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis for the covalent bonds in the GS nitro-(η^1 -NO₂) and ES nitrito-(η^1 -ONO) ligands of **1**, calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Pd and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O)].

	Bond	Occupancy [electrons]	Localisation weights [atom type (%)]	Bond type
GS	N(1) – O(1)	(i) 1.98939 (ii) 1.98298	(i) N (48.62%), O (51.4%) (ii) N (44.8%), O (55.9%)	(i) σ (N-O) (ii) π (N-O)
	N(1) – O(2)	1.98928	N (49.7%), O (50.3%)	σ (N-O)
	N(1A) – O(1A)	1.97594	N (39.6%), O (60.4%)	σ (N-O)
ES	N(1A) – O(2A)	(i) 1.99581 (ii) 1.99027	(i) N (35.4%), O (64.6%) (ii) N (44.2%), O (55.8%)	(i) π (N-O) (ii) σ (N-O)

Table S1.7 Calculated Wiberg bond orders/indices from Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis for selected bonds in the GS nitro-(η^1 -NO₂) and ES nitrito-(η^1 -ONO) isomers of **1**, calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Pd and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O)].

Bond	GS		ES	
	Bond	Bond order	Bond	Bond order
Pd(1) – N(1)	0.8783	Pd(1) – O(1A)	0.8282	
Pd(1) – N(2)	0.3794	Pd(1) – N(2)	0.4387	
Pd(1) – N(3)	0.6327	Pd(1) – N(3)	0.5879	
Pd(1) – N(4)	0.3755	Pd(1) – N(4)	0.4387	
N(1) – O(1)	1.4392	N(1A) – O(1A)	1.1751	
N(1) – O(2)	1.4456	N(1A) – O(2A)	1.7825	

(a)



(b)

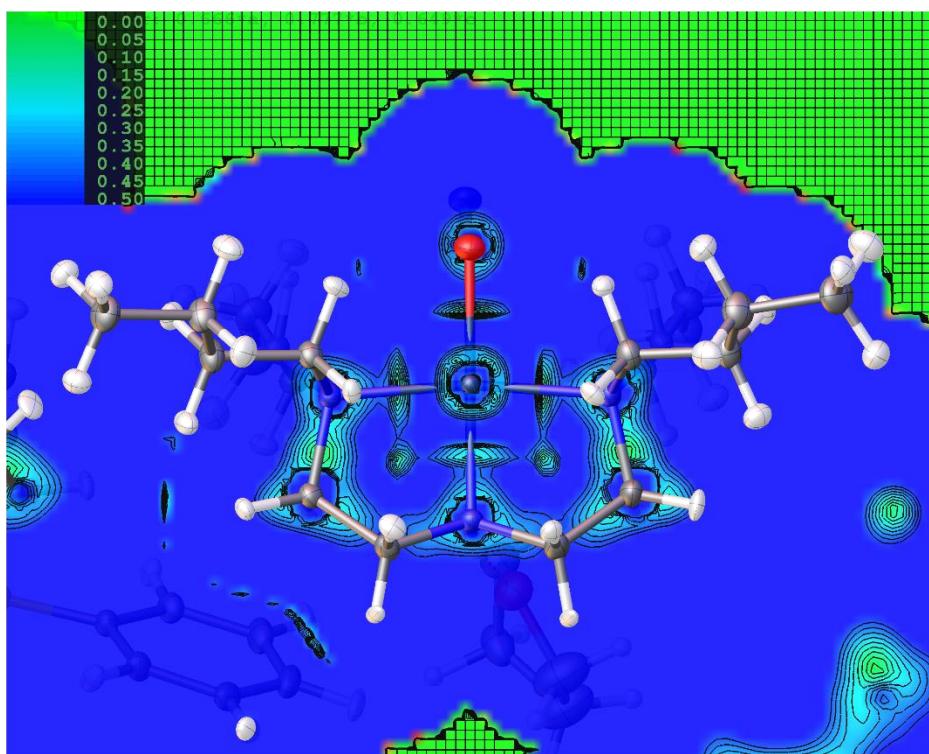


Figure S1.3 Reduced density gradient (RDG, s) 2D plots in the Pd(1), N(2), N(3), N(4) plane for the GS (a) and ES (b) of **1**, showing non-covalent interaction (NCI) features generated by HAR analysis in NoSpherA2.²

Supplementary Movies for Complex 1

SupplementaryMovie1.gif

Rotating 3D deformation density map for Complex **1** in the GS nitro-($\eta^1\text{-NO}_2$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586767>

SupplementaryMovie2.gif

Rotating 3D deformation density map for Complex **1** in the ES nitrito-($\eta^1\text{-ONO}$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586773>

SupplementaryMovie3.gif

Rotating 3D Laplacian map for Complex **1** in the GS nitro-($\eta^1\text{-NO}_2$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586782>

