Supplementary information

### Synthesis, Structure and Redox Properties of Bis(cyclopentadienyl)dithiolene Complexes of Molybdenum and Tungsten

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**Fig. S1** Cyclic voltammograms recorded for  $[Cp_2Mo(2-pedt)]$  (2) (1 mmol) in dmf containing  $[{}^{n}Bu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) recorded at ambient temperature and a scan rate of 0.1 Vs<sup>-1</sup>. The dashed line shows the current response for OX<sup>I</sup> when the direct of sweep is reversed at +0.04 V; the dotted line shows the effect on current response for OX<sup>I</sup> when the direction of sweep is reversed at +0.46 V; the solid line was generated by holding the potential at +0.41 V (ca. OX<sup>II</sup>, see Table 1) for 10 seconds before reversing the potential sweep, this resulted in the depletion of OX<sup>I</sup> and the generation of the new redox couple, OX<sup>III</sup>.



**Fig. S2** Cyclic voltammograms recorded for  $[Cp_2W(sdt)]$  (6) (1 mmol) in dmf containing  $[^nBu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) recorded at ambient temperature and a scan rate of 0.1 Vs<sup>-1</sup>. Broken lines show the effect of switching potential on the current response for  $OX^1$  ( $E_{\lambda}$ ; -0.02 V, dashed-dotted line),  $OX^{II}$  ( $E_{\lambda}$ ; +0.45 V, dotted line) and RED<sup>I</sup> ( $E_{\lambda}$ ; -2.58 V, dashed line), all at 0.1 Vs<sup>-1</sup>.



Fig. S3 UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2Mo(2\text{-pedt})]$  (2) (solid line) and electrochemically generated  $[2]^+$  (dashed line) and  $[2]^-$  (dotted line) in dmf containing  $[^nBu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) at 273 K.



Fig. S4 UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2Mo(3-pedt)]$  (3) (solid line) and electrochemically generated  $[3]^+$  (dashed line) and  $[3]^-$  (dotted line) in dmf containing  $[^nBu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) at 273 K. For  $[3]^+$  an absorption at 1142 nm was observed analogous to that of  $[Cp_2Mo(sdt)]^+$  (see Fig. 2).



Fig. S5 UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2Mo(4-pedt)]$  (4) (solid line) and electrochemically generated  $[4]^+$  (dashed line) and  $[4]^-$  (dotted line) in dmf containing  $[^nBu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) at 273 K.



Fig. S6 UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2Mo(qedt)]$  (5) (solid line) and electrochemically generated [5]<sup>+</sup> (dashed line) and [5]<sup>-</sup> (dotted line) in dmf containing  $[^nBu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) at 273 K. For [5]<sup>+</sup> an absorption at 1142 nm was observed analogous to that of  $[Cp_2Mo(sdt)]^+$  (see Fig. 2).



Fig. S7 Changes in the UV/vis/NIR spectra observed for the electrochemical conversion of  $[Cp_2W(sdt)]$  (6) to [6]<sup>+</sup> in dmf containing [<sup>*n*</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>N][BF<sub>4</sub>] (0.2 M) at 273 K.



**Fig. S8** UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2W(2-pedt)]$  (7) (solid line) and electrochemically generated  $[7]^+$  (dashed line) in dmf containing  $[^nBu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) at 273 K.



Fig. S9 UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2W(3-pedt)]$  (8) (solid line) and electrochemically generated [8]<sup>+</sup> (dashed line) in dmf containing [<sup>*n*</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>N][BF<sub>4</sub>] (0.2 M) at 273 K. For [8]<sup>+</sup> a NIR absorption at 1030 nm was observed analogous to that of  $[Cp_2W(sdt)]^+$  ([6]<sup>+</sup>) (see Fig. S7).



Fig. S10 UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2W(4-pedt)]$  (9) (solid line) and electrochemically generated [9]<sup>+</sup> (dashed line) in dmf containing [<sup>*n*</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>N][BF<sub>4</sub>] (0.2 M) at 273 K.



