# **Supporting Information**

# Aminophosphonium organocatalysts for the ringopening copolymerisation of epoxide and cyclic anhydride

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#### 1 Materials and Methods

All reagents were purchased from Merck, Fischer Scientific, Alfa Aesar and Acros Organics. All solvents used were anhydrous unless otherwise stated. Anhydrous DCM and THF were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Phthalic anhydride was stirred over hot anhydrous toluene overnight, filtered, then recrystallised twice from anhydrous toluene. Cyclohexene oxide was distilled four times under an argon atmosphere: firstly, stirring over CaH<sub>2</sub> and distilling, followed by stirring over Na and distilling finished with two additional distillations. (3-(Dimethylamino)propyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide was purchased from Apollo Scientific and used without further purification.

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 or 500 MHz instrument or an Agilent 500 MHz instrument and referenced to residual solvent signals. Coupling constants are given in Hertz.

**Mass spectrometry measurements** were recorded with a microToF electrospray time of flight (ESI-ToF) mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonik) in acetonitrile.

**THF Size-exclusion chromatography (SEC)** was carried out using a THF eluent and processed using multi analysis software. Polymer samples were dissolved at a concentration of 1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> in THF and analysed on an Agilent 1260 Infinity series instrument at 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup> at 35 °C using two PLgel 5  $\mu$ m MIXED–D 300 × 7.5 mm columns in series. Samples were detected with a differential refractive index (RI) detector. Number-average molar mass ( $M_{n,SEC}$ ), and dispersities, ( $\mathcal{D}_M$  ( $M_w/M_n$ )) were calculated against a polystyrene calibration (11 polystyrene standards of narrow molar mass, ranging from  $M_w$  615 - 568000 Da). Data was plotted using Origin 2023.

Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight (MALDI-ToF) mass spectrometry was conducted using a Bruker Autoflex speed MALDI Mass Spectrometer equipped with a 2 kHz Smartbeam-II laser. 40 mg of DCTB was dissolved in 1 mL of THF to prepare the matrix solution and 5 mg of sodium trifluoroacetate was dissolved in 1 mL of THF. 1 mg of poly(CHO-*alt*-PA) was dissolved in 1.0 mL of THF to prepare the polymer. The solutions were mixed in a matrix:polymer:sodium ratio of 4:1:4 respectively. 1  $\mu$ L of the sample mixture were spotted on a 384 well ground steel MALDI target plate and left to dry before being

inserted into the MALDI instrument. Once loaded, positive ion MALDI spectra were obtained in linear mode. Laser intensity was varied. The data was analysed using the Flex Analysis software, version 3.4 (build 76). The molar mass distributions were obtained through analysis of the data in the Polytools software package 1.31.

**In-situ FTIR analysis** was done using a ReactIR 702L system from Mettler Toledo; measurements were recorded using a DiComp (Diamond) IR probe and TE MCT detector over a sampling range of 3000-650 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The iC IR 7.1 Office software was employed to collect and process the data.

**Single-Crystal X-ray Diffraction (XRD)** analysis was carried out at 150(2) K on a Rigaku SuperNova, EosS2 single crystal diffractometer using monochromated CuK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 1.5418 Å). Unit cell determination, data collection and data reduction were performed using the CrysAlisPro software. The structure was solved with SHELXT and refined by a full-matrix least-squares procedure based on F<sup>2</sup> (SHELXL-2018/3)<sup>6</sup>. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were placed onto calculated positions and refined using a riding model.

#### 1.1 Synthesis of 1

Under argon atmosphere, bromine (198 µL, 3.88 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added dropwise to a solution of triphenylphosphine (1.02 g, 3.88 mmol, 1 equiv.) in anhydrous DCM (45 mL) at  $-78^{\circ}$ C. After stirring for 2 hours at room temperature, a solution of N,Ndimethylethylenediamine (0.42 mL, 3.88 mmols, 1 equiv.) in DCM (1 mol L<sup>-1</sup>) was added at  $-78^{\circ}$ C. After stirring overnight, the solvent was reduced and the product was precipitated from Et<sub>2</sub>O, isolated *via* Buchner filtration. The product was then dried *in vacuo* at 40 °C to yield **1** (1.64 g, 99 % yield).

