## **Supporting Information**

A Two-Step Catalytic Cycle for the Acceptorless Dehydrogenation of Ethane by Group 10 Metal Complexes: Role of the Metal in Reactivity and Selectivity.

Kevin Parker,<sup>[a]</sup> Geethika K. Weragoda,<sup>[b,c]</sup> Allan J. Canty,<sup>[d]</sup> Anastasios Polyzos,<sup>[c,e]</sup> Victor Ryzhov,\*<sup>[a]</sup> and Richard A. J. O'Hair,\*<sup>[b]</sup>

[a] Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115, USA
[b] School of Chemistry, Bio21 Institute of Molecular Science and Biotechnology, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia
[c] CSIRO Manufacturing, Research Way, Clayton VIC 3168, Australia
[d] School of Natural Sciences-Chemistry, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 75, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia
[e] School of Chemistry The University of Melbourne Victoria 3010, Australia



Figure S1. CID of  $[(phen)M(O_2CH)]^+$  for M= Ni (a), Pd (b), and Pt (c).



Figure S2. CID of  $[(phen)M(O_2CC_2H_5)]^+$  3b for M= Ni (a), Pd (b), and Pt (c).



S2



**Figure S4.** Traversing through the catalytic cycle using multistage mass spectrometry experiments. (A) Isolation of **3a-Pd** (B) CID of **3a-Pd** (C) IMR of **1-Pd** with ethane (D) CID of **2-Pd** (E) IMR of **1-Pd** with ethane (F) CID of **2-Pd** (G) IMR of **1-Pd** with ethane (H) Isolation of **2-Pd.** The symbol "§" designates the water adduct of **1-Pd** at *m/z* 305.



**Figure S5.** DFT calculated potential energy profiles allowing comparision of the  $\sigma$ complex-assisted metathesis and oxidative addition/reductive elimination mechanisms for [(phen)Pt(CH<sub>3</sub>)]<sup>+</sup> reacting with ethane. The relative energies are given in kJ/mol and are are the B3LYP-D3BJ/BS2 single point energies corrected for the M06/BS1 zero-point vibrational energies.



**Figure S6.** DFT calculated potential energy profiles allowing comparision of the  $\sigma$ complex-assisted metathesis and oxidative addition/reductive elimination mechanisms for [(phen)Pt(H)]<sup>+</sup> reacting with ethane. The relative energies are given in kJ/mol and are the B3LYP-D3BJ/BS2 single point energies corrected for the M06/BS1 zero-point vibrational energies.



**Figure S7.** DFT calculated potential energy profiles allowing comparision of the various pathways for protonated ligand loss that gave rise to isomers of  $[M,C_2,H_4]$ , **13-M**. The relative energies are given in kJ/mol and are the B3LYP-D3BJ/BS2 single point energies corrected for the M06/BS1 zero-point vibrational energies.



**Table S1.** DFT calculated potential energy profiles allowing comparision of the various pathways for protonated ligand loss that gave rise to isomers of  $[M,C_2,H_4]$ , **13-M**. The relative energies are given in kJ/mol and are the B3LYP-D3BJ/BS2 single point energies corrected for the M06/BS1 zero-point vibrational energies.