

## Supplementary Information

Belonging to the paper “Experimental and Theoretical Characterization of the  
Hexaazidophosphate(V) ion”

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**1. Crystal data and structure refinement, atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters, bond lengths and angles, anisotropic displacement parameters, and hydrogen coordinates and isotropic displacement parameters**

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for ch1ppx1\_0m.

|                                   |                                                                |                              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Identification code               | ch1ppx1_0m                                                     |                              |
| Empirical formula                 | C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>19</sub> P <sub>3</sub> |                              |
| Formula weight                    | 821.70                                                         |                              |
| Temperature                       | 150(2) K                                                       |                              |
| Wavelength                        | 0.71073 Å                                                      |                              |
| Crystal system                    | Triclinic                                                      |                              |
| Space group                       | P-1                                                            |                              |
| Unit cell dimensions              | a = 9.6269(9) Å                                                | $\alpha = 92.635(5)^\circ$ . |
|                                   | b = 9.8158(9) Å                                                | $\beta = 93.437(5)^\circ$ .  |
|                                   | c = 10.1414(10) Å                                              | $\gamma = 92.105(4)^\circ$ . |
| Volume                            | 954.83(16) Å <sup>3</sup>                                      |                              |
| Z                                 | 1                                                              |                              |
| Density (calculated)              | 1.429 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>                                        |                              |
| Absorption coefficient            | 0.213 mm <sup>-1</sup>                                         |                              |
| F(000)                            | 424                                                            |                              |
| Crystal size                      | 0.32 x 0.14 x 0.14 mm <sup>3</sup>                             |                              |
| Theta range for data collection   | 2.08 to 28.31°.                                                |                              |
| Index ranges                      | -12 ≤ h ≤ 12, -12 ≤ k ≤ 13, -13 ≤ l ≤ 13                       |                              |
| Reflections collected             | 16811                                                          |                              |
| Independent reflections           | 4674 [R(int) = 0.0277]                                         |                              |
| Completeness to theta = 25.00°    | 99.9 %                                                         |                              |
| Absorption correction             | Semi-empirical from equivalents                                |                              |
| Max. and min. transmission        | 0.9708 and 0.9349                                              |                              |
| Refinement method                 | Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>                    |                              |
| Data / restraints / parameters    | 4674 / 0 / 265                                                 |                              |
| Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup> | 1.037                                                          |                              |
| Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]       | R1 = 0.0385, wR2 = 0.1031                                      |                              |
| R indices (all data)              | R1 = 0.0452, wR2 = 0.1082                                      |                              |
| Largest diff. peak and hole       | 0.610 and -0.316 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>                             |                              |

Table 2. Atomic coordinates ( $\times 10^4$ ) and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for ch1ppx1\_0m.  $U(\text{eq})$  is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U^{ij}$  tensor.

|       | x       | y        | z        | $U(\text{eq})$ |
|-------|---------|----------|----------|----------------|
| P(1)  | 4034(1) | 4071(1)  | 4033(1)  | 18(1)          |
| N(1)  | 5000    | 5000     | 5000     | 23(1)          |
| C(1)  | 4875(1) | 3661(1)  | 2534(1)  | 22(1)          |
| C(2)  | 4674(2) | 2390(2)  | 1857(2)  | 28(1)          |
| C(3)  | 5347(2) | 2133(2)  | 698(2)   | 34(1)          |
| C(4)  | 6215(2) | 3123(2)  | 216(2)   | 34(1)          |
| C(5)  | 6417(2) | 4376(2)  | 884(2)   | 34(1)          |
| C(6)  | 5758(2) | 4652(2)  | 2044(2)  | 27(1)          |
| C(7)  | 2456(1) | 4915(1)  | 3604(1)  | 21(1)          |
| C(8)  | 1744(2) | 4707(2)  | 2368(2)  | 28(1)          |
| C(9)  | 514(2)  | 5373(2)  | 2109(2)  | 35(1)          |
| C(10) | 1(2)    | 6238(2)  | 3063(2)  | 34(1)          |
| C(11) | 712(2)  | 6456(2)  | 4287(2)  | 32(1)          |
| C(12) | 1941(2) | 5797(2)  | 4561(2)  | 26(1)          |
| C(13) | 3572(1) | 2500(1)  | 4775(1)  | 22(1)          |
| C(14) | 4491(2) | 2007(2)  | 5739(2)  | 29(1)          |
| C(15) | 4165(2) | 789(2)   | 6317(2)  | 37(1)          |
| C(16) | 2941(2) | 57(2)    | 5931(2)  | 38(1)          |
| C(17) | 2031(2) | 540(2)   | 4971(2)  | 33(1)          |
| C(18) | 2335(2) | 1765(2)  | 4390(2)  | 27(1)          |
| P(2)  | 0       | 10000    | 10000    | 21(1)          |
| N(2)  | 218(1)  | 8218(1)  | 9542(1)  | 25(1)          |
| N(3)  | 722(1)  | 7952(1)  | 8480(1)  | 25(1)          |
| N(4)  | 1173(2) | 7612(1)  | 7518(1)  | 33(1)          |
| N(5)  | 1811(1) | 10345(1) | 9728(1)  | 26(1)          |
| N(6)  | 2128(1) | 11410(1) | 9215(1)  | 27(1)          |
| N(7)  | 2519(2) | 12370(2) | 8753(2)  | 42(1)          |
| N(8)  | 432(1)  | 9641(1)  | 11704(1) | 25(1)          |
| N(9)  | 1548(1) | 9118(1)  | 11969(1) | 25(1)          |
| N(10) | 2548(2) | 8646(2)  | 12311(1) | 36(1)          |

