

Supporting information for

“Single-bonded nitrogen chain and porous nitrogen layer via Ce-N compounds”

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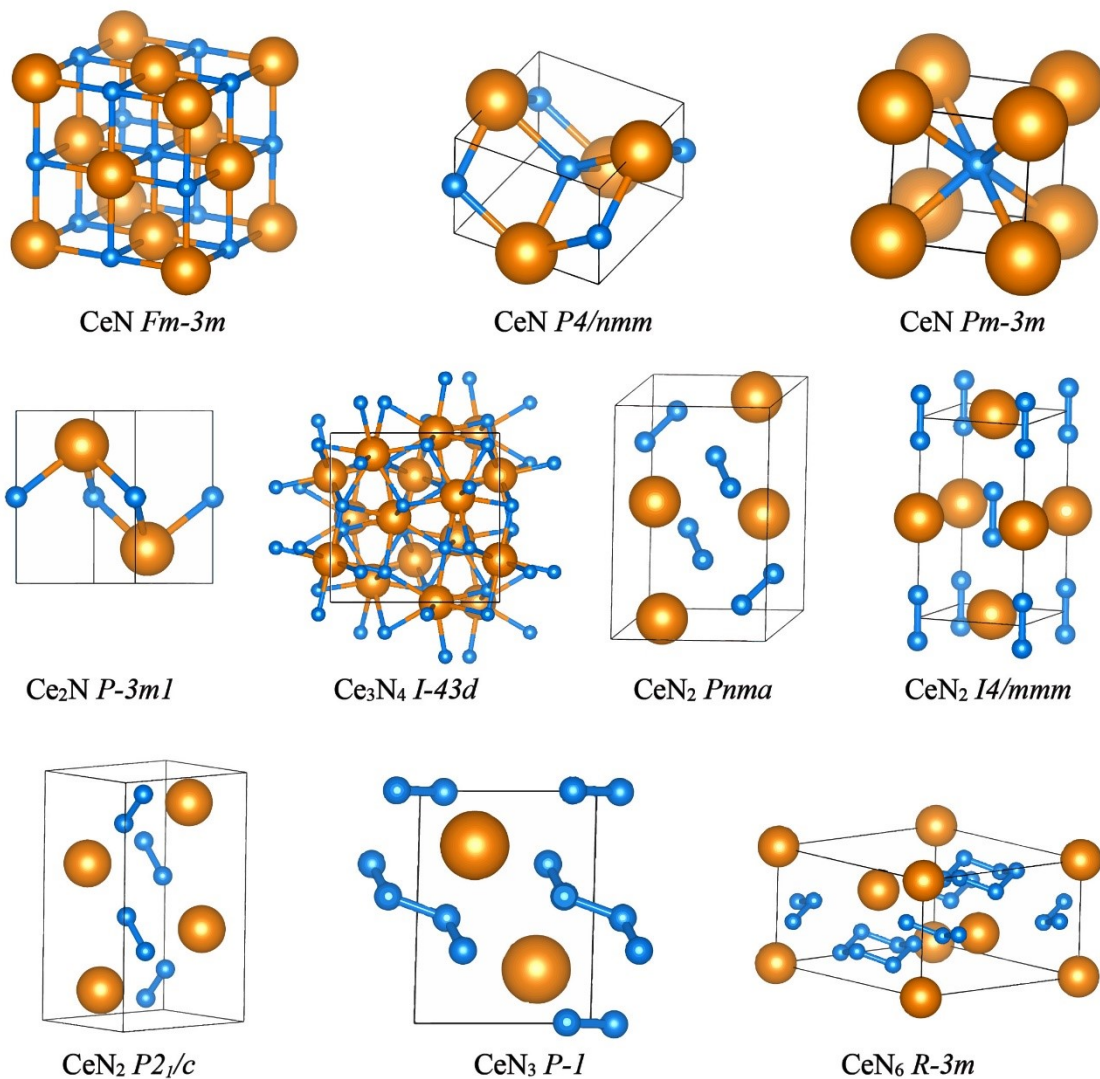


Figure S1. Crystal structures of some dynamically stable Ce-N compounds. The orange and blue balls represent cerium and nitrogen atoms respectively.

Table. S1. The calculated lattice parameters of face-centered cubic (fcc) α -Ce (space group $Fm-3m$) at zero pressure through a variety of exchange-correlation functionals. Experimental and theoretical results from other works are also presented for comparison.

| References | Methods | Lattice constants a |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Zachariassen et al. ¹ | Exp | 4.877 |
| Staun Olsen et al. ² | Exp | 4.877 |
| Amadon et al. ³ | LDA+U | 4.52 |
| Casadei et al. ⁴ | PBE | 4.68 |
| This work | PBE | 4.726 |
| | PBE+U U=1 | 4.762 |
| | PBE+U U=2 | 4.787 |
| | PBE+U U=3 | 4.822 |
| | PBE+U U=4 | 4.851 |
| | PBE+U U=5 | 4.874 |
| | PBE+U U=6 | 4.943 |

Table. S2. The calculated lattice parameters (units Å) of B1 CeN (space group $Fm-3m$) at zero pressure and the phase transition pressure point (units GPa) from B1 to B10 (space group $P4/nmm$) through a variety of exchange-correlation functionals. Experimental and theoretical results from other works are also presented for comparison. The experimental values from Olsen et al. and Nielsen et al. should be determined at room temperature (298K).

| References | Methods | Lattice constants a | Transition pressure |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Staun Olsen et al. ⁵ | Exp | 5.021(2) | 65-70 |
| Nielsen et al. ⁶ | Exp | 5.021(3) | 65 |
| Staun Olsen et al. ⁵ | PBE | 5.024 | 68 |
| Nielsen et al. ⁶ | PBE+U U=6.2 on N-2p | 5.016 | 53 |
| Sahoo et al. ⁷ | PW91 | 5.032 | 53 |
| Zhang et al. ⁸ | LDA+U U=3.5 J=0.989 | 5.019 | 37.5 |
| | PBE | 5.045 | |
| This work | PBE | 5.049 | 43.5 |
| | PBE+D3 | 5.012 | 40.4 |
| | SCAN+rvv10 | 5.011 | 44.4 |
| | PBE+U U=1 | 5.051 | 49.0 |
| | PBE+U U=2 | 5.052 | 54.5 |
| | PBE+U U=3 | 5.054 | 60.0 |
| | PBE+U U=3.5 | 5.054 | 63.0 |
| | PBE+U U=4 | 5.054 | 65.3 |
| | PBE+U U=5 | 5.054 | 70.5 |
| | PBE+U U=6 | 5.054 | 75.5 |

For the elemental cerium phases, Sandalov et al. used the LDA+U method and found that the itinerant electrons become localized 4f states with a Hubbard U above 2.7 eV⁹. Amadon et al. presented the LDA+U study with the values $U=6.1$ eV and $J=0.7$ eV ($U_{\text{eff}}=U-J=5.4$).³ In a recent study, a critical value $U_c = 3.29$ was found to be necessary to describe the double well potential between α and γ phases.¹⁰ In this study, we present the calculated lattice constants for the α -Ce with several functionals as shown in Table. S1, the PBE functional with $a=4.68\text{\AA}$ underestimate the lattice constants. We further employed the DFT+U methods with a series of U values, while keeping the exchange parameters J at 0 eV. The employment of U raises the lattice constants gradually. A large value of $U = 5$ gives a similar lattice constant $a = 4.874\text{\AA}$ as the experimental result $a=4.877\text{\AA}$. Overall, a large value of $U > 3$ is needed for the study of elemental cerium phases.

For the cerium nitride phases as presented in Table. S2, the experimentally obtained lattice constants of the B1 phase are near 5.021\AA , but the PBE result of 5.049\AA overestimates the lattice constants. In addition, the experimentally obtained transition pressure is near 65 GPa, and the previous theoretical works with GGA predicted the transition pressures of about 53 GPa. However, the calculated transition pressure within PBE methods in this work is about 43.5 GPa, which is lower than those experimental and theoretical values. We further employed the DFT+U methods with a series of U values, by which the transition pressure can be improved to a higher value. The DFT+U with $U = 4$ presents a transition pressure of 65.3 GPa, consistent with the experimental result of 65 GPa. In general, extra pressures are needed to overcome the energy barrier between two phases for structural transition in high-pressure experiments, the practical transition pressure should not be larger than 65 GPa. In another word, the applied U should not be larger than 4 for the cerium nitride phases.

We also take a look at other Ce-based materials, such as the Ce-O systems which are also ionic crystals. Fabris et al found the PBE+U ($U=4.5\text{eV}$) method has a good description of the reduction energy from CeO_2 to Ce_2O_3 and O_2 .¹¹ Da Silva et al. studied the structural and electronic properties of CeO_2 and Ce_2O_3 within the LDA, PBE, and HSE functionals.¹² They found PBE+U ($U_{\text{eff}}=2.0$ eV) or LDA+U ($U_{\text{eff}}=3-4\text{eV}$) methods have the best overall description for the energetics, and lattice constants in Ce_2O_3 . They argued that there is no unique U that gives a reasonable account for all the ground properties including the structural parameters, relative energies of different oxides, and spectroscopic properties.

Overall, we think the DFT+U method with $U = 3.5$ should be a reasonable value for the calculation of Ce-N compounds, but such a unique value should not be the best choice for all the Ce-N systems in different chemical environments within a large pressure range of 0-150 GPa. The results from the PBE functional are also provided for comparison.