#### 1.2 Synthesis of 2

Under argon atmosphere, bromine (198  $\mu$ L, 3.88 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added dropwise to a solution of triphenylphosphine (1.02 g, 3.88 mmol, 1 equiv.) in anhydrous DCM (45 mL), at -78°C. After stirring for 2 hours at room temperature, a solution of benzylamine (0.42 mL, 3.88 mmol, 1 equiv.) and DABCO (217.6 mg, 1.94 mmol, 0.5 equiv.) in anhydrous DCM (2 mL) was added at -78°C to the mixture. After stirring overnight, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*, the product was redissolved in THF and any remaining solid was removed by centrifugation (2900 rpm, 5 minutes). The solvent was then reduced, and the **3** was precipitated from Et<sub>2</sub>O, isolated *via* Büchner filtration and dried *in vacuo* at 40°C. (1.07 g, 62 % yield).

#### 1.3 Synthesis of 4

Under argon atmosphere, bromine (198 µL, 3.88 mmol, 2 equivs.) was added dropwise to a solution of triphenylphosphine (1.02 g, 3.88 mmol, 2 equivs.) in anhydrous DCM (45 mL) at  $-78^{\circ}$ C. After stirring for 2 hours at room temperature, a solution of ethylenediamine (0.13 mL, 1.94 mmol, 1 equiv.) in DCM (1 mol L<sup>-1</sup>) was added at  $-78^{\circ}$ C. After stirring overnight, the solvent was reduced and the product was precipitated from Et<sub>2</sub>O, isolated *via* Buchner filtration. The product was then dried *in vacuo* at 40 °C to yield **4** (1.07 g, 94 % yield).

#### 1.4 General Procedure for the ROCOP of CHO/PA

A typical procedure for copolymerisation of epoxides with cyclic anhydrides: In a glovebox, the catalysts (5 x  $10^{-3}$  mmol), phthalic anhydride (0.148g, 1 mmol) and cyclohexane oxide (0.098 g, 2 mmol) were added into a 4 mL dram vial. The vial was sealed and heated using a DrySyn® heating block at 120 °C. After the allotted reaction time, the polymerisation was quenched with non-anhydrous CDCl<sub>3</sub>. The polymer was precipitated from cold Et<sub>2</sub>O and isolated *via* centrifugation (2900 rpm, 5 minutes) and the resulting polymer was dried *in vacuo* at 50 °C for 15 hours.

#### 1.5 Synthesis of 1·HCI

**1** (20 mg, 0.047 mmol, 1 equiv) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (1.6 mL). 23  $\mu$ L of HCl solution (2 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> in Et<sub>2</sub>O, 0.047 mmol, 1 equiv) was added and the solution was stirred for one hour. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting white powder dried overnight at 40 °C *in vacuo*, before being used in catalysis. The resulting product was analysed via NMR analysis in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, which showed one signal at 39.00 ppm in <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR, and an identical spectrum to **1** by <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

#### **1.6 Density Functional Theory Calculations**

DFT calculations were performed using Gaussian16 suite of codes (revision C.01).<sup>1</sup> Geometries were fully optimised without any symmetry or geometry constraints, and using an "ultrafine" grid for numerical integration, and using the hybrid exchange-correlation  $\omega$ b97XD functional developed by Chai and Head-Gordon.<sup>2,3</sup> The 6-311++G(2d,p) basis set was used for O, P, Br and N atoms and the 6-31+G(d,p) was used for C and H atoms. All structures are optimized using the self-consistent reaction

field (SCRF) approach with conductor-like polarisable continuum model (CPCM) In polymerization reactions, the cyclohexene oxide (CHO) monomer also serves as the solvent but is not implemented as a standard solvent in Gaussian 16. THF was therefore use as a proxy. The identification of all the stationary points as minima or transition states as a first-order saddle point on the potential energy surface was confirmed through vibrational frequency calculations.