SupplementaryMovie4.gif

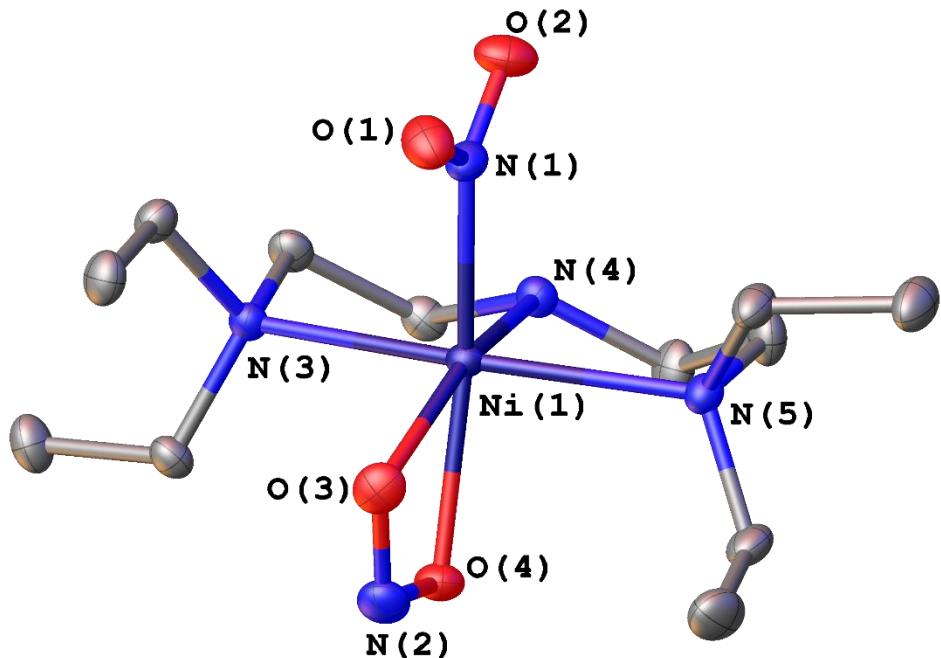
Rotating 3D Laplacian map for Complex **1** in the ES nitrito-($\eta^1\text{-ONO}$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586785>

Supplementary movies can be accessed on FigShare via the links provided.

2. Complex 2: $[\text{Ni}(\text{Et}_4\text{dien})(\text{NO}_2)_2]$.

(a)



(b)

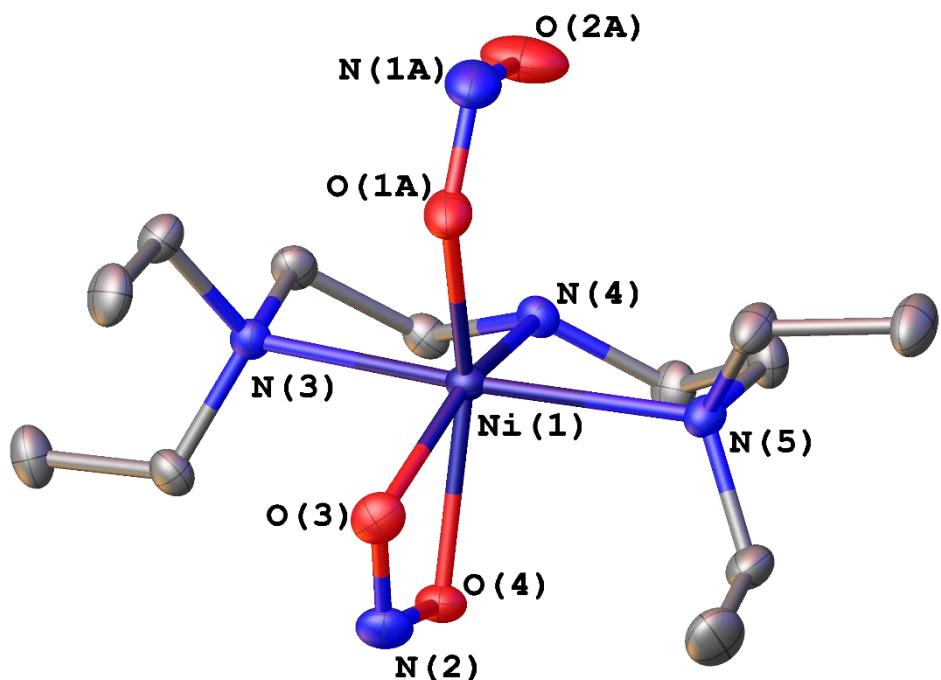


Figure S2.1 Single crystal X-ray structures showing the atomic connectivity in the asymmetric units of the ground state (a) and 100% photoexcited state (b) isomers of **2⁵** with selected non-hydrogen atoms labelled. Ellipsoids are shown and 50% probability and hydrogen atoms are removed for clarity.

Table S2.1 Single-crystal X-ray structure data for **2** collected for HAR using NoSpherA2 in Olex2.²