Fig. S11 UV/vis spectra of  $[Cp_2W(qedt)]$  (10) (solid line) and electrochemically generated  $[10]^+$  (dashed line) and  $[10]^-$  (dotted line) in dmf containing  $[^nBu_4N][BF_4]$  (0.2 M) at 273 K. For  $[2]^+$  an absorption at 1046 nm was observed analogous to that of  $[Cp_2W(sdt)]^+$  (see Fig. S7).



**Fig. S12** X-band EPR spectra of  $[Cp_2Mo(sdt)]^+$  ([1]<sup>+</sup>): lower trace, spectrum recorded for electrochemically generated [1]<sup>+</sup> (1 mM) in dmf containing [<sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>N][BF<sub>4</sub>] (0.2 M) at 273 K; upper trace, simulation of the experimental spectrum using the parameters given in Table 4 and a Lorentzian line shape.



Fig. S13 X-band EPR spectra of  $[1]^+$ : lower trace, spectrum recorded for  $[1]^+$  (1 mM) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:dmf (4:1 v/v) at 77 K,  $[1]^+$  was generated by the oxidation of 1 with *ca*. 1 equivalent of [Cp<sub>2</sub>Fe][BF<sub>4</sub>]; upper trace, simulation of the experimental spectrum using the parameters given in Table 4 and a Gaussian line shape.



**Fig. S14** X-band EPR spectra of  $[6]^+$ : lower trace, spectrum recorded for  $[6]^+$  (1 mM) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:dmf (4:1 v/v) at 77 K,  $[6]^+$  was generated by the oxidation of 6 with *ca.* 1 equivalent of [Cp<sub>2</sub>Fe][BF<sub>4</sub>]; upper trace, simulation of the experimental spectrum using the parameters given in Table 4 and a Gaussian line shape.



Fig. S15 X-band EPR spectra of [3]<sup>-</sup>: lower trace, spectrum recorded for electrochemically generated [3]<sup>-</sup> (1 mM) in dmf containing [<sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>N][BF<sub>4</sub>] (0.2 M) at 273 K; upper trace, simulation of the experimental spectrum using the parameters given in Table 4 and a Lorentzian line shape. \* indicates a small quantity of [3]<sup>+</sup> generated at the secondary electrode during the *in situ* generation of [3]<sup>-</sup>



**Fig. S16** X-band EPR spectra of [**5**]<sup>-</sup>: lower trace, spectrum recorded for electrochemically generated [**5**]<sup>-</sup> (1 mM) in dmf containing [<sup>*n*</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>N][BF<sub>4</sub>] (0.2 M) at 273 K; upper trace, simulation of the experimental spectrum using the parameters given in Table 4 and a Lorentzian line shape. \* indicates a small quantity of [**5**]<sup>+</sup> generated at the secondary electrode during the *in situ* generation of [**5**]<sup>-</sup>.

Н	-2.22119	2.10000	-0.35843
Н	-1.23423	1.17933	-2.70128
Н	-0.11667	2.72399	1.22646
Н	1.45659	1.25847	-2.56942
Н	2.15191	2.22303	-0.14822
Н	-4.45187	1.09199	5.89830
Н	-3.16193	1.05057	3.78226
Н	-1.43522	-1.25928	-2.58109
Н	-3.49846	0.08158	7.97333
Н	1.25617	-1.18996	-2.69051
Н	1.27920	0.04627	4.22154
Н	-2.15527	-2.21258	-0.16091
Н	-1.24367	-0.98908	7.88881
Н	0.02238	-1.06406	5.76848
Н	2.21976	-2.11046	-0.33799
Н	0.09861	-2.72054	1.23178
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С	-2.93254	0.06244	7.04051
С	-1.46365	0.01026	4.61773
С	-0.68461	-0.00018	3.36246
С	-0.75710	-1.56792	-1.79168
С	0.66266	-1.53317	-1.84906
С	0.67177	0.00123	3.31733
С	-1.66682	-0.53342	6.99211
С	-0.94689	-0.56601	5.79795
С	-1.14058	-2.05831	-0.51270
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S	-1.57269	-0.00000	1.81796
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**Energy: -**233.49440977 eV