Free enthalpies were corrected using Goodvibes software,<sup>4</sup> with Grimme's quasiharmonic approximation applied with a frequency cut-off value of 100.0 wavenumbers, a frequency scale factor = 1.0. To account for experimental conditions, a temperature of 393.15 K and concentrations of 5.07 mol L–1 (for neat CHO), and 0.0127 mol L –1 (for any catalytic species) were also applied. All intermediates and transition states were characterised by normal coordinate analysis revealing either precisely zero or one imaginary frequency, respectively. In the case of transition states, the imaginary frequency corresponds to the mode of the intended reaction step.

Full coordinates for all structures, together with computed energies and vibrational frequency data, are available via the corresponding Gaussian 16 output files and calculation spreadsheet, stored in the open-access digital repository, <u>DOI:</u> <u>10.6084/m9.figshare.26487826</u>

### 2 Characterisation data for 1

#### 2.1 NMR spectroscopy analysis



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)): 7.79 (m, 9H, H-6, H-7), 7.68 (m, 6H, H-5), 3.57 (m, 2H, H-1), 3.38 (m, 2H, H-2), 2.67 (s, 6H, H-3)

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)):135.4 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, C-7) 133.8 (d, *J* = 14.2 Hz, C-6), 130.4 (d, *J* = 16.6 Hz, C-5), 121.0 (d, *J* = 128.7 Hz, C-4), 57.6 (C-2) 43.9 (C-3), 38.2 (C-1)

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} (202 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)): 39.15



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 1.



Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of 1, residual CDCl<sub>3</sub> signal at 77.16 ppm.



Figure S3. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of 1.



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H COSY NMR spectrum of 1.



Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HSQC NMR spectrum of 1.



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C HMBC NMR spectrum of 1.

#### 2.2 X-ray diffraction analysis



**Figure S7.** ORTEP drawing of the molecular structure of **1** obtained by X-ray diffraction analysis, with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. CCDC 2374662.

Identification code e23ab7a Empirical formula C22 H26 Br N2 P Formula weight 429.33 149.9(5) K Temperature 0.71073 Å Wavelength Crystal system Monoclinic Space group P2₁/c Unit cell dimensions  $a = 9.4539(5) Å \alpha = 90^{\circ}$ . b = 16.8444(9) Å  $\beta = 109.865(7)^{\circ}$ . c = 13.8253(8) Å  $y = 90^{\circ}$ . Volume 2070.6(2) Å<sup>3</sup> Ζ 4  $1.377 \text{ Mg/m}^3$ Density (calculated) Absorption coefficient 2.071 mm<sup>-1</sup> F(000) 888 Crystal size 0.641 x 0.221 x 0.091 mm<sup>3</sup> Theta range for data collection 3.133 to 27.484°. Index ranges -12<=h<=12, -21<=k<=21, -17<=l<=17 **Reflections collected** 17883 Independent reflections 4729 [R(int) = 0.0375] Completeness to theta = 25.242° 99.8 % Absorption correction Semi-empirical from equivalents Max. and min. transmission 1.00000 and 0.74544 Full-matrix least-squares on F<sup>2</sup> Refinement method 4729 / 1 / 241 Data / restraints / parameters Goodness-of-fit on F<sup>2</sup> 1.048 Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R<sub>1</sub> = 0.0494, wR<sub>2</sub> = 0.1427 R indices (all data) R<sub>1</sub> = 0.0629, wR<sub>2</sub> = 0.1511 Extinction coefficient n/a Largest diff. peak and hole 0.768 and -0.990 e.Å<sup>-3</sup>

#### 2.3 Mass spectrometry analysis

1

0.5

0



**Figure S8.** Mass spectrometry analysis of **1**. Top: extracted ion chromatogram for  $C_{22}H_{26}N_2P^+$ . Bottom: predicted isotope pattern (red) against found isotope pattern (green) for  $C_{22}H_{26}N_2P^+$ .