Table 3. Bond lengths [ $\text{\AA}$ ] and angles [ $^\circ$ ] for  
ch1ppx1\_0m.

|             |            |                  |            |
|-------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| P(1)-N(1)   | 1.5503(3)  | C(15)-H(15)      | 0.9500     |
| P(1)-C(7)   | 1.7971(14) | C(16)-C(17)      | 1.381(3)   |
| P(1)-C(13)  | 1.8003(14) | C(16)-H(16)      | 0.9500     |
| P(1)-C(1)   | 1.8006(14) | C(17)-C(18)      | 1.392(2)   |
| N(1)-P(1)#1 | 1.5503(3)  | C(17)-H(17)      | 0.9500     |
| C(1)-C(6)   | 1.397(2)   | C(18)-H(18)      | 0.9500     |
| C(1)-C(2)   | 1.3976(19) | P(2)-N(5)#2      | 1.8040(12) |
| C(2)-C(3)   | 1.393(2)   | P(2)-N(5)        | 1.8040(12) |
| C(2)-H(2)   | 0.9500     | P(2)-N(8)#2      | 1.8071(12) |
| C(3)-C(4)   | 1.384(3)   | P(2)-N(8)        | 1.8071(12) |
| C(3)-H(3)   | 0.9500     | P(2)-N(2)#2      | 1.8121(12) |
| C(4)-C(5)   | 1.378(2)   | P(2)-N(2)        | 1.8121(12) |
| C(4)-H(4)   | 0.9500     | N(2)-N(3)        | 1.2290(18) |
| C(5)-C(6)   | 1.390(2)   | N(3)-N(4)        | 1.1325(18) |
| C(5)-H(5)   | 0.9500     | N(5)-N(6)        | 1.2254(17) |
| C(6)-H(6)   | 0.9500     | N(6)-N(7)        | 1.1341(18) |
| C(7)-C(8)   | 1.3945(19) | N(8)-N(9)        | 1.2282(17) |
| C(7)-C(12)  | 1.396(2)   | N(9)-N(10)       | 1.1266(18) |
| C(8)-C(9)   | 1.391(2)   | N(1)-P(1)-C(7)   | 110.33(5)  |
| C(8)-H(8)   | 0.9500     | N(1)-P(1)-C(13)  | 110.80(5)  |
| C(9)-C(10)  | 1.384(3)   | C(7)-P(1)-C(13)  | 108.06(6)  |
| C(9)-H(9)   | 0.9500     | N(1)-P(1)-C(1)   | 111.00(5)  |
| C(10)-C(11) | 1.385(2)   | C(7)-P(1)-C(1)   | 108.34(6)  |
| C(10)-H(10) | 0.9500     | C(13)-P(1)-C(1)  | 108.22(6)  |
| C(11)-C(12) | 1.388(2)   | P(1)#1-N(1)-P(1) | 180(2)     |
| C(11)-H(11) | 0.9500     | C(6)-C(1)-C(2)   | 119.46(13) |
| C(12)-H(12) | 0.9500     | C(6)-C(1)-P(1)   | 118.36(10) |
| C(13)-C(14) | 1.394(2)   | C(2)-C(1)-P(1)   | 122.18(11) |
| C(13)-C(18) | 1.3952(19) | C(3)-C(2)-C(1)   | 119.61(14) |
| C(14)-C(15) | 1.389(2)   | C(3)-C(2)-H(2)   | 120.2      |
| C(14)-H(14) | 0.9500     | C(1)-C(2)-H(2)   | 120.2      |
| C(15)-C(16) | 1.385(2)   | C(4)-C(3)-C(2)   | 120.57(14) |
|             |            | C(4)-C(3)-H(3)   | 119.7      |
|             |            | C(2)-C(3)-H(3)   | 119.7      |
|             |            | C(5)-C(4)-C(3)   | 119.91(15) |

