**Supplementary Information** 

## Bright and stable light-emitting electrochemical cells based on an intramolecularly $\pi$ -stacked, 2-naphthyl-substituted iridium complex

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**Fig. S1.** Cyclic voltammogram of  $[Ir(ppy)_2(Naphbpy)][PF_6]$  measured in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (with respect to Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>) showing the quasi-reversible oxidation and reduction, as well as the unidentified process at +0.33V. Scan-rate = 0.1 V s<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S1.** Selected bond distances (in Å) and angles (in deg.) calculated for the  $[Ir(ppy)_2(Naphbpy)]^+$  complex in the singlet ground state (S<sub>0</sub>) and in the lowest-energy triplet states T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub>. X-ray values are included for comparison.

	Exp. <sup>b</sup>	$S_0^c$	$T_1^d$	$T_2^{d}$
$Ir(1)-N(1)^a$	2.150(5)	2.208	2.226	2.209
Ir(1)-N(2)	2.215(5)	2.356	2.249	2.346
Ir(1)-N(3)	2.064(5)	2.093	2.089	2.097
Ir(1)-N(4)	2.037(5)	2.077	2.073	2.077
Ir(1)-C(21)	2.007(6)	2.013	2.017	2.015
Ir(1)-C(32)	2.019(6)	2.028	1.980	2.026
N(1)-Ir(1)-N(2)	75.60(18)	73.9	74.6	74.1
C(21)-Ir(1)-N(3)	79.9(2)	80.1	80.0	80.1
C(32)-Ir(1)-N(4)	80.4(2)	80.0	81.0	80.1
N(1)-C(5)-C(6)-N(2)	14.4(7)	17.5	11.0	20.4
C(21)-C(26)-C(27)-N(3)	2.7(9)	1.5	-0.1	1.3
C(32)-C(37)-C(38)-N(4)	1.0(8)	-0.8	0.4	0.5
N(2)-C(10)-C(11)-C(20)	61.1(8)	57.5	64.2	45.9

<sup>*a*</sup> Atom numbering from Figure 1. <sup>*b*</sup> X-ray values. <sup>*c*</sup> DFT optimized structure. <sup>*d*</sup> TD-DFT optimized structure. All calculations performed at the B3LYP/(6-31G\*\*+LANL2DZ) level in the presence of the solvent (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>).



**Fig. S2.** B3LYP/(6-31G\*\*+LANL2DZ)-optimized structure of the transition state connecting conformers 1 and 2 of the  $[Ir(ppy)_2(Naphbpy)]^+$  complex. The transition state presents only one imaginary frequency and the associated vibrational normal mode describes a movement leading to conformers 1 and 2.



**Fig. S3.** B3LYP/(6-31G\*\*+LANL2DZ)-optimized bond lengths (in Å) calculated for the pendant naphthyl group of the  $[Ir(ppy)_2(Naphbpy)]^+$  complex in the singlet ground state (S<sub>0</sub>, DFT optimization) and in the <sup>3</sup>LC T<sub>2</sub> triplet state (TD-DFT optimization).