Table S3. Structural parameters of the thermodynamically stable and metastable Ce-N compounds at selected pressures within the PBE+U method.

| Compounds | Pressure (GPa) | Space group | Lattice constants (distances in Å, angles in °) | Wyckoff position (Fractional coordinates) |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Stable</i> | | | | |
| Ce ₃ N ₄ | 0 | <i>R-3m</i> | a = 3.775, b = 3.775, c = 26.733; α = 90.00, β = 90.00, γ = 120.00 | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000), (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.77764); N (0.66667, 0.33333, 0.71073), (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.79872) |
| Ce ₃ N ₄ | 40 | <i>I-43d</i> | a = 6.992, b = 6.992, c = 6.992; α = 90.00, β = 90.00, γ = 90.00 | Ce (0.75000, 0.12500, 0.00000); N (0.07333, 0.07333, 0.07333) |
| CeN ₂ | 5 | <i>P4₃2₁2</i> | a = 4.117, b = 4.117, c = 9.595; α = 90.00, β = 90.00, γ = 90.00 | Ce (0.53009, 0.53009, 0.50000); N (0.93372, 0.16630, 0.99725) |
| CeN ₂ | 20 | <i>Pnma</i> | a = 7.656, b = 4.808, c = 3.829; α = 90.00, β = 90.00, γ = 90.00 | Ce (0.62565, 0.75000, 0.16149); N (0.43616, 0.75000, 0.65374), (0.30783, 0.75000, 0.89255) |
| CeN ₂ | 50 | <i>I4/mmm</i> | a = 3.280, b = 3.280, c = 5.873; α = 90.00, β = 90.00, γ = 90.00 | Ce (0.50000, 0.50000, 0.00000); N (0.50000, 0.50000, 0.38551) |
| CeN ₂ | 150 | <i>P2₁/c</i> | a = 3.5572, b = 4.5468, c = 6.5548; α = 90.00, β = 105.09, γ = 90.00 | Ce (0.80250, 0.22006, 0.56394); N (0.58051, 0.55564, 0.73295), (0.20324, 0.20697, 0.87289) |
| CeN ₃ | 95 | <i>P-1</i> | a = 3.6502, b = 3.8362, c = 4.9537; α = 86.35, β = 81.20, γ = 75.45 | Ce (0.14876, 0.68404, 0.23297); N (0.45743, 0.16728, 0.45339), (0.24888, 0.73491, 0.68650), (0.64970, -0.13387, 1.00373) |
| CeN ₄ | 50 | <i>P-1</i> | a = 5.208, b = 4.348, c = 4.066; α = 95.70, β = 69.23, γ = 88.76 | Ce (0.21348, 0.74710, 0.71533); N (0.28476, 0.22084, 0.43787), (0.02646, 0.25701, 0.68229), (0.51072, 0.63552, 0.09567), (0.70765, 0.80273, 0.91019) |
| CeN ₄ | 120 | <i>I4₁/a</i> | a = 6.937, b = 6.937, c = 3.032; α = 90.00, β = 90.00, γ = 90.00 | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.50000); N (0.70362, 0.14531, 0.72808) |
| CeN ₆ | 140 | <i>R-3m</i> | a = 6.057, b = 6.057, c = 4.255; α = 90.00, β = 90.00, γ = 120.00 | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000); N (0.12057, 0.24115, 0.44898) |
| CeN ₈ | 60 | <i>P2₁</i> | a = 5.631, b = 4.764, c = 5.644; α = 90.00, β = 119.53, γ = 90.00 | Ce (0.21332, 0.87336, 0.74442); N (0.23811, 0.36885, 0.61811), (0.69908, 0.40529, 0.79994), (0.45287, 0.46794, 0.59080), |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | (0.16124, 0.39136, 0.17433), (0.66520, 0.84978, 0.10681), (0.12359, 0.86618, 0.28494), (0.87866, 0.95279, 0.07450), (0.58137, 0.94207, 0.65722). |
| CeN₁₀ | 50 | <i>I4/m</i> | a=6.669, b = 6.669, c = 7.821; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.78233); N (0.66494, 0.91558, 0.13731), (0.09267, 0.24533, 0.58302), (0.71514, 0.02168, 0.00000) |
| CeN₁₅ | 35 | <i>C2</i> | a=11.966, b = 5.084, c = 4.626; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 108.05$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.31892, 0.50000); N (0.79056, 0.77123, 0.05943), (0.83766, 0.68593, 0.33929), (0.67916, 0.80631, 0.01859), (0.75786, 0.68599, 0.47866), (0.66193, 0.76511, 0.28399), (0.98762, 0.65221, 0.85400), (0.98010, 0.89642, 0.75869), (0.00000, 0.04379, 0.00000). |
| CeN₁₅ | 50 | <i>P2₁2₁2</i> | a=7.491, b = 7.275, c = 6.636; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.48872); N (0.03315, 0.41927, 0.14721), (0.04539, 0.36483, 0.42497), (0.15424, 0.78224, 0.80571), (0.12203, 0.86170, 0.05335), (0.26915, 0.65204, 0.85452), (0.21892, 0.79002, 0.25758), (0.30604, 0.65581, 0.14288), (0.00000, 0.50000, 0.59693). |
| Metastable | | | | |
| Ce₂N | 50 | <i>P-3m1</i> | a=3.270, b =3.270, c = 4.507; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.78935); N (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.50000) |
| CeN₈ | 120 | <i>R-3</i> | a=5.512, b = 5.512, c = 6.636; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 120.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000); N (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.36927), (0.20583, 0.24146, 0.30157). |
| CeN₁₀ | 20 | <i>Immm</i> | a=3.758, b = 7.557, c = 7.579; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000); N(0.32561, 0.19274, 0.19498), (0.85185, 0.00000, 0.50000). |
| Quenchable | | | | |
| CeN₂ | 0 | <i>P4₃2₁2</i> | a=4.159, b = 4.159, c = 9.696; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.53169, 0.53169, 0.50000); N (0.93431, 0.16507, 0.99745) |
| CeN₄ | 0 | <i>P-1</i> | a=4.438, b = 4.626, c = 5.657; $\alpha = 86.18$, $\beta = 68.91$, | Ce (0.61045, 0.74675, 0.19630); N (0.77336, 0.23296, 0.28384), |

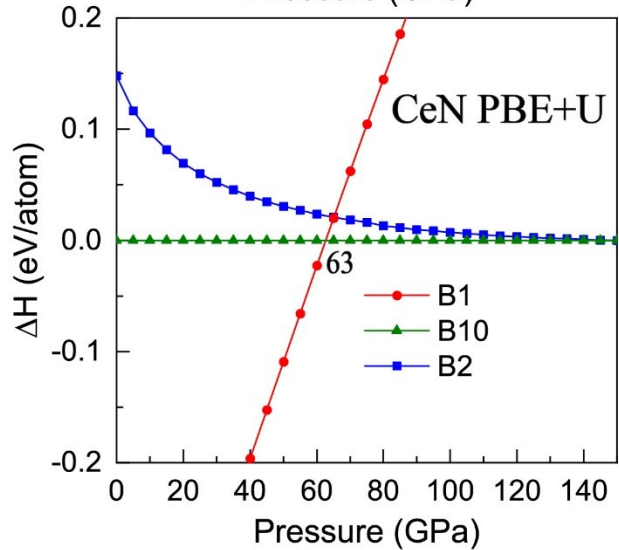
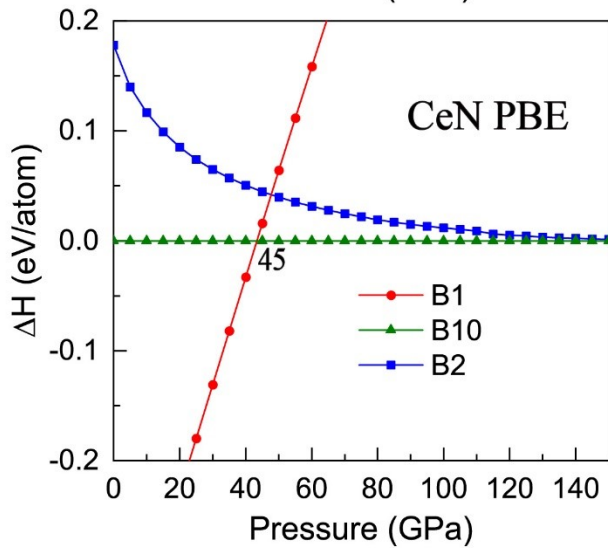
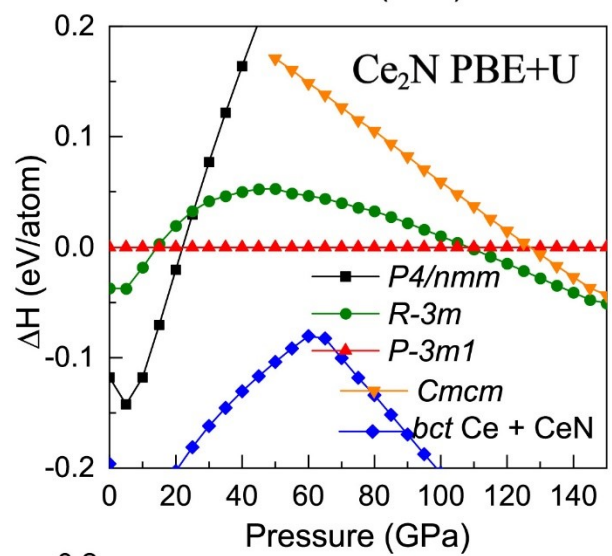
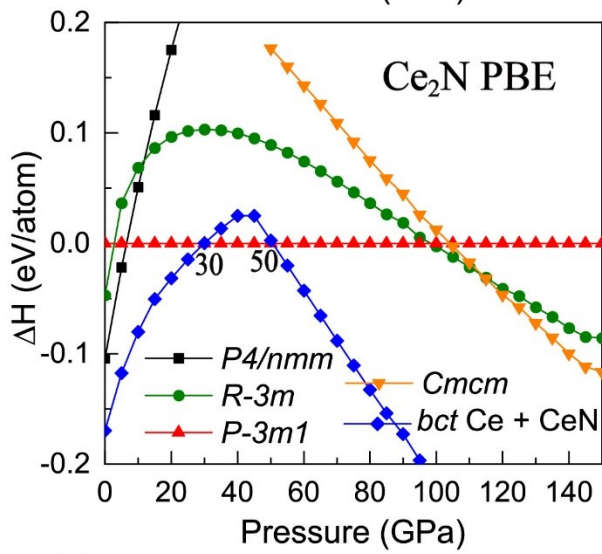
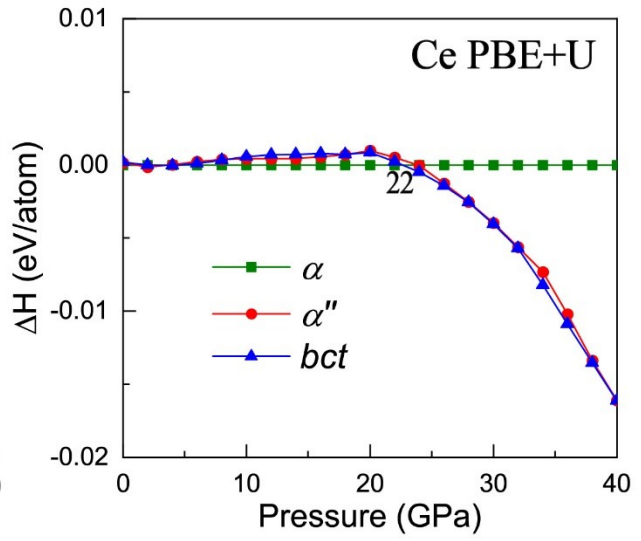
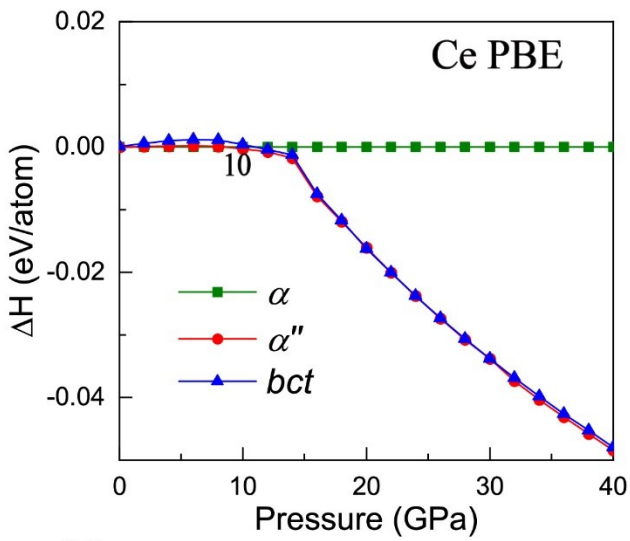
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|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|--|--|
| | | | $\gamma = 85.32$ | (0.77582, 0.25328, 0.03608), (0.88431, 0.60857, 0.53684), (0.90371, 0.78409, 0.70949). |
| CeN₄ | 0 | <i>I4₁/a</i> | a=7.682, b = 7.682, c = 3.430; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.50000); N (0.70366, 0.15544, 0.68379). |