|                   |            |                    |            |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| C(5)-C(4)-H(4)    | 120.0      | C(17)-C(16)-C(15)  | 120.05(15) |
| C(3)-C(4)-H(4)    | 120.0      | C(17)-C(16)-H(16)  | 120.0      |
| C(4)-C(5)-C(6)    | 120.44(15) | C(15)-C(16)-H(16)  | 120.0      |
| C(4)-C(5)-H(5)    | 119.8      | C(16)-C(17)-C(18)  | 120.40(14) |
| C(6)-C(5)-H(5)    | 119.8      | C(16)-C(17)-H(17)  | 119.8      |
| C(5)-C(6)-C(1)    | 120.02(14) | C(18)-C(17)-H(17)  | 119.8      |
| C(5)-C(6)-H(6)    | 120.0      | C(17)-C(18)-C(13)  | 119.58(14) |
| C(1)-C(6)-H(6)    | 120.0      | C(17)-C(18)-H(18)  | 120.2      |
| C(8)-C(7)-C(12)   | 119.99(13) | C(13)-C(18)-H(18)  | 120.2      |
| C(8)-C(7)-P(1)    | 122.28(11) | N(5)#2-P(2)-N(5)   | 180(1)     |
| C(12)-C(7)-P(1)   | 117.73(10) | N(5)#2-P(2)-N(8)#2 | 91.04(6)   |
| C(9)-C(8)-C(7)    | 119.38(14) | N(5)-P(2)-N(8)#2   | 88.96(6)   |
| C(9)-C(8)-H(8)    | 120.3      | N(5)#2-P(2)-N(8)   | 88.96(6)   |
| C(7)-C(8)-H(8)    | 120.3      | N(5)-P(2)-N(8)     | 91.04(6)   |
| C(10)-C(9)-C(8)   | 120.45(14) | N(8)#2-P(2)-N(8)   | 180(1)     |
| C(10)-C(9)-H(9)   | 119.8      | N(5)#2-P(2)-N(2)#2 | 89.14(6)   |
| C(8)-C(9)-H(9)    | 119.8      | N(5)-P(2)-N(2)#2   | 90.86(6)   |
| C(9)-C(10)-C(11)  | 120.29(14) | N(8)#2-P(2)-N(2)#2 | 89.08(6)   |
| C(9)-C(10)-H(10)  | 119.9      | N(8)-P(2)-N(2)#2   | 90.92(6)   |
| C(11)-C(10)-H(10) | 119.9      | N(5)#2-P(2)-N(2)   | 90.86(6)   |
| C(10)-C(11)-C(12) | 119.91(15) | N(5)-P(2)-N(2)     | 89.14(6)   |
| C(10)-C(11)-H(11) | 120.0      | N(8)#2-P(2)-N(2)   | 90.92(6)   |
| C(12)-C(11)-H(11) | 120.0      | N(8)-P(2)-N(2)     | 89.08(6)   |
| C(11)-C(12)-C(7)  | 119.97(14) | N(2)#2-P(2)-N(2)   | 180(1)     |
| C(11)-C(12)-H(12) | 120.0      | N(3)-N(2)-P(2)     | 117.44(9)  |
| C(7)-C(12)-H(12)  | 120.0      | N(4)-N(3)-N(2)     | 175.12(14) |
| C(14)-C(13)-C(18) | 119.89(13) | N(6)-N(5)-P(2)     | 118.03(10) |
| C(14)-C(13)-P(1)  | 118.66(10) | N(7)-N(6)-N(5)     | 175.02(15) |
| C(18)-C(13)-P(1)  | 121.44(11) | N(9)-N(8)-P(2)     | 117.95(10) |
| C(15)-C(14)-C(13) | 119.79(14) | N(10)-N(9)-N(8)    | 174.65(15) |
| C(15)-C(14)-H(14) | 120.1      |                    |            |
| C(13)-C(14)-H(14) | 120.1      |                    |            |
| C(16)-C(15)-C(14) | 120.29(16) |                    |            |
| C(16)-C(15)-H(15) | 119.9      |                    |            |
| C(14)-C(15)-H(15) | 119.9      |                    |            |