	Ground state (GS)	Excited state (ES)
Photoexcitation level/%	0	100
Empirical formula	C ₁₂ H ₂₉ N ₅ NiO ₄	C ₁₂ H ₂₉ N ₅ NiO ₄
Formula weight	366.089	366.089
Temperature/K	100(1)	100(1)
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Orthorhombic
Space group	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁
<i>a</i> /Å	11.29901(16)	11.5006(2)
<i>b</i> /Å	11.5909(2)	11.6540(2)
<i>c</i> /Å	12.83109(18)	12.8103(2)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90	90
$\beta/^\circ$	90	90
$\gamma/^\circ$	90	90
Volume/Å³	1680.43(4)	1716.94(5)
Z	4	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{gcm}^{-3}$	1.447	1.416
μ/mm^{-1}	1.179	1.154
F(000)	786.0	786.0
Radiation	Mo Kα ($\lambda = 0.71073$)	Mo Kα ($\lambda = 0.71073$)
2θ range for data collection/°	7.26 to 72.62	7.26 to 72.64
Completeness (resolution)	0.9960 (0.6 Å)	0.9955 (0.6 Å)
Reflections collected	12104	16753
Independent reflections	7857 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0236$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0440$]	8292 [$R_{\text{int}} = 0.0270$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0410$]
Data/restraints/parameters	7857/147/460	8292/147/460
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.064	1.030
Final <i>R</i> indexes [$I >= 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0304$, $wR_2 = 0.0588$	$R_1 = 0.0303$, $wR_2 = 0.0595$
Final <i>R</i> indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0367$, $wR_2 = 0.0625$	$R_1 = 0.0375$, $wR_2 = 0.0631$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å⁻³	0.46/-0.32	0.50/-0.25
Flack parameter	0.003(5)	-0.007(5)

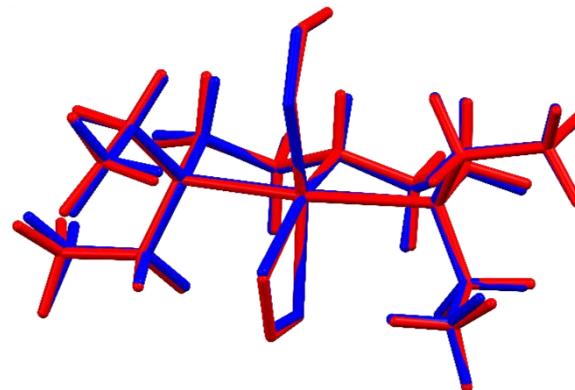
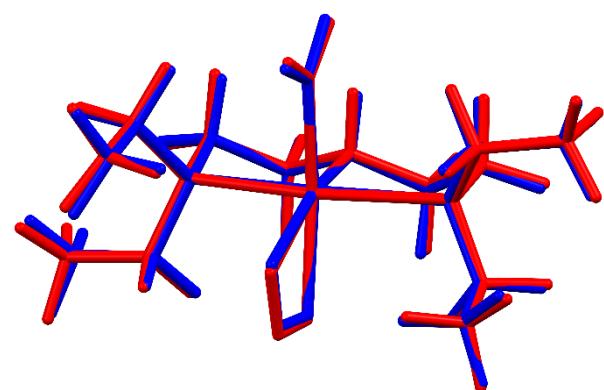
Table S2.2 Experimental bond lengths for non-hydrogen atoms determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction of the photoactive $[\text{Ni}(\text{Et}_4\text{dien})(\text{NO}_2)_2]$ molecule (**2**), in the ground state (GS) at 100 K. All bond lengths are all given in Å.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å	Atom	Atom	Length/Å
Ni(1)	N(4)	2.0162(10)	N(5)	C(4)	1.4887(17)
Ni(1)	N(5)	2.2899(11)	N(3)	C(5)	1.4902(16)
Ni(1)	N(3)	2.2743(11)	N(3)	C(7)	1.4884(16)
Ni(1)	O(3)	2.1000(9)	N(3)	C(1)	1.4841(16)
Ni(1)	O(4)	2.1112(9)	N(2)	O(3)	1.2605(16)
Ni(1)	N(1)	2.0295(11)	N(2)	O(4)	1.2565(15)
O(2)	N(1)	1.2521(15)	C(5)	C(6)	1.5141(18)
C(3)	N(4)	1.4623(17)	C(7)	C(8)	1.524(2)
C(3)	C(4)	1.515(2)	C(9)	C(10)	1.529(2)
N(4)	C(2)	1.4682(18)	C(12)	C(11)	1.521(2)
N(5)	C(9)	1.4858(17)	O(1)	N(1)	1.2260(14)
N(5)	C(11)	1.4891(17)	C(2)	C(1)	1.5151(19)