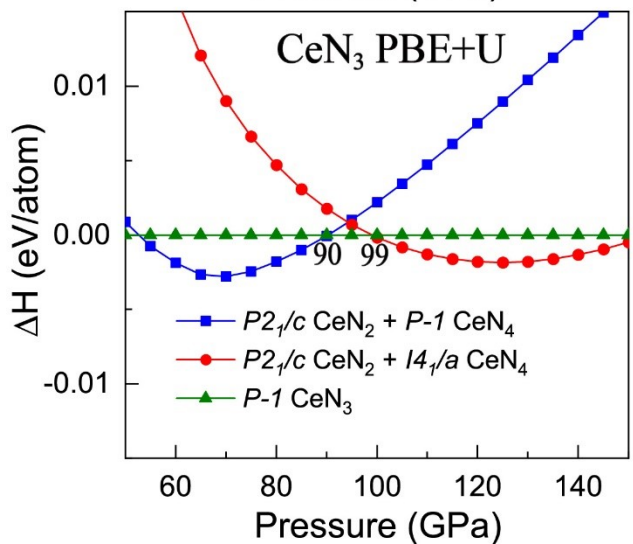
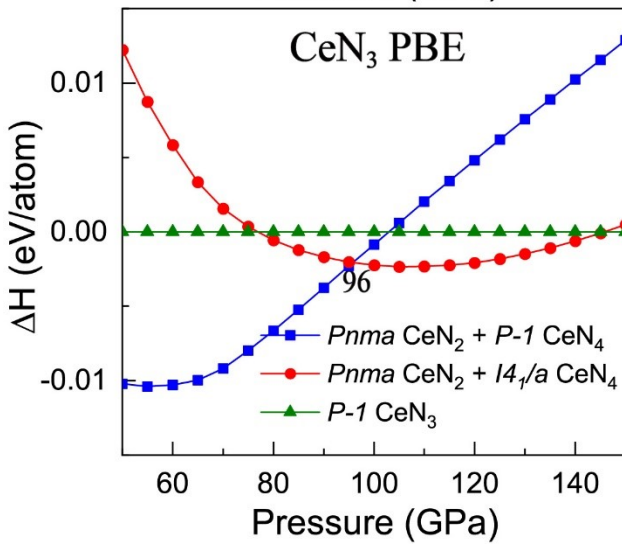
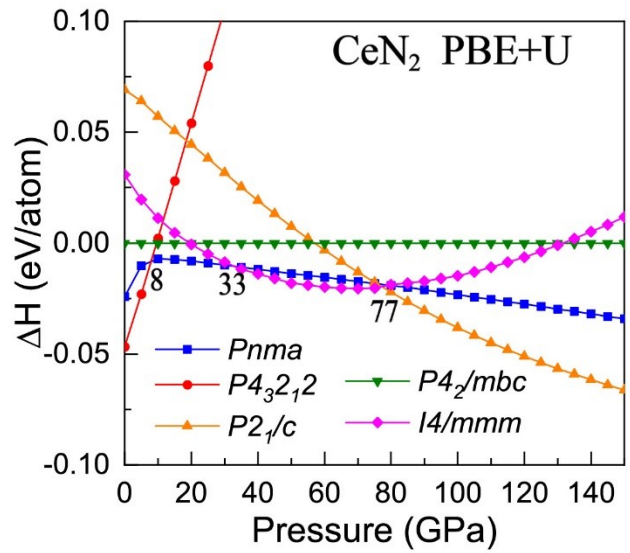
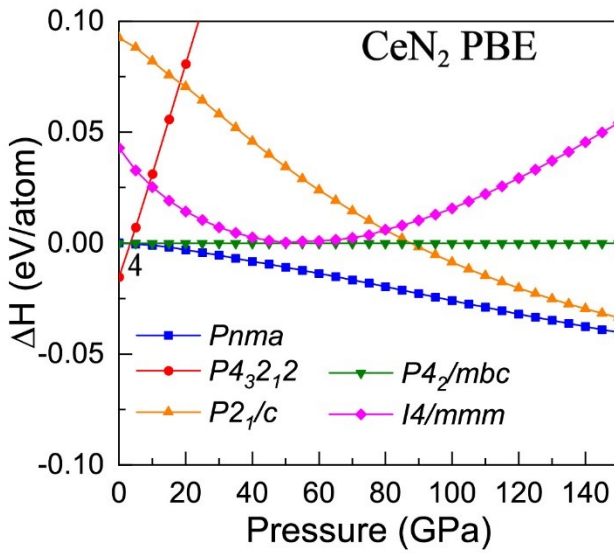
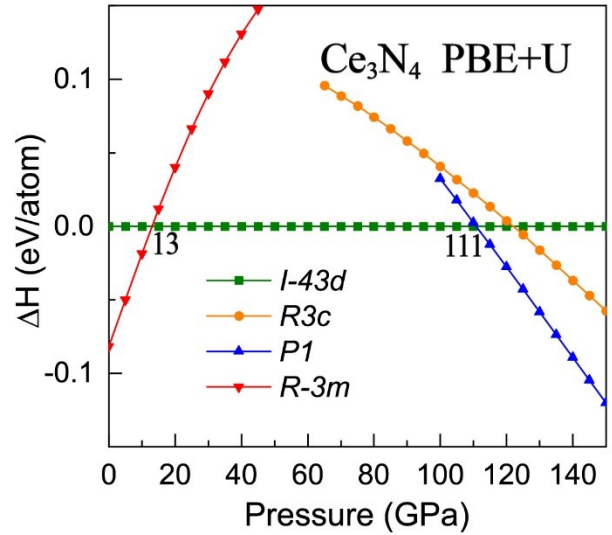
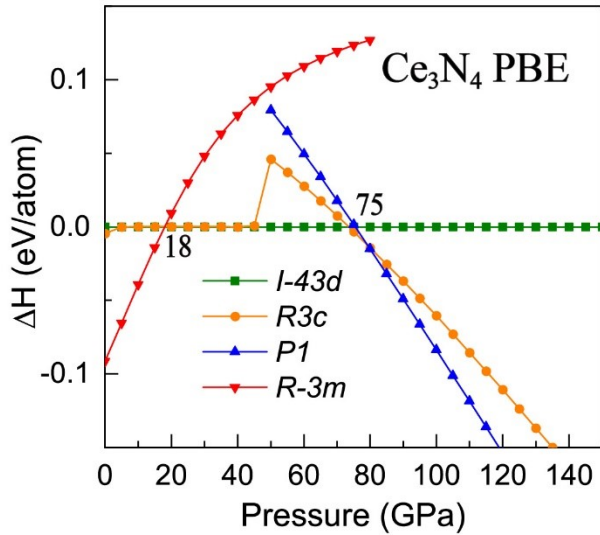
Table. S4. The calculated enthalpy (unit eV/atom), formation enthalpy (unit eV/atom) relative to the Ce and N for the predicted Ce-N compounds at selected pressures with the PBE and PBE+U method; and the calculated zero point energy (ZPE) (unit eV) at the PBE level.