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Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

#1 -x+1,-y+1,-z+1    #2 -x,-y+2,-z+2

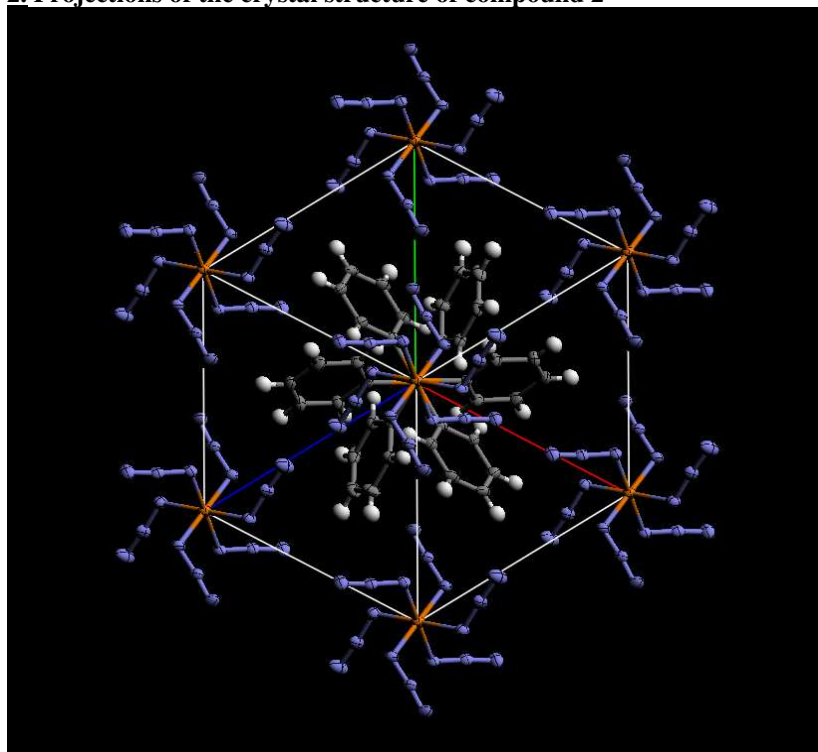
Table 4. Anisotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ ) for ch1ppx1\_0m. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:  $-2\pi^2 [h^2 a^{*2} U^{11} + \dots + 2 h k a^* b^* U^{12}]$