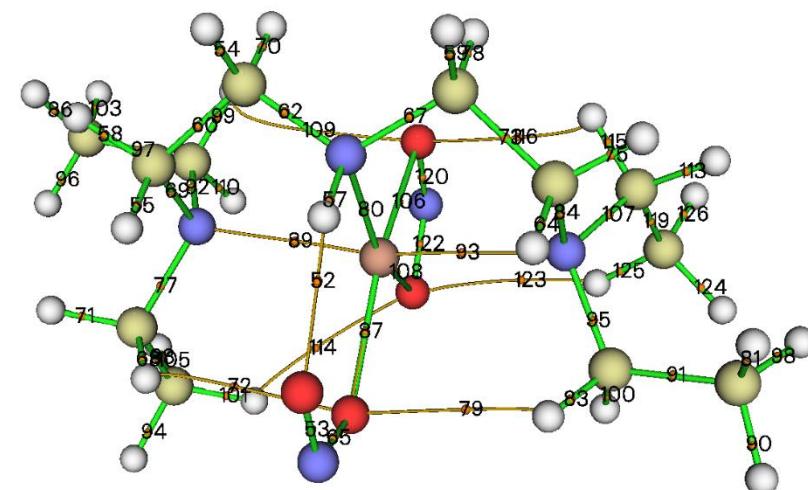
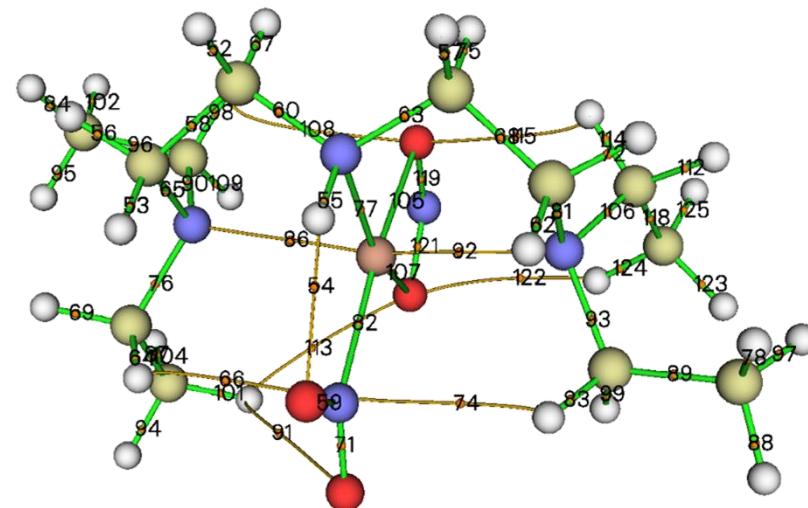
Table S2.3 Experimental bond lengths for non-hydrogen atoms determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction of the photoactive $[\text{Ni}(\text{Et}_4\text{dien})(\text{NO}_2)_2]$ molecule (**2**), in the excited state (ES) at 100 K. All bond lengths are all given in Å.

Atom	Atom	Length/Å	Atom	Atom	Length/Å
Ni(1)	O(1A)	2.0074(9)	N(3)	C(7)	1.4904(16)
Ni(1)	O(3)	2.1080(9)	N(4)	C(2)	1.4688(16)
Ni(1)	O(4)	2.1221(9)	N(4)	C(3)	1.4628(16)
Ni(1)	N(3)	2.2792(10)	N(5)	C(4)	1.4864(16)
Ni(1)	N(4)	2.0223(10)	N(5)	C(9)	1.4853(16)
Ni(1)	N(5)	2.2997(10)	N(5)	C(11)	1.4912(17)
O(1A)	N(1A)	1.2674(16)	C(1)	C(2)	1.5099(18)
O(2A)	N(1A)	1.2070(17)	C(3)	C(4)	1.512(2)
O(3)	N(2)	1.2583(14)	C(5)	C(6)	1.5146(19)
O(4)	N(2)	1.2575(13)	C(7)	C(8)	1.525(2)
N(3)	C(1)	1.4887(15)	C(9)	C(10)	1.527(2)
N(3)	C(5)	1.4841(15)	C(11)	C(12)	1.519(2)

(a)



(b)



(C)

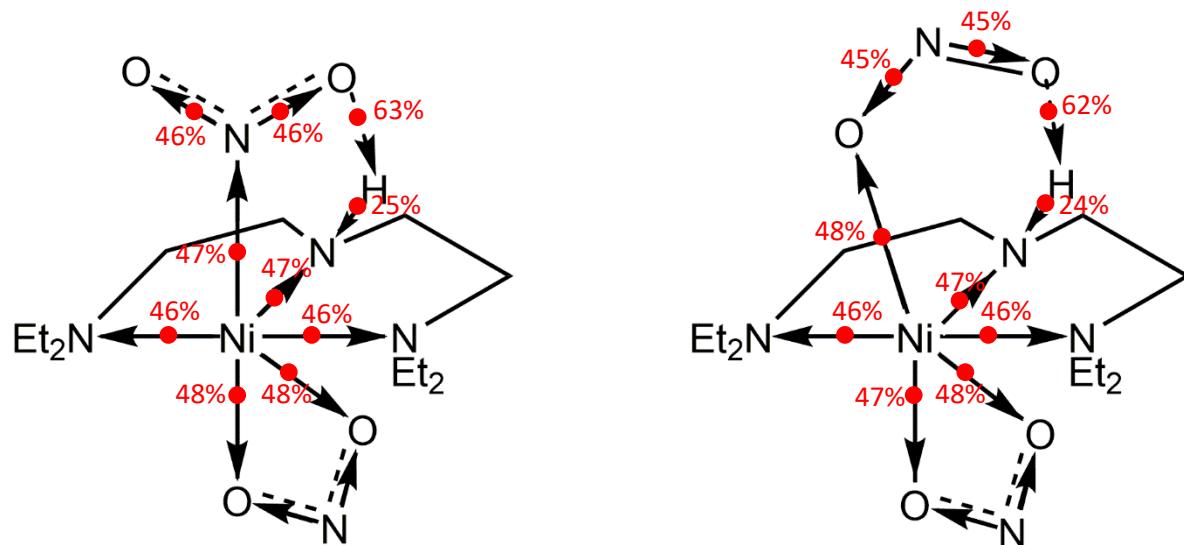


Figure S2.3 Theoretical analysis of the ground and photoexcited isomers of the $[\text{Ni}(\text{Et}_4\text{dien})(\text{NO}_2)_2]$ molecule in **2**, from gas-phase molecular DFT calculations using Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Ni and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O]. **(a)** Molecular overlays between the geometry optimised structures (red) and experimental crystal structures (blue) of the cations in the GS and ES. **(b)** Diagrams showing the positions of (3,-1) bond critical points for the optimised GS and ES cations, generated from theoretical topology analysis in Multiwfn⁴. **(c)** Graphical representations of the GS and ES molecules, highlighting the positions of key (3,-1) bond critical points (red points) as a percentage along the relevant bond paths. % positions are always defined along the direction highlighted by the arrows (e.g. Ni→N is defined as the % along the path from Ni to N).