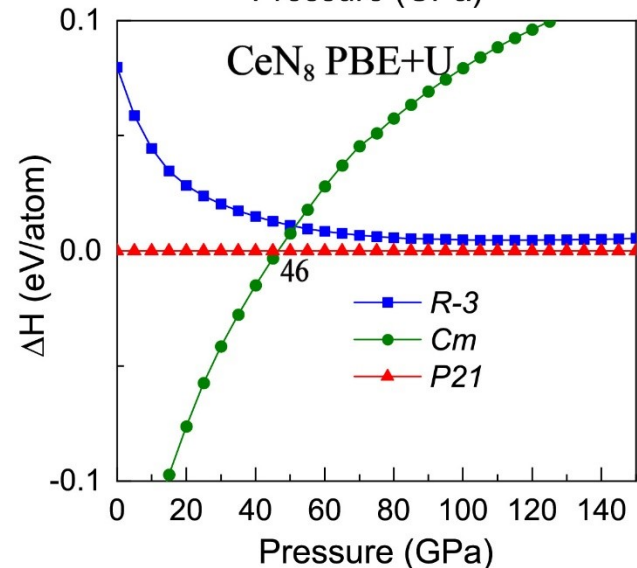
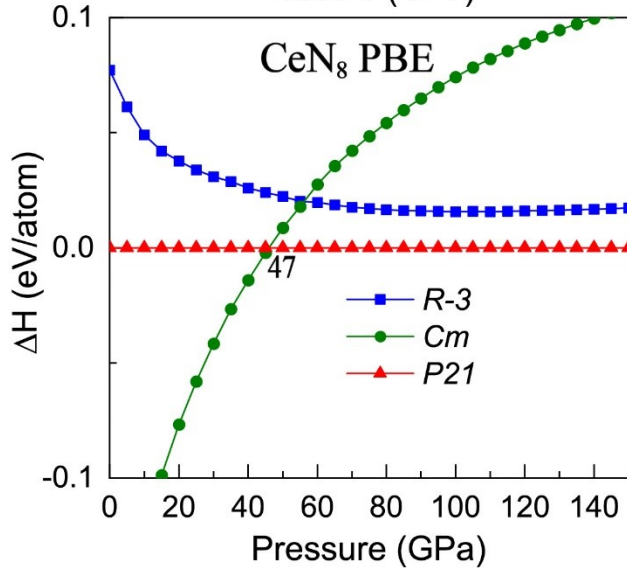
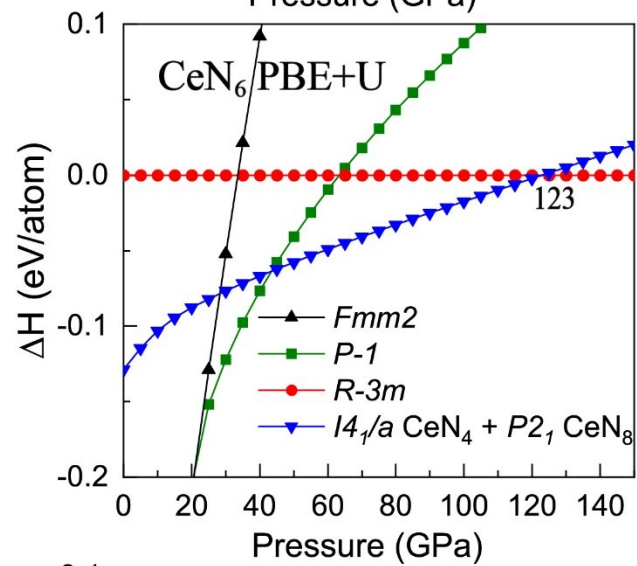
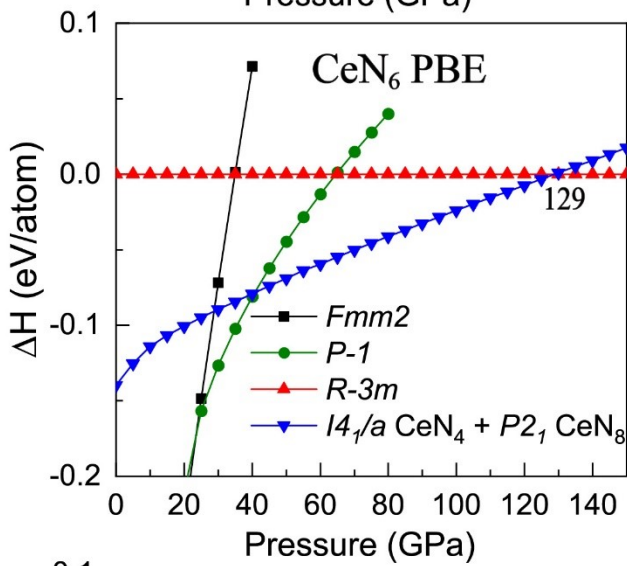
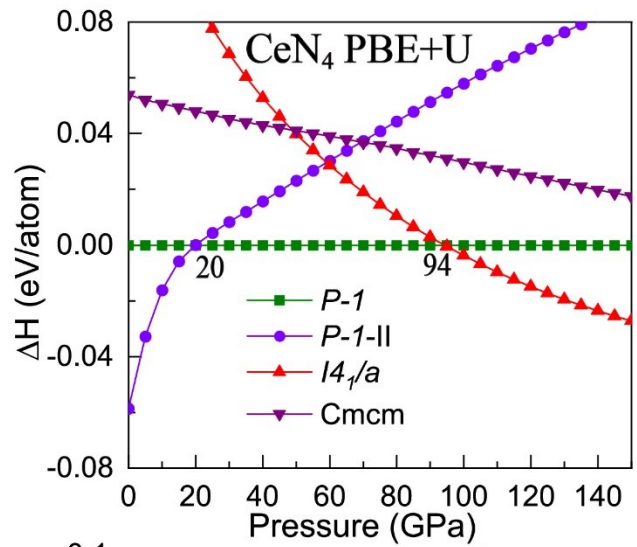
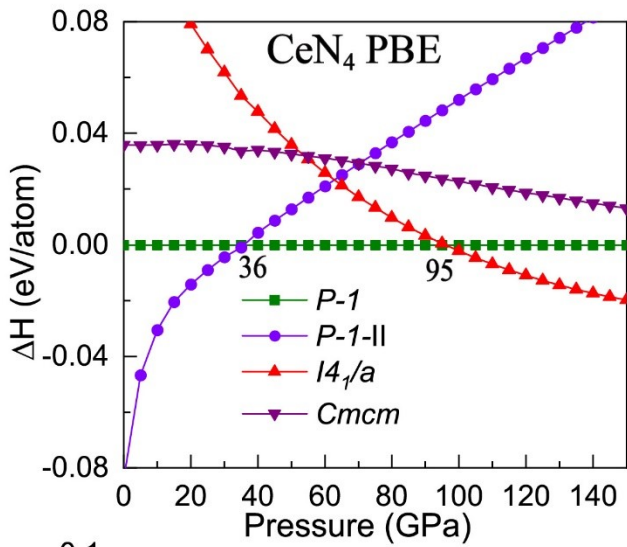
| Compounds | Pressure (GPa) | Space group | ZPE (eV/atom) | Enthalpy PBE (eV/atom) | Formation Enthalpy PBE | Enthalpy PBE+U (eV/atom) | Formation enthalpy PBE+U |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Stable</i> | | | | | | | |
| Ce ₃ N ₄ | 0 | <i>R-3m</i> | 0.048 | -8.680 | -1.379 | -8.072 | -0.748 |
| Ce ₃ N ₄ | 40 | <i>I-43d</i> | 0.056 | -5.314 | -1.852 | -4.692 | -1.433 |
| CeN ₂ | 5 | <i>P4₃2₁2</i> | 0.069 | -8.201 | -1.307 | -7.673 | -1.270 |
| CeN ₂ | 20 | <i>Pnma</i> | 0.073 | -7.068 | -1.604 | -6.513 | -1.598 |
| CeN ₂ | 50 | <i>I4/mmm</i> | 0.078 | -5.008 | -1.811 | -4.440 | -1.889 |
| CeN ₂ | 150 | <i>P2₁/c</i> | 0.104 | 0.729 | -1.486 | 1.409 | -1.655 |
| CeN ₃ | 95 | <i>P-1</i> | 0.108 | -2.663 | -1.402 | -2.212 | -1.509 |
| CeN ₄ | 50 | <i>P-1</i> | 0.105 | -5.145 | -1.257 | -4.820 | -1.319 |
| CeN ₄ | 100 | <i>I4₁/a</i> | 0.124 | -2.664 | -1.234 | -2.311 | -1.333 |
| CeN ₆ | 140 | <i>R-3m</i> | 0.136 | -1.143 | -0.876 | -0.880 | -0.968 |
| CeN ₈ | 60 | <i>P2₁</i> | 0.136 | -4.623 | -0.782 | -4.438 | -0.821 |
| CeN ₁₀ | 50 | <i>I4/m</i> | 0.132 | -5.094 | -0.639 | -4.944 | -0.666 |
| CeN ₁₅ | 35 | <i>C2</i> | 0.136 | -5.808 | -0.355 | -5.718 | -0.377 |
| CeN ₁₅ | 50 | <i>P2₁2₁2</i> | 0.141 | -5.070 | -0.469 | -4.973 | -0.492 |
| <i>Metastable</i> | | | | | | | |
| Ce ₂ N | 50 | <i>P-3m1</i> | 0.053 | -2.729 | -1.261 | -1.452 | -1.276 |
| CeN ₈ | 120 | <i>R-3</i> | 0.150 | -2.057 | -0.689 | -1.868 | -0.753 |
| CeN ₁₀ | 20 | <i>Immm</i> | 0.118 | -6.683 | -0.368 | -6.553 | -0.388 |
| <i>Quenchable</i> | | | | | | | |
| CeN ₂ | 0 | <i>P4₃2₁2</i> | 0.066 | -8.619 | -1.088 | -8.102 | -1.044 |
| CeN ₄ | 0 | <i>P-1</i> | 0.088 | -8.059 | -0.205 | -7.759 | -0.189 |
| CeN ₄ | 0 | <i>I4₁/a</i> | 0.088 | -7.929 | -0.074 | -7.613 | -0.042 |

Table S5. Structural parameters for the known phases of elemental cerium and cerium nitride at the PBE+U level, and for the elemental nitrogen phase at the PBE level at selected pressures.

| Compounds | Pressure (GPa) | Space group | Lattice constants (distances in Å, angles in °) | Wyckoff position (Fractional coordinates) |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Ce | 0 | <i>Fm-3m</i> | a=4.828, b =4.828, c = 4.828; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000) |
| Ce | 30 | <i>C2m</i> | a=5.463, b =2.960, c = 2.960; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 122.80$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000) |
| Ce | 30 | <i>I4/mmm</i> | a=2.912, b =2.912, c = 4.728; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000) |
| N | 0 | <i>Pa-3</i> | a=6.150, b =6.150, c = 6.150; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.05221, 0.05221, 0.05221) |
| N | 5 | <i>P2₁/c</i> | a=4.328, b =4.434, c = 7.511; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 126.66$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.56090, 0.41172, 0.47652) |
| N | 50 | <i>P4₁2₁2</i> | a=2.840, b =2.840, c = 8.051; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.44507, 0.29602, 0.72636) |
| N | 100 | <i>I2₁3</i> | a=3.516, b =3.516, c = 3.516; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.17622, 0.17622, 0.17622) |
| CeN | 0 | <i>Fm-3m</i> | a=5.054, b =5.054, c = 5.054; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000); N (0.50000, 0.00000, 0.00000) |
| CeN | 100 | <i>P4/nmm</i> | a=3.894, b =3.894, c = 2.773; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.50000, 0.00000, 0.94324); N (0.50000, 0.50000, 0.50000) |
| CeN | 150 | <i>Pm-3m</i> | a=2.683, b =2.683, c = 2.683; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | Ce (0.00000, 0.00000, 0.00000); N (0.50000, 0.50000, 0.50000) |