|       | U <sup>11</sup> | U <sup>22</sup> | U <sup>33</sup> | U <sup>23</sup> | U <sup>13</sup> | U <sup>12</sup> |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| P(1)  | 20(1)           | 15(1)           | 20(1)           | -1(1)           | 0(1)            | 0(1)            |
| N(1)  | 25(1)           | 21(1)           | 24(1)           | -2(1)           | -2(1)           | -1(1)           |
| C(1)  | 22(1)           | 21(1)           | 21(1)           | -2(1)           | 0(1)            | 4(1)            |
| C(2)  | 33(1)           | 22(1)           | 29(1)           | -3(1)           | 1(1)            | 3(1)            |
| C(3)  | 42(1)           | 29(1)           | 31(1)           | -9(1)           | 1(1)            | 11(1)           |
| C(4)  | 35(1)           | 43(1)           | 25(1)           | -2(1)           | 6(1)            | 14(1)           |
| C(5)  | 34(1)           | 39(1)           | 30(1)           | 2(1)            | 10(1)           | 2(1)            |
| C(6)  | 30(1)           | 26(1)           | 26(1)           | -1(1)           | 5(1)            | 0(1)            |
| C(7)  | 21(1)           | 18(1)           | 25(1)           | 3(1)            | 1(1)            | 0(1)            |
| C(8)  | 29(1)           | 29(1)           | 26(1)           | 2(1)            | -1(1)           | 0(1)            |
| C(9)  | 29(1)           | 43(1)           | 33(1)           | 11(1)           | -7(1)           | 1(1)            |
| C(10) | 25(1)           | 34(1)           | 44(1)           | 15(1)           | 0(1)            | 7(1)            |
| C(11) | 29(1)           | 29(1)           | 38(1)           | 4(1)            | 5(1)            | 9(1)            |
| C(12) | 26(1)           | 25(1)           | 28(1)           | 1(1)            | 1(1)            | 4(1)            |
| C(13) | 24(1)           | 16(1)           | 24(1)           | -2(1)           | 5(1)            | 1(1)            |
| C(14) | 34(1)           | 23(1)           | 29(1)           | 4(1)            | 0(1)            | -1(1)           |
| C(15) | 47(1)           | 28(1)           | 37(1)           | 11(1)           | 2(1)            | 1(1)            |
| C(16) | 49(1)           | 22(1)           | 43(1)           | 5(1)            | 19(1)           | -3(1)           |
| C(17) | 31(1)           | 23(1)           | 46(1)           | -5(1)           | 17(1)           | -6(1)           |
| C(18) | 24(1)           | 23(1)           | 34(1)           | -2(1)           | 6(1)            | -1(1)           |
| P(2)  | 22(1)           | 17(1)           | 24(1)           | 2(1)            | 0(1)            | 1(1)            |
| N(2)  | 31(1)           | 18(1)           | 27(1)           | 1(1)            | 3(1)            | 1(1)            |
| N(3)  | 26(1)           | 16(1)           | 31(1)           | 1(1)            | -1(1)           | -1(1)           |
| N(4)  | 42(1)           | 23(1)           | 35(1)           | -2(1)           | 8(1)            | 0(1)            |
| N(5)  | 24(1)           | 22(1)           | 32(1)           | 5(1)            | 2(1)            | 1(1)            |
| N(6)  | 22(1)           | 27(1)           | 31(1)           | 5(1)            | -3(1)           | -2(1)           |
| N(7)  | 30(1)           | 40(1)           | 56(1)           | 21(1)           | -5(1)           | -7(1)           |
| N(8)  | 28(1)           | 23(1)           | 25(1)           | 4(1)            | 0(1)            | 4(1)            |
| N(9)  | 32(1)           | 21(1)           | 22(1)           | -1(1)           | -1(1)           | 3(1)            |
| N(10) | 39(1)           | 41(1)           | 27(1)           | -3(1)           | -5(1)           | 15(1)           |

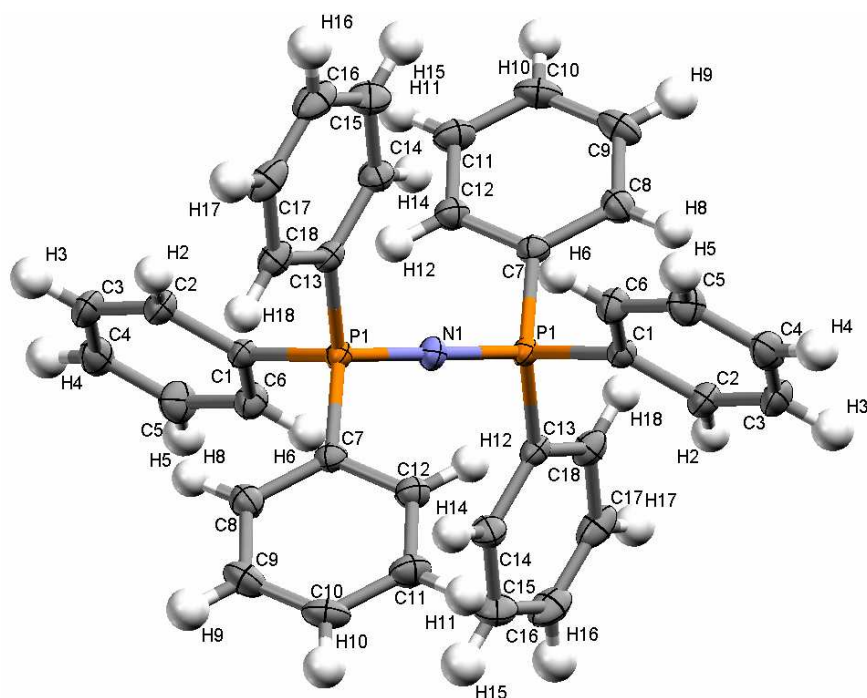
Table 5. Hydrogen coordinates (  $\times 10^4$ ) and isotropic displacement parameters ( $\text{\AA}^2 \times 10^3$ )  
for ch1ppx1\_0m.