Table S2.4 List of (3,-1) bond critical points (CPs) generated from theoretical topological analysis of the GS molecule of **2**. Wavefunction calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Ni and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O] and CPs searched and visualised using Multiwfn.⁴

CP #	XYZ Coordinates (Bohr)			Type	Atoms
52	-2.53093	-2.87384	5.210817	(3,-1)	H(2A) – C(2)
53	-4.33424	-3.53372	1.726293	(3,-1)	H(1B) – C(1)
54	0.253341	-4.23859	0.728009	(3,-1)	O(2) ... H(4)
55	0.148758	-3.38821	2.310049	(3,-1)	H(4) – N(4)
56	-5.69803	-2.35854	2.899407	(3,-1)	H(1A) – C(1)
57	2.446156	-2.43864	5.444634	(3,-1)	H(3B) – C(3)
58	-3.46917	-2.13233	3.260304	(3,-1)	C(1) – C(2)
59	0.299691	-3.92998	-2.07032	(3,-1)	O(2) – N(1)
60	-1.42837	-2.02344	3.743065	(3,-1)	C(2) – N(4)
62	4.614263	-2.96263	2.16532	(3,-1)	H(4B) – C(4)
63	1.371031	-1.79772	3.856921	(3,-1)	N(4) – C(3)
64	-4.92864	-2.58418	-2.37788	(3,-1)	H(5A) – C(5)
65	-4.49153	-1.53051	1.449098	(3,-1)	C(1) – N(3)
66	-2.53373	-2.81636	-2.43892	(3,-1)	H(5A) ... N(1)
67	-2.50876	-0.74994	4.831922	(3,-1)	C(2) – H(2B)
68	3.438557	-1.63869	3.54768	(3,-1)	C(3) – C(4)
69	-6.859	-1.8704	-1.7901	(3,-1)	H(5B) – C(5)
71	0.263288	-2.84907	-3.59145	(3,-1)	N(1) – O(1)
72	5.697982	-1.55579	3.387227	(3,-1)	C(4) – H(4A)
74	2.934756	-2.58449	-2.24963	(3,-1)	N(1) ... H(9A)
75	2.167902	-0.34914	4.973205	(3,-1)	C(3) – H(3A)
76	-5.15125	-1.04429	-1.12319	(3,-1)	C(5) – N(3)
77	-0.01134	-0.87799	1.301336	(3,-1)	N(4) – Ni(1)
78	8.940855	-2.22897	-0.42102	(3,-1)	H(10C) – C(10)
81	4.534622	-0.96553	1.795995	(3,-1)	C(4) – N(5)
82	0.096929	-1.28221	-1.28689	(3,-1)	N(1) – Ni(1)
83	5.247024	-2.08151	-2.01155	(3,-1)	H(9A) – C(9)
84	-8.91659	1.035383	2.382587	(3,-1)	H(8B) – C(8)
86	-2.04373	-0.11847	0.057703	(3,-1)	N(3) – Ni(1)
87	-5.61845	-0.55613	-3.22295	(3,-1)	C(5) – C(6)
88	9.159984	-1.83686	-2.50228	(3,-1)	H(10A) – C(10)
89	7.256941	-1.12885	-1.5084	(3,-1)	C(10) – C(9)
90	-5.19561	0.987451	0.733244	(3,-1)	N(3) – C(7)
91	-2.16339	-0.76363	-4.66325	(3,-1)	O(1) ... H(6C)
92	2.0118	0.102642	0.200243	(3,-1)	Ni(1) – N(5)
93	5.290524	-0.51374	-0.76429	(3,-1)	C(9) – N(5)
94	-6.07407	-0.37463	-5.39393	(3,-1)	H(6A) – C(6)
95	-9.21129	1.646599	0.358841	(3,-1)	H(8A) – C(8)
96	-7.122	1.920773	1.260787	(3,-1)	C(8) – C(7)
97	9.330833	-0.2423	-1.0981	(3,-1)	C(10) – H(10B)
98	-5.07949	2.382864	2.177644	(3,-1)	C(7) – H(7A)
99	5.602186	-0.08851	-2.70759	(3,-1)	C(9) – H(9B)
101	-4.39638	0.729914	-4.62459	(3,-1)	C(6) – H(6C)