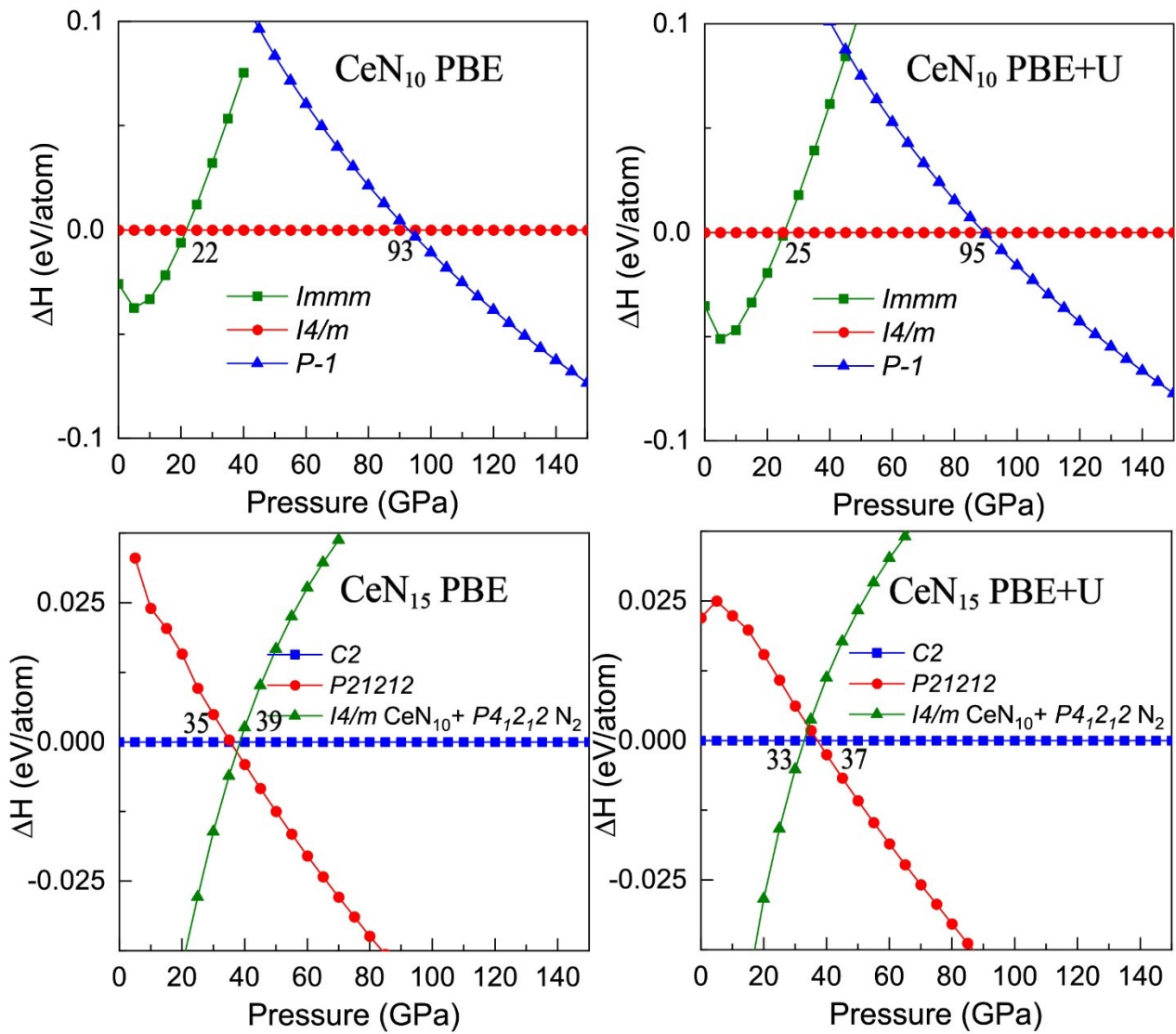


Figure S2. The calculated enthalpy curves with both the PBE and PBE+U method for a variety of Ce-N compositions

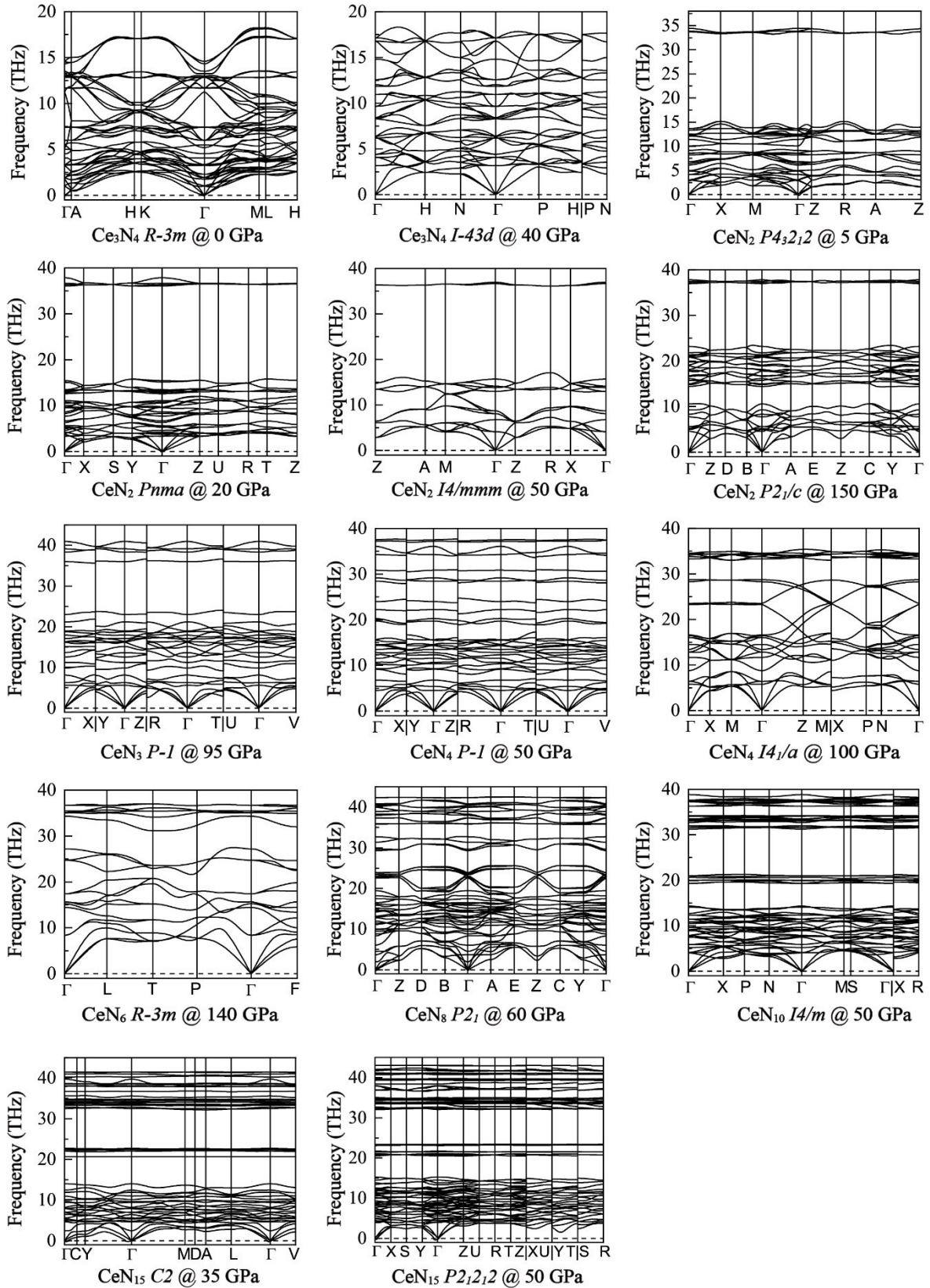


Figure S3. Calculated phonon spectrum for all the thermodynamically stable Ce-N compounds at selected pressures.

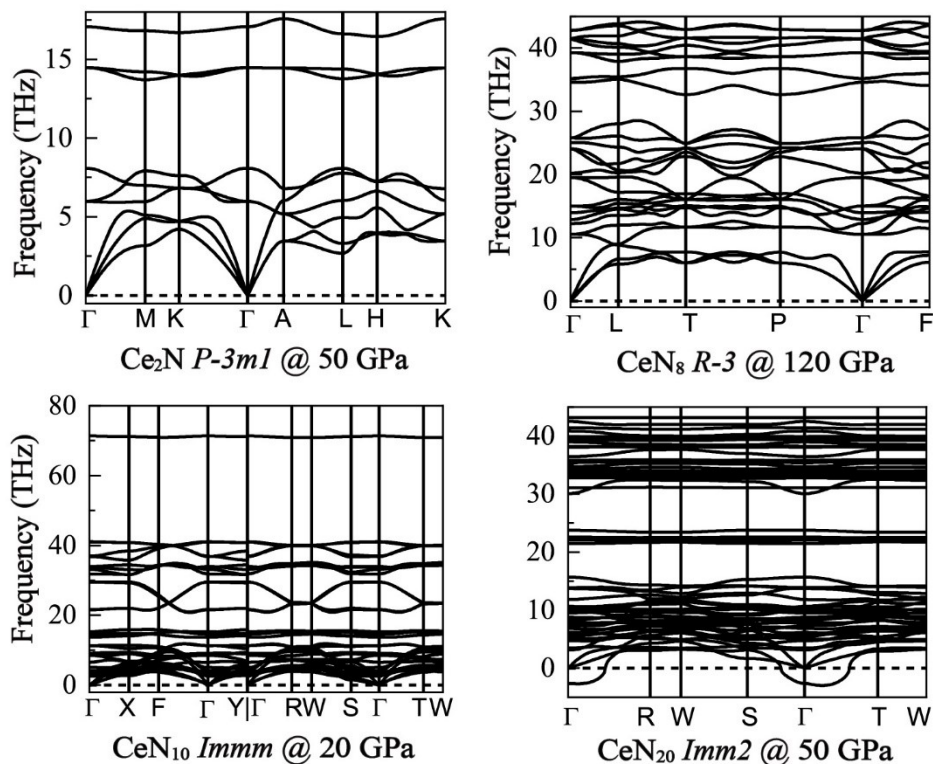


Figure S4. Calculated phonon spectrum for the thermodynamically not stable Ce-N compounds at selected pressures.

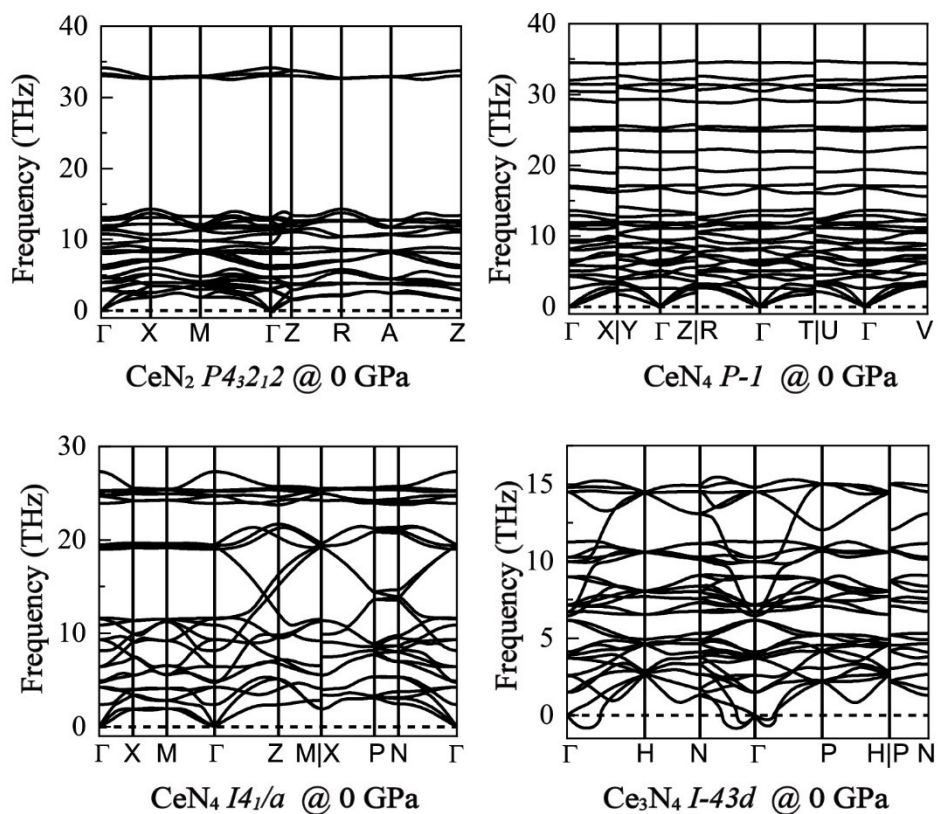


Figure S5. Calculated phonon spectrum for some cerium nitrides at ambient pressure.