Н	-2.23277	2.09928	-0.25100
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Η	-0.12593	2.68168	1.36397
Η	1.46150	1.29710	-2.45722
Н	2.15353	2.22941	-0.02997
Η	-4.41270	1.94662	5.65183
Н	-3.17501	1.47685	3.55856
Н	-1.42376	-1.31960	-2.45991
Н	-3.38872	1.40660	7.85978
Н	1.27372	-1.25647	-2.55894
Н	1.27359	0.56410	4.16105
Н	-2.16029	-2.21025	-0.02414
Н	-1.12393	0.36951	7.95365
Н	0.10605	-0.12344	5.87637
Н	2.22948	-2.11791	-0.18723
Н	0.09436	-2.67373	1.40003
С	-1.18307	1.97901	-0.49759
С	-0.65740	1.52563	-1.73161
С	-0.06600	2.28122	0.35841
С	0.77676	1.56756	-1.65894
С	1.14242	2.05430	-0.38327
С	-3.42213	1.49399	5.69891
С	-2.72912	1.22448	4.52090
С	-2.84610	1.19468	6.93826
С	-1.43844	0.65523	4.55774
С	-0.70006	0.37629	3.31584
С	-0.75283	-1.58336	-1.64814
С	0.67828	-1.55096	-1.70028
С	0.68763	0.35553	3.26500
С	-1.57079	0.61910	6.99144
С	-0.87180	0.35362	5.81717
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С	0.05314	-2.28825	0.38800
Mo	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
S	-1.60465	0.00000	1.87258
S	1.60465	0.00000	1.86767

**Energy:** -227.66471372 eV

Н	-2.18196	2.14022	-0.40150
Н	-1.33774	1.36582	-2.85839
Н	0.00697	2.66797	1.10334
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Η	2.19372	2.12180	-0.40515
Η	-4.60915	0.57127	5.84061
Н	-3.31191	0.52242	3.72496
Н	-1.33626	-1.32749	-2.86130
Н	-3.49113	0.05658	8.02119
Η	1.34092	-1.31983	-2.85740
Η	1.28520	0.01479	4.23561
Н	-2.18638	-2.12982	-0.41470
Н	-1.05430	-0.52477	8.02474
Н	0.21722	-0.59349	5.92430
Н	2.18970	-2.12721	-0.41431
Н	-0.00172	-2.67948	1.08693
С	-1.14966	1.99639	-0.70771
С	-0.69774	1.65756	-2.02910
С	0.00576	2.29622	0.08547
С	0.70240	1.64729	-2.02840
С	1.15952	1.98281	-0.70780
С	-3.54474	0.32418	5.86632
С	-2.82082	0.29684	4.67242
С	-2.92461	0.03882	7.08816
С	-1.43855	-0.01009	4.64759
С	-0.68335	-0.01816	3.38536
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С	0.70226	-1.62493	-2.03189
С	0.67787	-0.01394	3.32904
С	-1.55856	-0.28344	7.08597
С	-0.83619	-0.31277	5.89477
С	-1.15370	-1.98664	-0.71900
С	1.15624	-1.98171	-0.71659
С	0.00017	-2.29891	0.07221
Mo	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
S	-1.59065	-0.00000	1.83107
S	1.59065	0.00000	1.83670