346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 Counts vs. Mass-to-Charge (m/z)

353.1965

MH

#### 3 Characterisation data for 2

#### 3.1 NMR spectroscopy analysis



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)): 8.76 (s, 1H, H-1), 7.81-7.53 (m, 15H, H-8-10), 7.20-7.10 (m, 5H, H-4-6), 4.29 (m, 2H, H-2)

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  (ppm)):138.6 (d, J = 11.8 Hz, C-3) 134.8 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, C-10), 133.9 (d, J = 45.0 Hz, C-9), 129.9 (d, J = 52.4 Hz, C-8), 128.4 (C-4), 128.3 (C-5) 127.5 (C-6), 122.1 (d, J = 334.2 Hz, C-7), 45.7 (C-2)

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} (202 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)): 38.56



Figure S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2.



Figure S10. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of 2.



Figure S11. <sup>13</sup>P NMR spectrum of 2.



Figure S12. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY NMR spectrum of 2.



Figure S13. <sup>13</sup>C-<sup>1</sup>H HSQC NMR spectrum of 2.



Figure S14. <sup>13</sup>C-<sup>1</sup>H HMBC NMR spectrum of 2.

#### 3.2 X-ray diffraction analysis



Figure S15. ORTEP drawing of the molecular structure of 2 obtained by X-ray diffraction analysis with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level. CCDC 2374926.

Identification code	e23ab4		
Empirical formula	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>23</sub> Br N P		
Formula weight	448.32		
Temperature	149.9(7) K		
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		
Crystal system	Orthorhombic		
Space group	Pbca		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 11.1188(4) Å	a= 90°.	
	b = 18.1495(6) Å	b= 90°.	
	c = 21.2078(7) Å	g = 90°.	
Volume	4279.7(3) Å <sup>3</sup>		
Z	8		
Density (calculated)	1.392 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>		
Absorption coefficient	2.006 mm <sup>-1</sup>		
F(000)	1840		
Crystal size	0.520 x 0.450 x 0.210 mm <sup>3</sup>		
Theta range for data collection	2.954 to 30.402°.		
Index ranges	-13<=h<=14, -23<=k<=25, -29<=l<=29		
Reflections collected	38624		
Independent reflections	5981 [R(int) = 0.0507]		
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %		
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents		
Max. and min. transmission	1.00000 and 0.79427		
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares or	ו F²	
Data / restraints / parameters	5981 / 0 / 257		
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.015		
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0397, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0710		
R indices (all data)	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0717, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0810		
Extinction coefficient	n/a		
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.432 and -0.388 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>		

#### 4 Characterisation data for 4

#### 4.1 NMR spectroscopy analysis



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)): 7.82-7.61 (m, 30H, H-5-7), 3.45 (m, 4H, H-1, H-2), 2.75 (s, 2H, H-3)

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)):134.9 (d, *J* = 2.9 Hz, C-7) 133.9 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, C-6), 130.2 (d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, C-5), 120.9 (d, *J* = 103.2 Hz, C-4), 42.8 (C-1, C-2)

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} (202 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, δ (ppm)): 38.29



Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 4.



Figure S17. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of 4.



Figure S18. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of 4.



Figure S19. <sup>1</sup>H COSY NMR spectrum of 4.



Figure S20.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^{1}\text{H}\}\text{-}^{1}\text{H}$  HSQC NMR spectrum 4.



Figure S21.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^{1}\text{H}\}\text{-}^{1}\text{H}$  HMBC NMR spectrum 4.