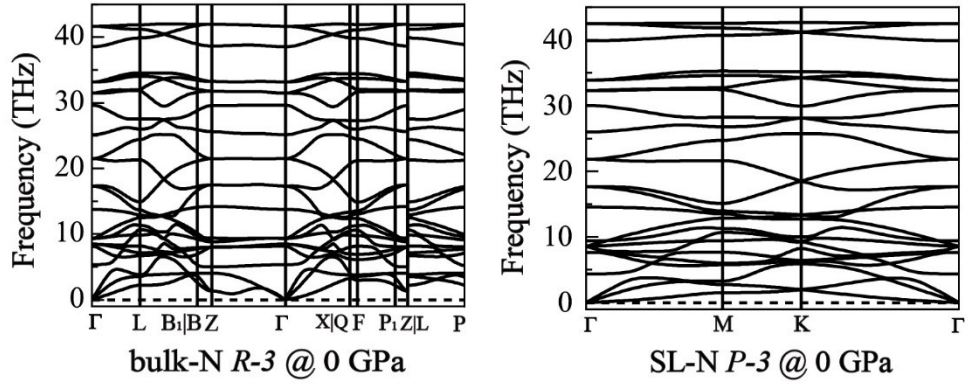


Figure S6. Calculated phonon spectrum for the nitrogen allotrope with the bulk and single layer forms at ambient pressure.

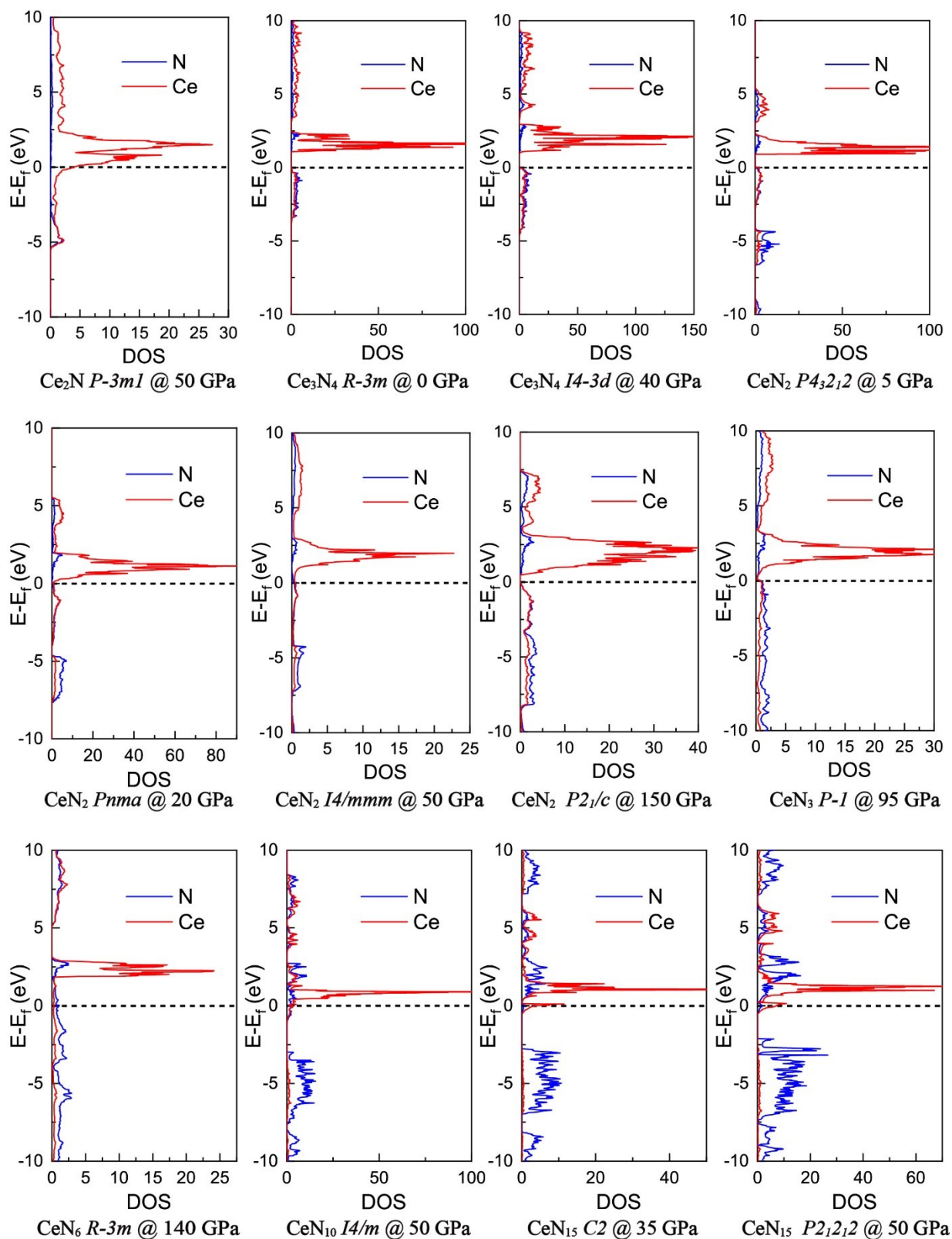


Figure S7. The calculated projected density of states for some of the Ce-N compounds at selected pressures.

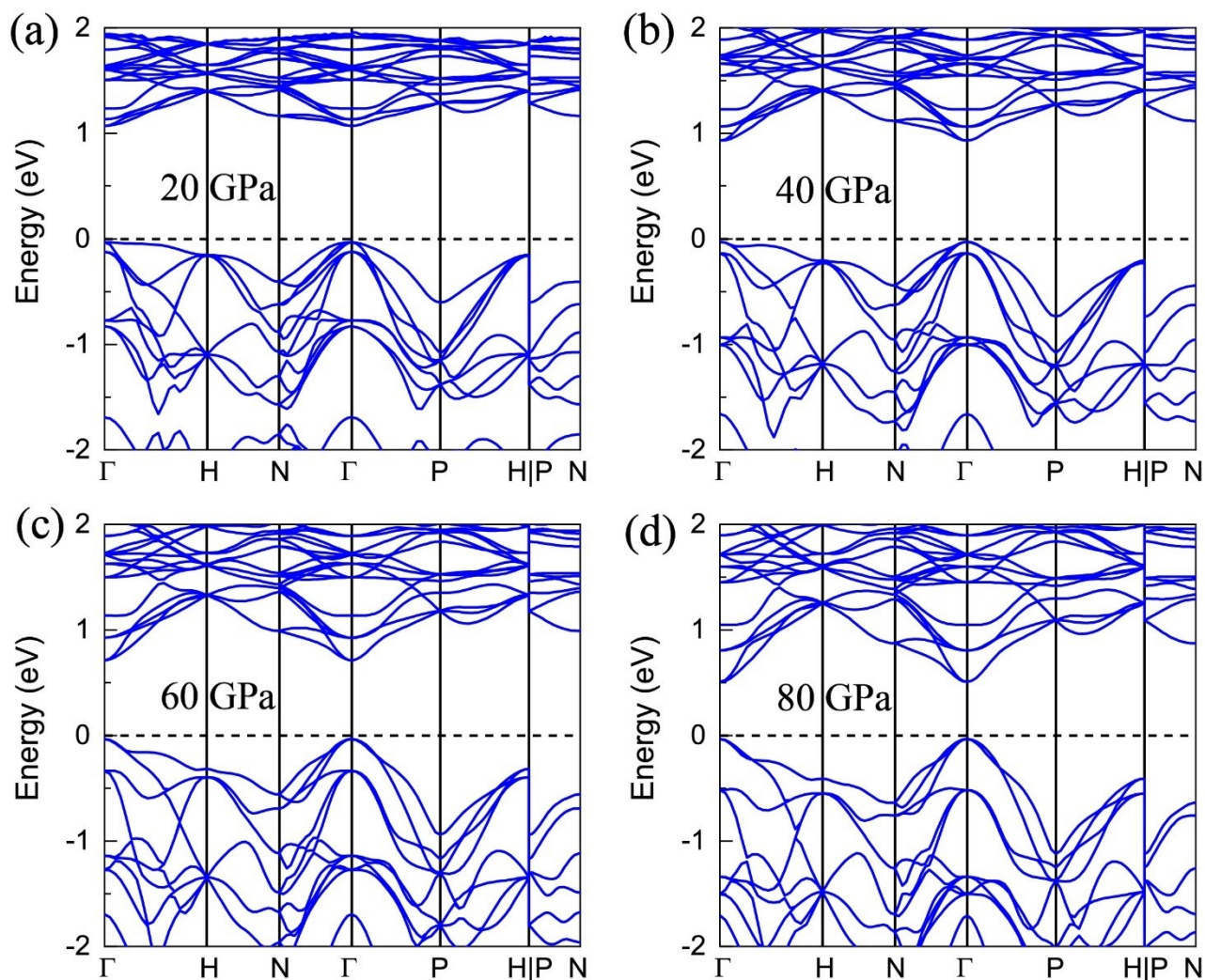


Figure S8. The calculated band structure of the *I-43d* Ce_3N_4 at (a) 20 GPa, (b) 40 GPa, (c) 60 GPa, and (d) 80 GPa at the PBE+U level.

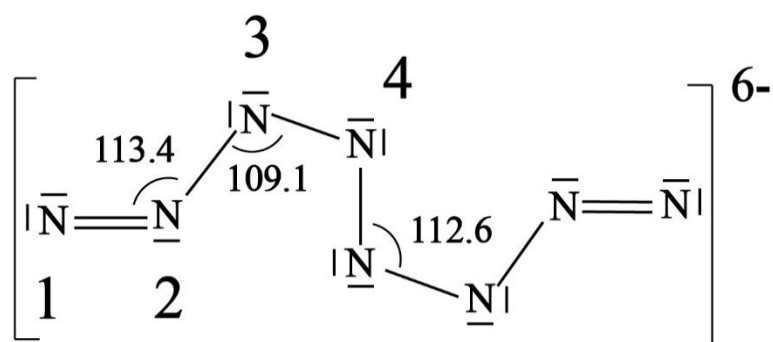


Figure S9. Another possible Lewis structure for the N_8 unit in the *P-1* CeN_4 at 50 GPa with a formal charge of -6.