Geometry optimised structure of [1]<sup>-</sup>

**Energy:** -234.82671100 eV

Η	1.26630	-0.04089	4.22991
Η	1.82791	-2.50438	0.44866
Η	0.00902	1.06879	5.77834
Η	1.32048	2.70045	0.94450
Η	-1.25195	0.96001	7.89941
Η	1.91523	-1.44848	-2.02090
Η	2.20721	1.64629	-1.38279
Η	-0.72591	-2.67720	1.21870
Η	-3.49205	-0.14202	7.98085
Η	-1.33729	2.68391	0.93782
Η	-0.64864	-1.03189	-2.82409
Η	-3.15475	-1.06421	3.77862
Η	0.02077	1.00483	-2.85672
Η	-4.43729	-1.14464	5.89754
Η	-2.30168	-1.80021	-0.81825
Η	-2.20169	1.62609	-1.39409
S	1.60353	-0.00000	1.83367
S	-1.60353	-0.00000	1.82297
С	0.66568	0.00588	3.32124
С	0.96900	-2.24272	-0.15878
С	-0.95350	0.55728	5.80512
С	-1.67063	0.50528	7.00006
С	0.69889	2.36284	0.12292
С	1.01653	-1.65420	-1.44711
С	-0.68679	0.00650	3.36458
С	1.17184	1.72554	-1.07002
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С	-1.46390	-0.01660	4.62030
С	-2.92819	-0.10871	7.04709
С	-0.70729	2.35447	0.11957
С	-0.33662	-1.40972	-1.85841
С	-2.73743	-0.61827	4.68257
С	-1.21864	-1.78718	-0.79329
С	0.00730	1.38793	-1.84471
С	-3.45699	-0.66566	5.87862
С	-1.16833	1.71474	-1.07675
W	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000

**Energy:** -233.58852039 eV

Н	1.27689	0.11466	4.21117
Н	1.36027	-2.66505	0.99359
Н	0.14416	1.20909	5.69961
Η	1.35329	2.67450	0.96967
Н	-1.05397	1.24256	7.85123
Н	2.21678	-1.63907	-1.35586
Н	2.20557	1.63961	-1.37431
Н	-1.31047	-2.68103	1.00269
Н	-3.32210	0.22773	8.04487
Н	-1.32084	2.67456	0.98993
Н	0.00264	-1.07280	-2.83365
Н	-3.18366	-0.88065	3.88635
Н	-0.00971	1.06040	-2.84529
Н	-4.38213	-0.82535	6.04780
Η	-2.19549	-1.67375	-1.34482
Η	-2.20567	1.65343	-1.35004
S	1.60979	-0.00000	1.85591
S	-1.60979	0.00000	1.86158
С	0.68984	0.10498	3.29237
С	0.72892	-2.30416	0.18763
С	-0.83658	0.73941	5.77047
С	-1.51681	0.77066	6.98473
С	0.71812	2.30825	0.16967
С	1.18474	-1.71236	-1.03018
С	-0.69951	0.10223	3.34970
С	1.17359	1.71271	-1.04769
С	-0.68976	-2.31473	0.19166
С	-1.42395	0.14576	4.62818
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С	-0.69827	2.31144	0.17863
С	0.00789	-1.40174	-1.80255
С	-2.71708	-0.40746	4.75092
С	-1.16113	-1.73108	-1.02372
С	-0.00308	1.39758	-1.81659
С	-3.39000	-0.38117	5.96945
С	-1.17069	1.71843	-1.03324
W	0.00000	-0.00000	0.00000