#### 5 NMR analysis of acid/base addition to 1



30 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 f1 (ppm)

**Figure S22.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra (162 MHz-CDCl<sub>3</sub>), of a) **1** synthesised without base, b) **1** synthesised with DABCO, c) a and b combined, d) a with  $HCl_{(ether)}$  added and e) a with KOH added.

Repeating the synthesis of **1** with the addition of DABCO resulted in no change in the resulting shift at 39.00 ppm as observed by  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR spectroscopy. Attempts to deprotonate an hypothetical quaternary ammonium cation by addition of 1 equivalent of KOH resulted in the formation of PPh<sub>3</sub>O, confirmed by  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR analysis (**Figure S22**). Alternatively, efforts to protonate the tertiary amine of **1** by addition of 1 equivalent of HCI (2 mol L<sup>-1</sup> in Et<sub>2</sub>O) affected no change in the  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$  NMR spectra (**Figure S22**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the combined products from the synthesis with and without base indicated the presence of only one species (**Figure S22**).

# 6 Polymer characterisation and polymerisation data



#### 6.1 NMR spectroscopy analysis of ROCOP of CHO/PA

**Figure S23.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of crude reaction mixture from a typical ROCOP of CHO/PA catalysed by **1**, with assignments of signals from residual CHO and PA, polyester and ether linkages defects.



# 6.2 MALDI-ToF mass spectrometry analysis of poly(CHO-*alt*-PA) made using 1 as catalyst

4 H⊕ 0↓₩ 2500 246 g mol<sup>-1</sup> 3000 3500 4000  $\mathsf{P}^2$ Na<sup>⊕</sup> m/z 5158  $P^3$ 8 5404  $P^3$ 1 g mol<sup>-1</sup> 5649 5306  $\mathbf{P}^4$ 6 5551 5256 5502 Intensity [a.u.] 114 g mol-1 246 g mol<sup>-1</sup> 4  $P^4$ 0 0 2 н⊕ 0 <u>| √</u> 5000 246 g mol-1 98 g mol<sup>-1</sup> 5500 6000 m/z

**Figure S24**. Top, full MALDI-ToF spectrum showing bimodal nature. Bottom, zoomed in MALDI-ToF spectrum showing detected series. The primary, lower m/z series is assigned as linear polymer species with CHO-Br chain ends (P1), detected as Na<sup>+</sup> adducts. The higher m/z minor series were assigned as: P2 and P4, cyclic polymer species and P3, linear polymer species grown from cyclohexane diol, detected as Na<sup>+</sup> adducts.

#### 6.3 Monitoring of $M_{n,SEC}$ and $\mathcal{D}_{M}$ against PA monomer conversion



**Figure S25.** Conversion of PA (determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy) *vs*  $M_{n,SEC}$  (black, square) and  $\mathcal{D}_{M}$  (blue, triangle) in the ROCOP of CHO with PA at 120 °C with [CHO]<sub>0</sub>:[PA]<sub>0</sub>:[**1**]<sub>0</sub> loadings of 200:100:1 [CHO]<sub>0</sub> = 5.8 mol L<sup>-1</sup> without solvent.

#### 6.4 Size-Exclusion Chromatogram of poly(CHO-alt-PA) derived from 1



**Figure S26.** SEC chromatogram (THF eluent) of poly(CHO-*alt*-PA) at 100% conversion of PA ( $M_{n,SEC} = 8,400$  g mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\mathcal{D}_{M} = 1.22$ ) with [CHO]<sub>0</sub>:[PA]<sub>0</sub>:[**1**]<sub>0</sub> loadings of 200:100:1 [CHO]<sub>0</sub> = 5.8 mol L<sup>-1</sup> without solvent.

# 6.4 <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectroscopy monitoring of CHO/PA ROCOP catalysed by 1



**Figure S27**. *in-situ* <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR reaction monitoring of CHO/PA ROCOP catalysed by **1**, using a [PA]<sub>0</sub>:[1]<sub>0</sub> ratio of 50:1 in a large excess of CHO (over twice the amount of PA) at 120 °C.

