## **Supporting Information**

## Speciation in solution, solid state spectroscopy and vapochromism of [Pt(trpy)(NCS)]SbF<sub>6</sub> where trpy = 2,2':6',2''-terpyridine

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## **Supporting Information Table of Contents**

Title Table of contents		S1 S2	
Figure S1	<b>re S1</b> <sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum of $[Pt(trpy)(NCS)]SbF_6$ (1) recorded at 303 K in CD <sub>3</sub> CN. The signals due to the major (N-bound) isomer are marked with a solid arrow; signals due to the S-bound isomer are indicated with an un-shaded arrow.		
Figure S2	<sup>13</sup> C NMR spectrum of the "Pt <sup>15</sup> N <sup>13</sup> CS" unit in [Pt(trpy)( $^{15}N^{13}CS$ )]SbF <sub>6</sub> recorded at 303 K in CD <sub>3</sub> CN.		
Figure S3	View down the [a]-axis of the unit cell contents that illustrates the cation, anion and solvent columns in $[Pt(trpy)(NCS)]SbF_6 \cdot CH_3CN$ (1 · CH <sub>3</sub> CN).		
Figure S4	View parallel to the cation planes in [Pt(trpy)(NCS)]SbF <sub>6</sub> ·CH <sub>3</sub> CN ( <b>1</b> ·CH <sub>3</sub> CN) showing that the cations of adjacent stacks are not co-planar; in fact displaced by about one-third along a perpendicular line joining the cation planes. In (A) the anions and solvent molecules are included; in (B) the solvent molecules have been artificially removed. The dotted purple lines represent S…H"-C"(trpy) non-bonded contacts. The dotted red lines represent Pt…Pt distances less than 3.5 Å. The arrows in (B) indicate how, when solvent is lost, adjacent dimers might slide into new positions that results in the extended chain structure shown in (C).	S6	
Figure <b>S5</b>	Comparison of the 295 K powder XRD spectrum measured for 1 with that calculated for $1 \cdot CH_3CN$ (using a 295 K intensity dataset: see 1MeCN295K.cif in the Supplementary Information) in the 20 range of (A) 5 to 23° and (B) 23 to 40°.	S7	
Table S1	Vapochromic response times for 1.	<b>S</b> 8	



**Figure S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[Pt(trpy)(NCS)]SbF_6$  (1) recorded at 303 K in CD<sub>3</sub>CN. The signals due to the major (N-bound) isomer are marked with a solid arrow; signals due to the S-bound isomer are indicated with an un-shaded arrow.



**Figure S2** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of the "Pt<sup>15</sup>N<sup>13</sup>CS" unit in [Pt(trpy)(<sup>15</sup>N<sup>13</sup>CS)]SbF<sub>6</sub> recorded at 303 K in CD<sub>3</sub>CN.



Figure S3 View down the [a]-axis of the unit cell contents that illustrates the cation, anion and solvent columns in  $[Pt(trpy)(NCS)]SbF_6 \cdot CH_3CN (1 \cdot CH_3CN).$ 



**Figure S4** View parallel to the cation planes in  $[Pt(trpy)(NCS)]SbF_6 \cdot CH_3CN (1 \cdot CH_3CN)$  showing that the cations of adjacent stacks are not co-planar; in fact displaced by about one-third along a perpendicular line joining the cation planes. In (A) the anions and solvent molecules are included; in (B) the solvent molecules have been artificially removed. The dotted purple lines represent S…H"-C"(trpy) non-bonded contacts. The dotted red lines represent Pt…Pt distances less than 3.5 Å. The arrows in (B) indicate how, when solvent is lost, adjacent dimers might slide into new positions that results in the extended chain structure shown in (C).



**Figure S5** Comparison of the 295 K powder XRD spectrum measured for 1 with that calculated for  $1 \cdot CH_3CN$  (using a 295 K intensity dataset: see 1MeCN295K.cif in the Supplementary Information) in the 2 $\theta$  range of (A) 5 to 23° and (B) 23 to 40°.

VOC	Response time	Time to de-solvate <sup><i>a</i></sup>	Vapour pressure at 298 K (torr) <sup>b</sup>
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	< 10 seconds	< 1 minute	88.47
DMF	< 10 seconds	7 days (2 days)	3.70
pyridine	< 10 seconds	15 days (4 days)	20.68

 Table S1 Vapochromic response times for 1

<sup>a</sup> This is the time taken when the solvated species is exposed to ambient conditions of temperature and pressure. If the sample of the solvate is gently heated under vacuum the times are reduced: see the values in brackets. <sup>b</sup> Taken from S. Ohe, in *Computer-aided Data book of Vapor Pressure*, Elsevier, New York, 1976.