

**Figure S1.** Initial structures used in geometry optimizations of encounter complexes. In addition, a  $C_1$  symmetry calculation was carried by enforcing no symmetry constraints on the (otherwise)  $C_s$  configuration.



**Figure S2.** Initial structures used in geometry optimizations of dinuclear species. In addition, a  $C_1$  symmetry calculation was carried by enforcing no symmetry constraints on the (otherwise)  $C_s$  configuration.

	Cr-V	Mo-Nb	W-Ta	Mo-V	Мо-Мо
Reactants	-11749	-11786	-11757	-11715	-11761
Encounter Complex	-12012	-12155	-12175	-12079	-12129
Dinuclear Species	-12104 (C <sub>1</sub> ) -12012 (C <sub>3v</sub> )	-12230 (C <sub>1</sub> ) -12150 (C <sub>3v</sub> )	-12272 (C <sub>s</sub> )	-12142 (C <sub>1</sub> ) -12079 (C <sub>3v</sub> )	-12125 (C <sub>3v</sub> )
Products	-12293	-12552	-12661	-12393	-12401

**Table S1.** Calculated bonding energy values (kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>) for the reactants, encounter complex, dinuclear species, and products.

	Cr-V	Mo-Nb	W-Ta	Mo-V	Мо-Мо
Reactants	-11584	-11628	-11603	-11553	-11600
Encounter Complex	-11780	-11935	-11962	-11860	-11907
Dinuclear Species	-11819 (C <sub>1</sub> ) -11729 (C <sub>3ν</sub> )	-11963 (C <sub>s</sub> ) -11888 (C <sub>3v</sub> )	-12006 (C <sub>s</sub> )	-11864 (C <sub>1</sub> ) -11803 (C <sub>3v</sub> )	-11848 (C <sub>3v</sub> )
Products	-12054	-12328	-12435	-12159	-12177

**Table S2.** Calculated free energy values (kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup>) for the reactants, encounter complex, dinuclear species, and products.