102	-8.93775	3.102755	1.890764	(3,-1)	C(8) – H(8C)
104	-6.41369	1.331077	-4.16569	(3,-1)	C(6) – H(6B)
105	-0.16046	1.950131	0.575312	(3,-1)	Ni(1) – O(4)
106	5.056985	1.557666	1.039033	(3,-1)	N(5) – C(11)
107	-0.19567	1.812241	-1.22261	(3,-1)	Ni(1) – O(3)
108	-2.9103	3.053842	1.774468	(3,-1)	H(7A) ... O(4)
109	-5.39569	2.904435	0.137965	(3,-1)	C(7) – H(7B)
112	6.610717	2.390647	2.011762	(3,-1)	H(11B) – C(11)
113	-2.44947	2.017477	-3.62156	(3,-1)	H(6C) ... O(3)
114	4.594733	3.067936	2.291954	(3,-1)	C(11) – H(11A)
115	2.327879	3.460958	2.025198	(3,-1)	H(11A) ... O(4)
118	5.635055	3.569112	0.303952	(3,-1)	C(11) – C(12)
119	-0.40723	4.437441	0.352377	(3,-1)	O(4) – N(2)
121	-0.42554	4.286265	-1.42114	(3,-1)	O(3) – N(2)
122	2.301282	4.287022	-1.92421	(3,-1)	O(3) ... H(12A)
123	6.855954	4.250926	-1.46918	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12C)
124	4.751793	4.661507	-1.47796	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12A)
125	6.057793	5.71533	-0.14549	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12B)

Table S2.5 List of (3,-1) bond critical points (CPs) generated from theoretical topological analysis of the ES molecule of **2**. Wavefunction calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Ni and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O] and CPs searched and visualised using Multiwfn.⁴

CP #	XYZ Coordinates (Bohr)			Type	Atoms
52	0.306823	-4.3973	0.871913	(3,-1)	O(2A) ... H(4)
53	0.429853	-5.14547	-2.16974	(3,-1)	O(2A) – N(1A)
54	-2.52241	-2.73518	5.163717	(3,-1)	H(2A) – C(2)
55	-4.32556	-3.45044	1.687351	(3,-1)	H(1B) – C(1)
57	0.16178	-3.30391	2.27956	(3,-1)	H(4) – N(4)
58	-5.69168	-2.2633	2.844855	(3,-1)	H(1A) – C(1)
59	2.454553	-2.27989	5.386912	(3,-1)	H(3B) – C(3)
60	-3.46266	-2.02662	3.202333	(3,-1)	C(1) – C(2)
62	-1.42125	-1.90851	3.680529	(3,-1)	C(2) – N(4)
64	4.618679	-2.8326	2.106634	(3,-1)	H(4A) – C(4)
65	0.299612	-3.59194	-3.09968	(3,-1)	N(1A) – O(1A)
67	1.373682	-1.67061	3.789919	(3,-1)	N(4) – C(3)
68	-4.86699	-2.54568	-2.43894	(3,-1)	H(5A) – C(5)
69	-4.4868	-1.45157	1.383978	(3,-1)	C(1) – N(3)
70	-2.5036	-0.6173	4.74896	(3,-1)	C(2) – H(2B)
71	-6.81635	-1.8513	-1.87949	(3,-1)	H(5B) – C(5)
72	-2.54547	-2.55301	-2.75672	(3,-1)	H(5A) ... O(1A)
73	3.439556	-1.49982	3.478012	(3,-1)	C(3) – C(4)
75	5.699038	-1.40714	3.311036	(3,-1)	(C4) – H(4B)
77	-5.12566	-1.00061	-1.20111	(3,-1)	C(5) – N(3)
78	2.161264	-0.19882	4.885157	(3,-1)	C(3) – H(3A)
79	2.910391	-2.2527	-2.58716	(3,-1)	O(1A) ... H(9A)
80	-0.00999	-0.78333	1.241593	(3,-1)	N(4) – Ni(1)
81	8.89745	-2.14667	-0.53181	(3,-1)	H(10C) – C(10)
83	5.185791	-1.97452	-2.0988	(3,-1)	H(9A) – C(9)
84	4.527718	-0.8391	1.718153	(3,-1)	C(4) – N(5)
86	-8.95378	1.075562	2.228895	(3,-1)	H(8A) – C(8)
87	0.081479	-0.99263	-1.63121	(3,-1)	O(1A) – Ni(1)
88	-5.57108	-0.53913	-3.30682	(3,-1)	C(5) – C(6)
89	-2.04224	-0.04045	-0.01019	(3,-1)	N(3) – Ni(1)
90	9.103055	-1.76747	-2.61637	(3,-1)	H(10A) – C(10)
91	7.211682	-1.04016	-1.61195	(3,-1)	C(10) – C(9)
92	-5.20998	1.04875	0.632895	(3,-1)	N(3) – C(7)
93	2.002864	0.207679	0.128372	(3,-1)	Ni(1) – N(4)
94	-5.9997	-0.37816	-5.48712	(3,-1)	H(6A) – C(6)
95	5.257854	-0.40819	-0.8551	(3,-1)	C(9) – N(5)
96	-9.22553	1.668861	0.197053	(3,-1)	H(8C) – C(8)
97	-7.15137	1.969342	1.12581	(3,-1)	C(8) – C(7)
98	9.295911	-0.16669	-1.22317	(3,-1)	C(10) – H(10B)
99	-5.12697	2.455823	2.068453	(3,-1)	C(7) – H(7A)
100	5.55672	0.008895	-2.79952	(3,-1)	C(9) – C(9B)
101	-4.34128	0.744479	-4.7011	(3,-1)	C(6) – H(6C)
103	-8.98747	3.139007	1.721393	(3,-1)	C(8) – H(8B)