**Energy:** -227.81724062 eV

Geometry optimised structure of [6]<sup>-</sup>

Н	1.26482	-0.37003	4.22241
Н	1.25523	-2.87444	0.74200
Н	0.17660	-1.41984	5.71299
Н	1.70535	3.25513	0.94143
Η	-1.08574	-1.70981	7.80226
Η	2.16810	-1.58141	-1.45498
Η	2.25555	1.72139	-1.23088
Η	-1.40630	-2.80142	0.72827
Η	-3.48776	-1.00765	7.94846
Η	-0.92723	3.46313	1.17233
Η	-0.00439	-0.76231	-2.88390
Η	-3.29107	0.31465	3.83541
Η	-0.08991	1.34338	-2.54745
Н	-4.57608	0.00273	5.93197
Η	-2.23683	-1.49716	-1.48875
Η	-2.07952	2.09177	-0.86607
S	1.60532	-0.00000	1.85910
S	-1.60532	-0.00000	1.83698
С	0.67274	-0.27454	3.31001
С	0.64098	-2.44839	-0.04523
С	-0.85889	-1.08009	5.75693
С	-1.57671	-1.25334	6.93897
С	0.97161	2.84784	0.24906
С	1.12804	-1.67824	-1.15725
С	-0.69131	-0.29899	3.35710
С	1.26654	1.88420	-0.80653
С	-0.76244	-2.40935	-0.05330
С	-1.44445	-0.49653	4.60334
С	-2.92321	-0.86461	7.02447
С	-0.39639	2.95355	0.37039
С	-0.02319	-1.22845	-1.90319
С	-2.80854	-0.12622	4.70895
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W	0 00000	-0 00000	0 00000

**Energy:** -234.36972160 eV

Мо	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
S	-1.60140	0.00000	1.84146
S	1.60140	0.00000	1.82995
С	-0.67943	0.19128	3.30682
С	0.68062	0.22391	3.33990
С	1.45697	0.48181	4.55690
С	0.85376	1.14251	5.68398
Ν	1.51230	1.50244	6.76286
С	2.85198	1.19898	6.78598
С	3.63730	1.58374	7.89875
С	4.98393	1.27032	7.93795
С	5.58416	0.55951	6.86947
С	4.84238	0.18491	5.76475
С	3.46134	0.50624	5.68897
Ν	2.75233	0.16557	4.57280
С	1.20544	-1.83960	-0.79840
С	0.34893	-1.42014	-1.86709
С	-1.00895	-1.65142	-1.48384
С	-0.99285	-2.24935	-0.19674
С	0.35261	-2.36746	0.22850
С	0.86826	1.61720	-1.62615
С	-0.54417	1.50075	-1.81104
С	-1.19245	1.93135	-0.61843
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С	1.10242	2.13093	-0.32986
Η	-1.28239	0.26663	4.21163
Η	-0.20680	1.40382	5.65391
Η	3.14872	2.12778	8.70840
Η	5.58883	1.56843	8.79462
Η	6.64493	0.31044	6.92055
Η	5.28667	-0.35590	4.92844
Η	2.29020	-1.85355	-0.79991
Η	0.67296	-1.00253	-2.81377
Η	-1.86665	-2.52015	0.38675
Η	0.67631	-2.74082	1.19145
Η	1.63280	1.34678	-2.34865
Η	-1.03682	1.12752	-2.70287
Н	-2.26170	1.99264	-0.44868
Н	-0.30887	2.67873	1.31423
Н	2.06994	2.31175	0.12349
Н	-1.89333	-1.43360	-2.07661

**Energy:** -266.93764740 eV

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S	-1.60156	0.00000	1.82746
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С	-1.20644	1.83558	-0.79891
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С	0.99411	2.24752	-0.19617
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С	-0.87037	-1.61356	-1.62670
С	0.54310	-1.49762	-1.81220
С	1.19342	-1.92734	-0.61910
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С	-1.10426	-2.12757	-0.32987
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Η	1.28337	-0.26498	4.21135
Η	0.20512	-1.39902	5.65436
Η	-3.15030	-2.11337	8.71168
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Η	-6.64622	-0.29984	6.92000
Η	-5.28807	0.36024	4.92616
Η	-2.29049	1.85002	-0.80232
Η	-0.67103	0.99706	-2.81436
Η	1.86766	2.51666	0.38802
Η	-0.67844	2.73927	1.19184
Η	-1.63638	-1.34081	-2.34735
Η	1.03639	-1.12360	-2.70430
Η	2.26262	-1.99003	-0.45059
Η	0.31014	-2.67676	1.31535
Η	-2.07186	-2.30639	0.12372
Н	1.89779	1.42778	-2.07132

Energy: -267.03661898 eV