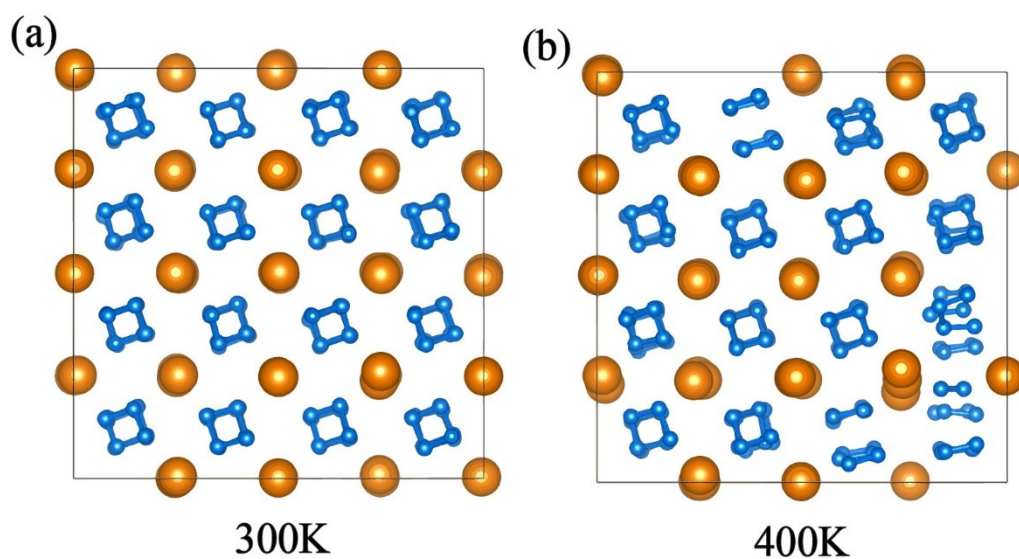


Figure S10. The AIMD simulation results of the $I4_1/a$ CeN_4 at (a) 300 K and (b) 400 K at 0 GPa with the PBE method. The infinite helical chain remains stable at 300K, but some chains are decomposed into the nitrogen N_2 units at 400 K.

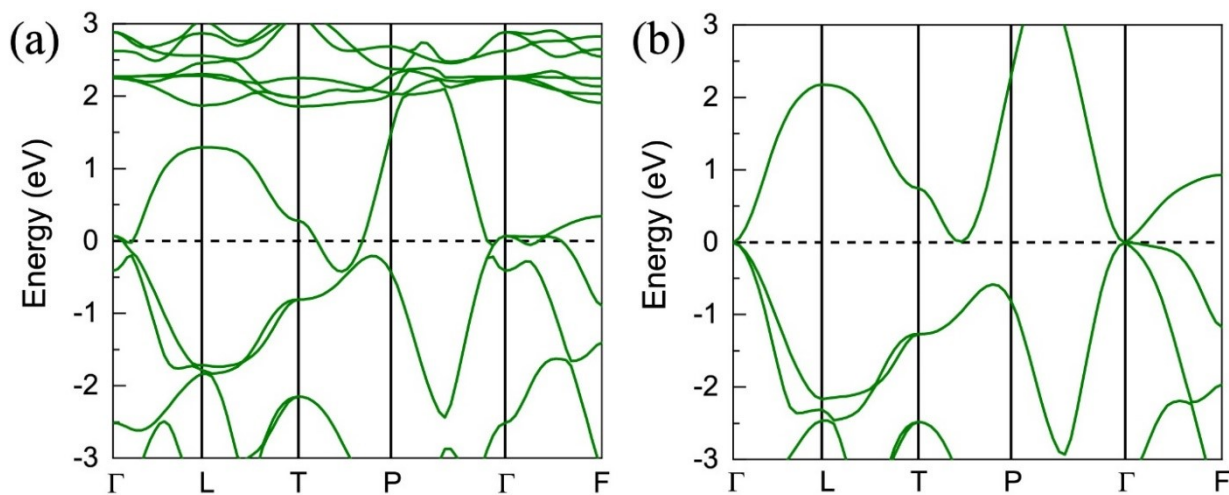


Figure S11. The calculated electronic band structure of the $R-3m$ CeN_6 at 140 GPa at the (a) PBE+U and (b) HSE06 level.

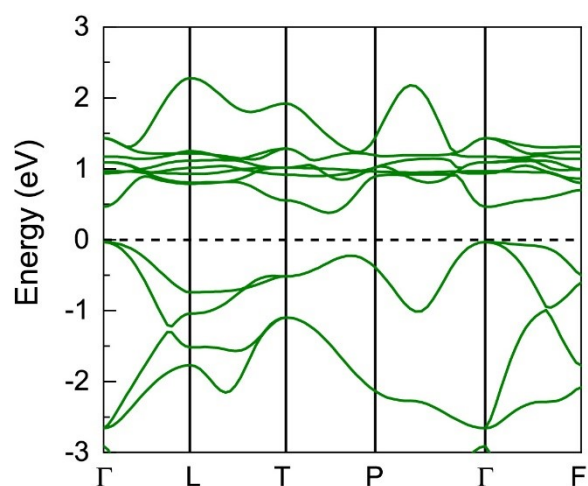


Figure S12. The calculated electronic band structure of the $R-3m$ CeN_6 at 0 GPa at the PBE+U level.

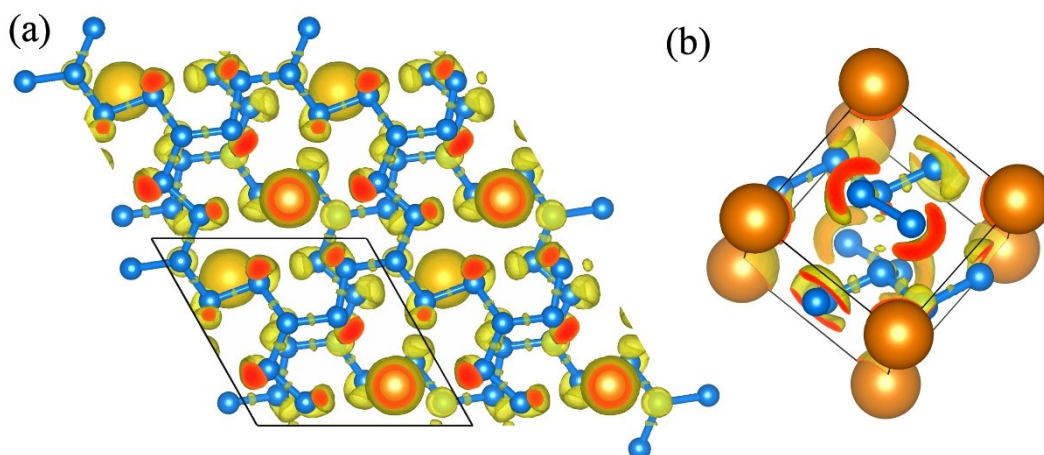


Figure S13. The calculated electron localization function (ELF) for the (a) $P2_1$ CeN_8 at 60 GPa and (a) $R-3$ CeN_8 at 120 GPa with the isosurface value of 0.85.

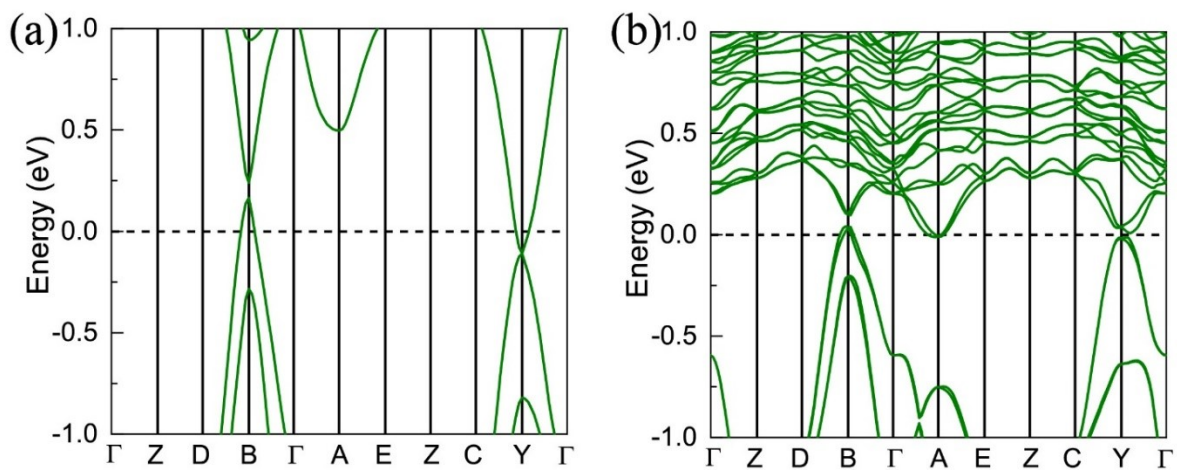


Figure S14. The calculated electronic band structure of the $P2_1$ CeN_8 at 60 GPa at the (a) HSE and (b) PBE+U+SOC level.

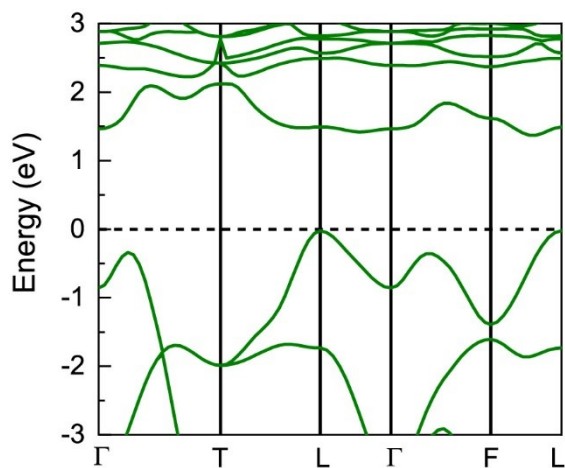


Figure S15. The calculated electronic band structure of the $R-3$ CeN_8 at 60 GPa at the HSE06 level.

Table. S6 The calculated bond orders from Manz' bond order equation with DDEC6 partitioning as employed in the Chargemol program.