105	-6.36823	1.335323	-4.28043	(3,-1)	C(6) – H(6B)
106	-0.17206	2.001866	0.536634	(3,-1)	Ni(1) – O(4)
107	5.045494	1.675445	0.934125	(3,-1)	N(5) – C(11)
108	-0.21095	1.913155	-1.25261	(3,-1)	Ni(1) – O(3)
109	-2.9427	3.109395	1.74688	(3,-1)	H(7A) ... O(4)
110	-5.41862	2.959882	0.020194	(3,-1)	C(7) – H(7B)
113	6.610967	2.514013	1.883946	(3,-1)	H(11B) – C(11)
114	-2.42974	2.08194	-3.6517	(3,-1)	H(6C) ... O(3)
115	4.598953	3.194952	2.182208	(3,-1)	C(11) – H(11A)
116	2.321579	3.549487	1.979804	(3,-1)	H(11A) ... O(4)
119	5.618262	3.681788	0.180076	(3,-1)	C(11) – C(12)
120	-0.43256	4.494361	0.38577	(3,-1)	O(4) – N(2)
122	-0.45423	4.392712	-1.39174	(3,-1)	O(3) – N(2)
123	2.278513	4.375142	-2.01687	(3,-1)	O(3) ... H(12A)
124	6.821046	4.350758	-1.61081	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12C)
125	4.716977	4.765286	-1.59947	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12A)
126	6.040169	5.824848	-0.28855	(3,-1)	C(12) – H(12B)

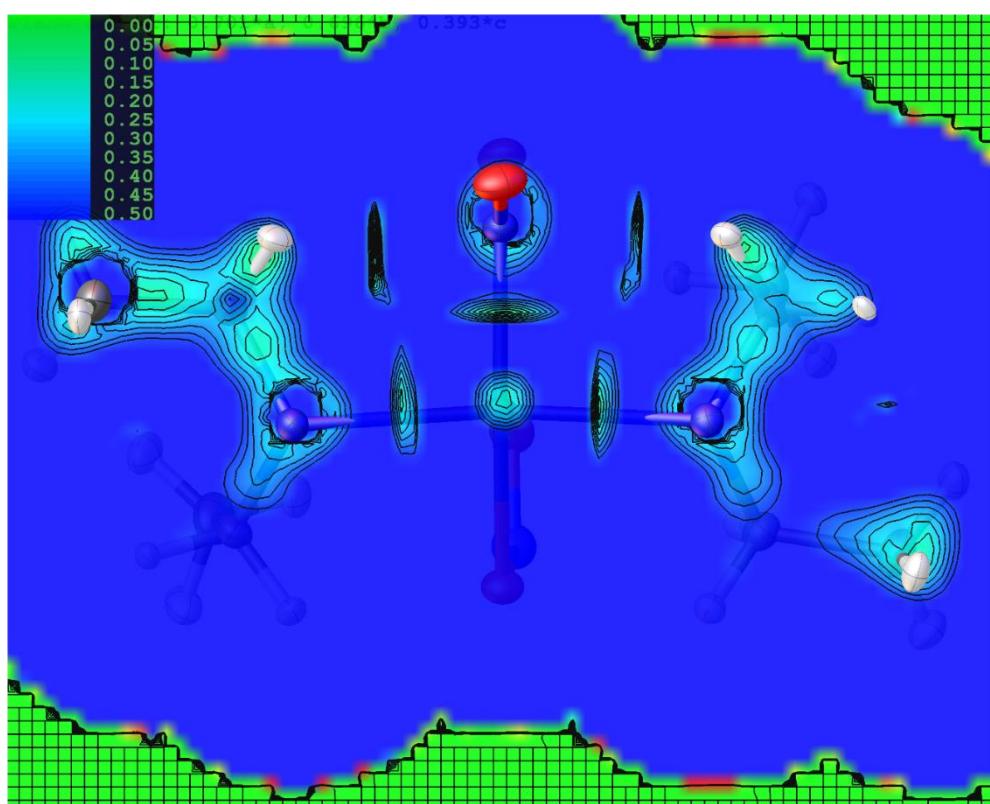
Table S2.6 Theoretical Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis for the covalent bonds in the GS nitro-(η^1 -NO₂) and ES nitrito-(η^1 -ONO) ligands of **2**, calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Ni and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O)].

	Bond	Spin	Occupancy [electrons]	Localisation weights [atom type (%)]	Bond type
GS	N(1) – O(1)	α	0.99657	N (45.0%), O (55.0%)	σ (N-O)
	N(1) – O(2)	α	0.99585	N (45.5%), O (54.5%)	σ (N-O)
		β	(i) 0.99270	(i) N (44.1%), O (55.9%)	(i) σ (N-O)
	N(1) – O(1)	β	(ii) 0.99526	(ii) N (30.8%), O (69.2%)	(ii) π (N-O)
		β	(iii) 0.94078	(iii) N (58.3%), O (41.7%)	(ii) π (N-O)
	N(1) – O(2)	β	0.97874	N (52.0%), O (48.0%)	σ (N-O)
ES	N(1A) – O(1A)	α	0.99514	N (43.0%), O (57.0%)	σ (N-O)
	N(1A) – O(2A)	α	0.99631	N (43.4%), O (56.6%)	σ (N-O)
	N(1A) – O(1A)	β	0.98813	N (48.2%), O (51.8%)	σ (N-O)
		β	(i) 0.99625	(i) N (25.6%), O (73.4%)	(i) π (N-O)
	N(1A) – O(2A)	β	(ii) 0.98829	(ii) N (44.0%), O (56.0%)	(ii) σ (N-O)
		β	(iii) 0.98185	(iii) N (42.7%), O (57.3%)	(iii) π (N-O)

Table S2.7 Calculated Wiberg bond orders/indices from Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis for selected bonds in the GS nitro-(η^1 -NO₂) and ES nitrito-(η^1 -ONO) isomers of **2**, calculated with Gaussian-09³ [B3LYP/SDD for Ni and B3LYP/6-311+G(d) for C, H, N, and O)].