#### 6.5 Kinetics of CHO/PA ROCOP catalysed by 1



**Figure S28.** Plot of [PA]<sub>t</sub> vs Time (seconds) at [**1**]<sub>0</sub>:[PA]<sub>0</sub>:[CHO]<sub>0</sub> = 1:400:800 at 120 °C. Data acquired using *insitu* FTIR spectroscopy, monitoring the absorption intensity at 1783 cm<sup>-1</sup> (corresponding to the  $v_{C=O}$  vibration in PA) under an argon atmosphere and in air.



**Figure S29**. Plot of  $ln([CHO]_t/[CHO]_0)$  vs time, revealing a linear relationship and hence a first-order dependence of the rate on [CHO]. Conditions: [1]\_0:[PA]\_0:[CHO]\_0 = 1:400:800, T = 120 °C. [CHO] was calculated by subtracting the growth of the  $v_{C=O}$  vibration at 1722 cm<sup>-1</sup> in poly(CHO-*alt*-PA), from [CHO]\_0.

## 7 Computational Modelling



**Figure S30**. DFT computed free enthalpy diagram for the ring-opening of CHO by **1** (initiation step of ROCOP). Protocol:  $\omega$ b97xD/6-311++G(d,p) and 6-31+G(d) /cpcm=THF/393.15K. Free enthalpies given in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S31**. DFT computed free enthalpy diagram for the ring-opening of CHO by **1·HBr** (initiation step of ROCOP from a putative dicationic species). Protocol:  $\omega$ b97xD/6-311++G(d,p) and 6-31+G(d) /cpcm=THF/393.15K. Free enthalpies given in kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 7.2 Computed free enthalpies

**Table S1.** Computed free enthalpies of intermediates and transition states for the first ring-opening of cyclohexene oxide (CHO) by **1** and **1·HBr**.

Structure	G (Hartree) <sup>a</sup>	ΔΔG (kcal mol <sup>−1</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	G (Hartree)b	ΔΔG (kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>
СНО	-309.679082		-309.684886	
la	-3878.475129	0	-3878.494892	0
lb	-3878.462026	+8.2	-3878.481888	+8.2
Reference for CHO	-4188.154211	0	-4188.179778	0
opening by <b>1</b> (la				
+CHO)				
lla	-4188.1432	+6.9	-4188.165792	+8.8
IIb	-4188.137931	+10.2	-4188.159815	+12.5
TSa	-4188.104309	+31.3	-4188.128013	+32.5
TS₀	-4188.095777	+36.7	-4188.118625	+38.4
IIIa	-4188.13437	+12.4	-4188.157305	+14.1
III <sub>b</sub>	-4188.132831	+13.4	-4188.155592	+15.2
I <sup>HBr</sup>	-6453.297478		-6453.317012	
Reference for CHO	-6762.97656	0	-6763.001898	0
opening by <b>1-HBr</b>				
(Ia +CHO)				
II <sup>HBr</sup> a	-6762.963796	+8.0	-6762.985939	+10.0
II <sup>HBr</sup> a	-6762.951686	+15.6	-6762.973158	+18.0
TS <sup>HBr</sup> a	-6762.933025	+27.3	-6762.955327	+29.2
TS <sup>HBr</sup> b	-6762.92456	+32.6	-6762.947313	+34.2
III <sup>HBr</sup> a	-6762.973668	+1.8	-6762.995293	+4.1
III <sup>HBr</sup> b	-6762.962873	+8.6	-6762.984826	+10.7

Protocol:  $\omega b97xD/6-311++G(d,p)$  and 6-31+G(d)/cpcm=THF. <sup>a</sup> Default temperature = 298.15 K, concentration = 1.0 mol L<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>b</sup> Goodvibes correction applied at 393.15 K and concentration = 0.0127 mol L<sup>-1</sup> (5.07 mol L<sup>-1</sup> for [CHO])

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