CeN₂ *P4₃2₁2* @ 5 GPa,



| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N1' | 1.36 | 1.87 |

CeN₂ *Pnma* @ 20 GPa,



| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N1' | 1.34 | 1.86 |

CeN₂ *I4/mmm* @ 50 GPa,



| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N1' | 1.34 | 1.77 |

CeN₂ *P2₁/c* @ 150 GPa



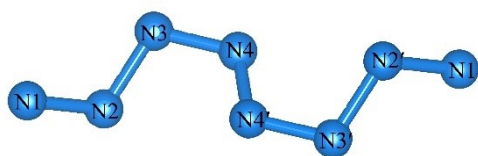
| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N1' | 1.35 | 1.43 |

CeN₃ *P-1* @ 95 GPa



| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N1' | 1.30 | 1.59 |
| N2-N3 | 1.31 | 1.46 |
| N3-N3' | 1.31 | 1.25 |

CeN₄ *P-1* @ 50 GPa



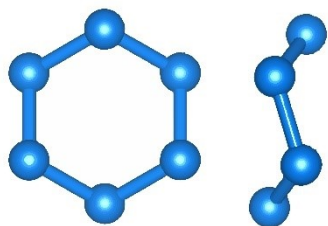
| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N2 | 1.35 | 1.42 |
| N2-N3 | 1.40 | 1.12 |
| N3-N4 | 1.32 | 1.34 |
| N4-N4' | 1.38 | 1.16 |

CeN₄ *I4₁/a* @ 120 GPa



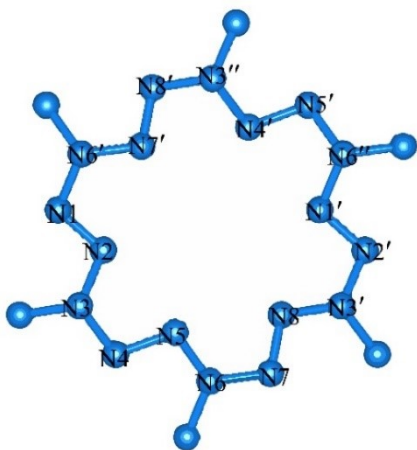
| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N1' | 1.36 | 1.16 |

CeN₆ *R-3m* @ 140 GPa



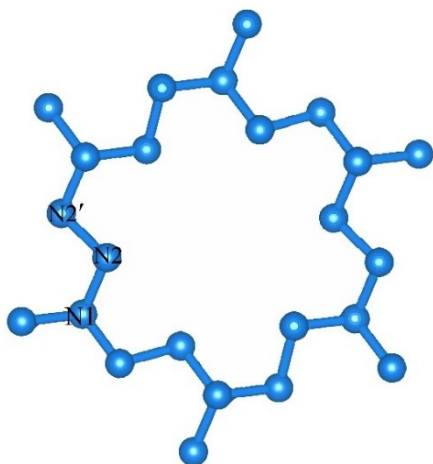
| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|------|-------------|------------|
| N-N | 1.34 | 1.13 |

CeN₈ *P2₁* @ 60 GPa



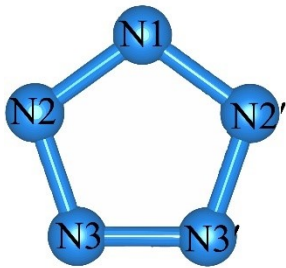
| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N2 | 1.39 | 1.32 |
| N2-N3 | 1.37 | 1.06 |
| N3-N4 | 1.39 | 1.00 |
| N4-N5 | 1.37 | 1.21 |
| N5-N6 | 1.38 | 1.04 |
| N6-N7 | 1.32 | 1.12 |
| N7-N8 | 1.31 | 1.27 |
| N8-N3' | 1.34 | 1.09 |
| N1-N6' | 1.34 | 1.09 |

CeN₈ *R-3* @ 120 GPa



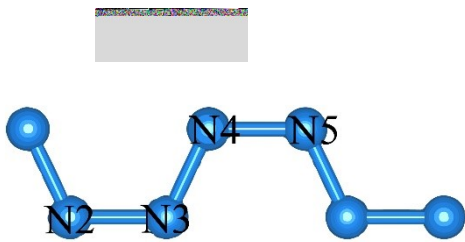
| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N2 | 1.32 | 1.04 |
| N2-N2' | 1.35 | 1.15 |

CeN₁₀ *I4/m* @ 50 GPa



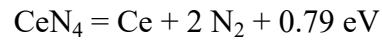
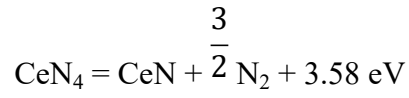
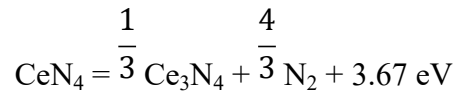
| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N2 | 1.33 | 1.26 |
| N2-N3 | 1.30 | 1.33 |
| N3-N3' | 1.30 | 1.34 |

CeN₁₀ *Immm* @ 20 GPa



| Bond | Bond length | Bond order |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| N1-N1' | 1.11 | 2.45 |
| N3-N4 | 1.33 | 1.35 |
| N2-N3 | 1.31 | 1.45 |
| N4-N5 | 1.31 | 1.45 |

Table. S7. The energy density properties of the $I4_1/a$ CeN_4 with different decomposition products including Ce_3N_4 , CeN , or Ce at ambient pressure. The energy difference between the crystal $\alpha\text{-N}_2$ and the gaseous nitrogen molecule is taken as 0.25 eV/atom.¹³



| Products | ρ (g/cm ³) | E_g (kJ/g) | E_v (kJ/cm ³) | V_d (km/s) | P_d (GPa) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| $\text{Ce}_3\text{N}_4 + \text{N}_2$ | 6.43 | 1.81 | 11.62 | 11.69 | 98.6 |
| $\text{CeN} + \text{N}_2$ | 6.43 | 1.76 | 11.33 | 12.33 | 109.5 |
| $\text{Ce} + \text{N}_2$ | 6.43 | 0.39 | 2.49 | 9.75 | 68.5 |

Table. S8. The calculated structural parameters and relative energies for a variety of nitrogen element phases at 0 GPa with the SCAN+rvv10 exchange-correlation functional. The energy cutoff for the plane wave basis set is set as 1000 eV. The energy of α -phase (Pa-3) is taken as the reference. The lattice parameters for the P-1 N8 are from ref ¹⁴

| Compounds | Space group | Relative Energy (eV/atom) | Lattice constants (distances in Å, angles in °) | Wyckoff position (Fractional coordinates) |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| α -N ₂ | <i>Pa-3</i> | 0 | a=5.317, b =5.317, c = 5.317; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.55991, 0.55991, 0.55991) |
| ϵ -N ₂ | <i>R-3c</i> | 0.0004 | a=9.051, b = 9.051, c = 12.436; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 120.00$ | N (0.93457, 0.39097, 0.10884), (0.66667, 0.33333, 0.28897) |
| cg-N | <i>I2₁3</i> | 1.3850 | a=3.770, b =3.770, c = 3.770; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.16597, 0.16597, 0.16597) |
| Zigzag-N | <i>Cmcm</i> | 1.0471 | a=3.276, b =5.619, c = 2.148; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.00000, 0.06490, 0.75000) |
| N ₆ | <i>C2m</i> | 0.9701 | a=5.799, b =3.459, c = 7.976; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 105.39$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.26830, 0.00000, 0.84241), (0.13695, 0.00000, 0.70781), (0.46135, 0.50000, 0.57833). |
| SL-N ₈ | <i>P-3</i> | 1.1020 | a=5.875, b = 5.875, c = 20.000; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 120.00$ | N (0.46297, 0.38118, 0.50605), (0.66667, 0.33333, 0.50225). |
| Bulk-N ₈ | <i>P-1</i> | 1.0541 | a=4.093, b =4.961, c = 4.208; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 105.39$, $\gamma = 90.00$ | N (0.17400, 0.67700, 0.67400), (0.97400, 0.92500, 0.63200), (0.56900, 0.37400, 0.52600), (0.13200, 0.46800, 0.92700). |
| Bulk-N ₈ | <i>R-3</i> | 1.0448 | a=5.858, b = 5.858, c = 8,230; $\alpha = 90.00$, $\beta = 90.00$, $\gamma = 120.00$ | N (0.28634, 0.41493, 0.34791), (0.33333, 0.66667, 0.34393). |

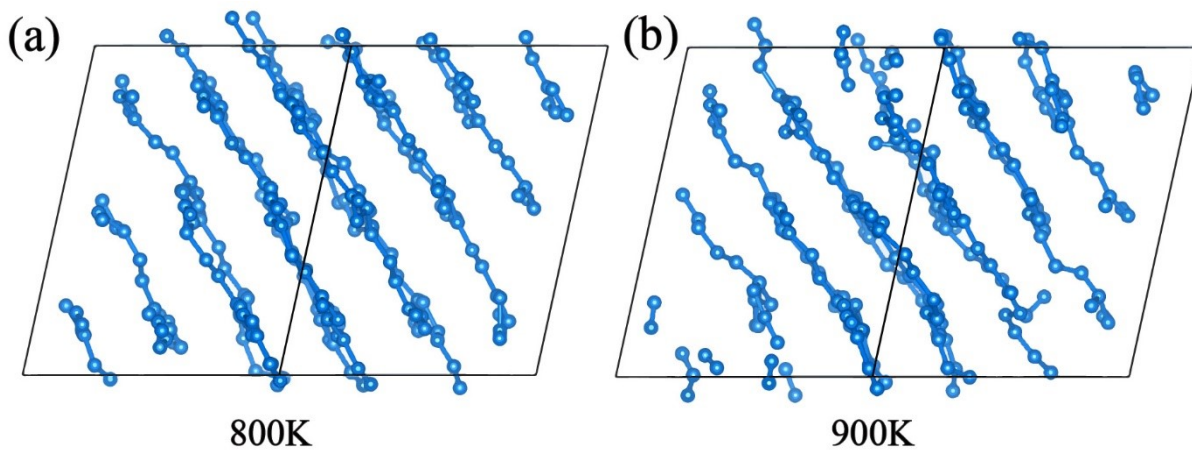


Figure S16. The AIMD simulation results of the bulk *R*-3 nitrogen at 800K and 900K at ambient pressure. The layered configuration was well maintained at 800K, but some diatomic nitrogen units are dissociated from the nitrogen layers.

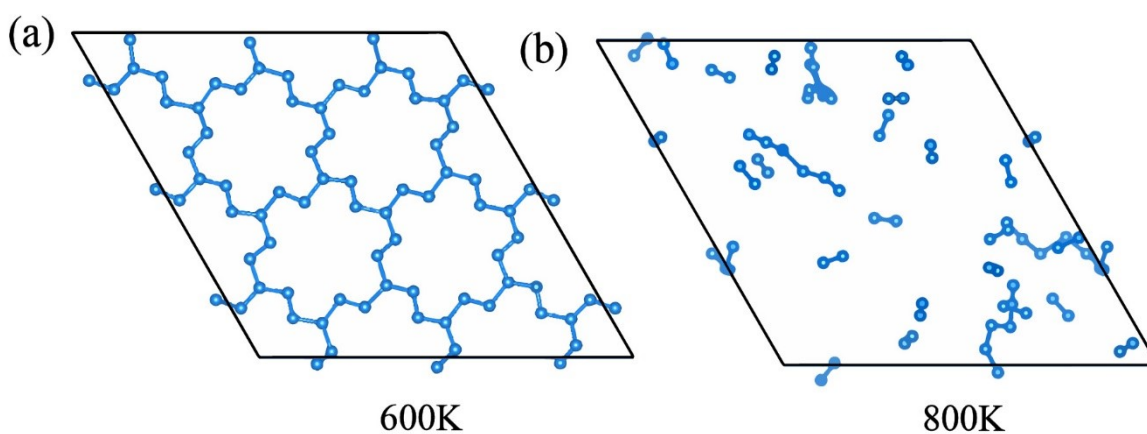


Figure S17. The AIMD simulation results of the monolayer *P*-3 nitrogen at 600 K and 800 K at ambient pressure. The layered configuration was well maintained at 600 K, but isolated nitrogen units are formed at 800 K.

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