GS		ES	
Bond	Bond order	Bond	Bond order
Ni(1) – N(1)	0.2177	Ni(1) – O(1A)	0.2266
Ni(1) – N(3)	0.1393	Ni(1) – N(3)	0.1331
Ni(1) – N(4)	0.2040	Ni(1) – N(4)	0.1992
Ni(1) – N(5)	0.1360	Ni(1) – N(5)	0.1316
Ni(1) – O(3)	0.2377	Ni(1) – O(3)	0.2295
Ni(1) – O(4)	0.2247	Ni(1) – O(4)	0.2193
N(1) – O(1)	1.3014	N(1A) – O(1A)	1.1641
N(1) – O(2)	1.2126	N(1A) – O(2A)	1.3378
N(2) – O(3)	1.5120	N(2) – O(3)	1.5167
N(2) – O(4)	1.4864	N(2) – O(4)	1.4841

(a)



(b)

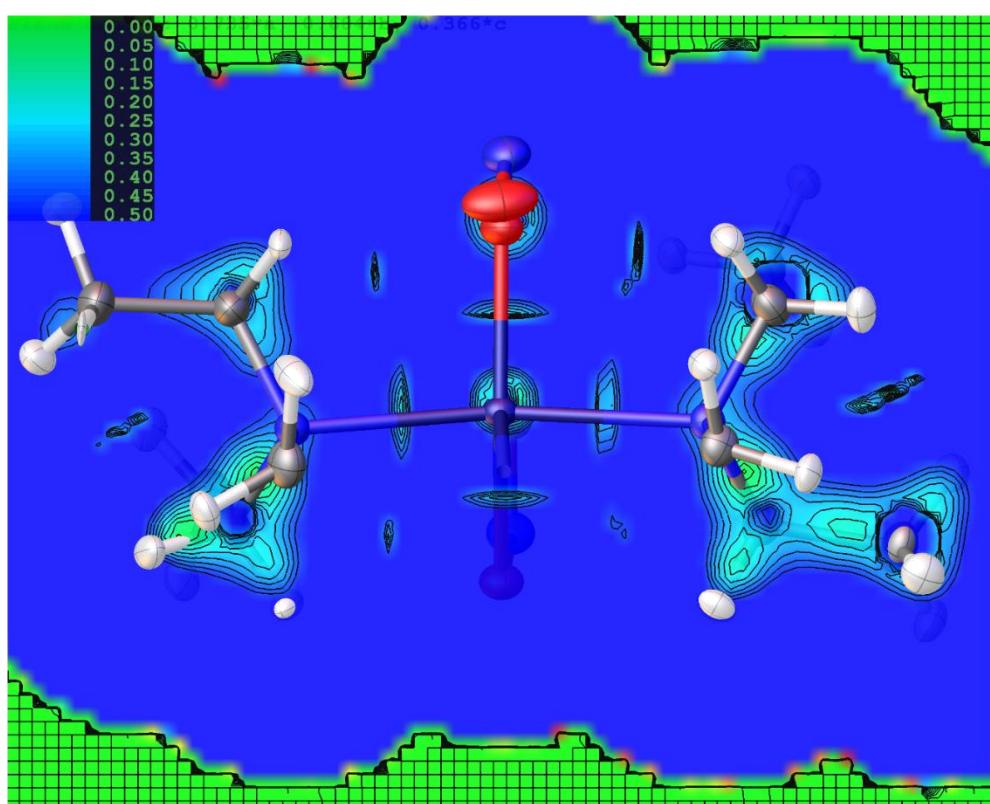


Figure S2.3 Reduced density gradient (RDG, s) 2D plots in the Ni(1), N(1), N(3), N(5) plane for the GS (a) and the Ni(1), O(1A), N(3), N(5) plane for the ES (b) of **2**, showing non-covalent interaction (NCI) features generated by HAR analysis in NoSpherA2.²

Supplementary Movies for Complex 2

SupplementaryMovie5.gif

Rotating 3D deformation density map for Complex **1** in the GS nitro-($\eta^1\text{-NO}_2$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586788>

SupplementaryMovie6.gif

Rotating 3D deformation density map for Complex **1** in the ES nitrito-($\eta^1\text{-ONO}$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586794>

SupplementaryMovie7.gif

Rotating 3D Laplacian map for Complex **1** in the GS nitro-($\eta^1\text{-NO}_2$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586797>

SupplementaryMovie8.gif

Rotating 3D Laplacian map for Complex **1** in the ES nitrito-($\eta^1\text{-ONO}$) isomer.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21586800>

Supplementary movies can be accessed on FigShare via the links provided.

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