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## **Supporting Information**

For

## A Benzothiazole-Based Sensor for Pyrophosphate (PPi) and ATP: Mechanistic Insight for Anion-Induced ESIPT Turn-On

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Synthesis of aldehyde II



Di-aldehyde synthesized Π was by а modified procedure: 2-(2'hydroxyphenyl)benzothiazole I (570 mg), purchased from Alfa Acesar (CAS: 3411-95-8), was dissolved in CF<sub>3</sub>COOH (12.0 mL), then hexamethylenetetramine (770 mg) was added in one portion. The resulting mixture was refluxed and monitored by TLC until the starting material I disappeared. Then 25 mL water was added slowly and the resulting mixture was refluxed for another 10 mins. Product II precipitated out and was achieved by simple filtration as pure product in almost quantitative yield, which was further purified with a short pad of silica in >90% yield as a light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO): 10.60 (1H, s), 10.00 (1H, s), 8.56 (1H, s), 8.41 (1H, s), 8.06 (1H, d, J =8.4 Hz), 7.98 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.59 (1H, tri, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.53 (1H, tri, J = 7.5 Hz).





Compound **1** was achieved using our previously reported method (*Org. Lett.* **2011**, *13*, 1362.) in 27% yield as light yellow syrup. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): 8.53 (4H, m), 8.02 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.95 (1H, s), 7.93 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 7.61-7.57 (7H, m), 7.54-7.46 (3H, m), 7.39 (1H, tri, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.17-7.09 (4H, m), 3.94 (4H, s), 3.92 (2H, s), 3.86 (4H, s), 3.71 (2H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 167.4, 159.7, 159.1, 155.6, 152.0, 136.5, 136.4, 134.2, 133.6, 129.4, 128.2, 126.2, 125.9, 124.9, 122.9, 122.3, 122.0, 121.9, 121.4, 117.9, 59.9, 59.8, 57.9, 54.2. TOF-MS-ES<sup>+</sup> (m/z): calcd for C25H20N<sub>7</sub>O2, [M+H<sup>+</sup>]<sup>+</sup>, 650.2702, found, 650.3146; TOF-MS-ES<sup>+</sup> (m/z): calcd for C25H19N<sub>7</sub>O2Na, [M+Na<sup>+</sup>]<sup>+</sup>, 672.2521, found, 672.2971.







Fig. S1 Fluorescence response of Zn complex 4 (10  $\mu$ M) with different anions (50  $\mu$ M) in ethanol (a) and different anions (2 mM) in water (b), while the dye was excited at the isobestic point ~357 nm.



Fig. S2 UV-vis (left) and fluorescence (right) titration of zinc complex 4 (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of different equiv of H<sub>2</sub>PPi in MeOH, which reveals that 1.0 equiv of H<sub>2</sub>PPi is enough to turn on the ESIPT.



Fig. S3 Fluorescence response of 4 (10  $\mu$ M) with different concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>ATP in water (excited at the isobestic point ~357 nm).



Fig. S4 Fluorescence response of 4 (10  $\mu$ M) upon addition of different anions (2 mM) in HEPES buffer (10 mM, pH = 7.2) excited at ~357 nm.



Fig S5 <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration of **2** upon addition of different equiv. of  $Zn^{2+}$  in CD<sub>3</sub>OD.



Fig. S6a <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of dye **2** and its zinc complex **4** upon addition of  $H_2PPi$  in  $CD_3OD$ .



Fig. S6b <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **2** and its zinc complex **3** upon addition of H<sub>2</sub>PPi in CD<sub>3</sub>OD.



Fig. S7 TOF-MS-ES<sup>+</sup> of compound **2**.



Fig. S8 TOF-MS-ES<sup>+</sup> of compound **2** upon addition of 1.0 equiv of  $Zn^{2+}$  in MeOH.



Fig. S9 TOF-MS-ES<sup>+</sup> of compound **2** upon addition of 2.0 equiv of  $Zn^{2+}$  in MeOH.



Fig. S10 TOF-MS-ES<sup>+</sup> of 4-PPi adducts (obtained in MeOH).



Fig. S11 TOF-MS-ES<sup>+</sup> of **4-ATP** adducts (obtained in water)