|       | x    | y    | z    | U(eq) |
|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| H(2)  | 4082 | 1705 | 2185 | 34    |
| H(3)  | 5208 | 1271 | 234  | 41    |
| H(4)  | 6671 | 2940 | -574 | 41    |
| H(5)  | 7012 | 5055 | 550  | 41    |
| H(6)  | 5908 | 5515 | 2504 | 33    |
| H(8)  | 2096 | 4116 | 1710 | 33    |
| H(9)  | 23   | 5233 | 1270 | 42    |
| H(10) | -843 | 6685 | 2878 | 41    |
| H(11) | 360  | 7055 | 4938 | 38    |
| H(12) | 2431 | 5947 | 5400 | 32    |
| H(14) | 5336 | 2502 | 6000 | 34    |
| H(15) | 4786 | 457  | 6981 | 45    |
| H(16) | 2725 | -778 | 6325 | 45    |
| H(17) | 1193 | 33   | 4706 | 40    |
| H(18) | 1705 | 2097 | 3735 | 32    |

## 2. Projections of the crystal structure of compound **2**



Packing of compound **2** in the crystal, projection (Mercury plot) along the crystallographic  $S_6$  axis. Vibrational ellipsoids set at the 50% probability level, color code: blue, N; grey, C; orange, P; white, H.



Projection (Mercury plot) of the structure of the  $\text{PPN}^+$  cation of **2** in the crystal, vibrational ellipsoids set at the 50% probability level, color code as above.

### 3. Calculated Cartesian Coordinates and energies of the $S_6$ symmetric minimum structure<sup>1</sup>

| $S_6$ symmetric minimum structure<br>RHF/6-311G*,<br>E = -1320.643510 a.u.,<br>NIMAG = 0 |          |          |          | $S_6$ symmetric minimum structure<br>B3LYP/6-311G*,<br>E = -1326.8986731 a.u.,<br>NIMAG = 0<br>Coordinates / Å |          |          | $D_3$ symmetric minimum structure<br>RHF/6-311G*,<br>E = - 1320.63048985 a.u.,<br>NIMAG = 0 |          |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Atom                                                                                     | x        | y        | z        | x                                                                                                              | y        | z        | x                                                                                           | y        | z        |
| P                                                                                        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0                                                                                                              | 0        | 0        | 0                                                                                           | 0        | 0        |
| N                                                                                        | 0.707083 | 1.300668 | 1.030555 | 0.701211                                                                                                       | 1.327984 | 1.051951 | 0.683748                                                                                    | 1.324976 | 1.019645 |
| N                                                                                        | -1.47995 | -0.03798 | 1.030555 | -1.50067                                                                                                       | -0.05673 | 1.051951 | -1.48934                                                                                    | -0.07035 | 1.019645 |
| N                                                                                        | -0.70708 | -1.30067 | -1.03056 | -0.70121                                                                                                       | -1.32798 | -1.05195 | -0.80559                                                                                    | -1.25463 | -1.01965 |
| N                                                                                        | 0.77287  | -1.26269 | 1.030555 | 0.799462                                                                                                       | -1.27126 | 1.051951 | 0.805589                                                                                    | -1.25463 | 1.019645 |
| N                                                                                        | 1.479953 | 0.037983 | -1.03056 | 1.500673                                                                                                       | 0.056726 | -1.05195 | 1.489336                                                                                    | -0.07035 | -1.01965 |
| N                                                                                        | -0.77287 | 1.262686 | -1.03056 | -0.79946                                                                                                       | 1.271258 | -1.05195 | -0.68375                                                                                    | 1.324976 | -1.01965 |
| N                                                                                        | 0        | 2.200976 | 1.415774 | 0                                                                                                              | 2.245815 | 1.43624  | 1.725971                                                                                    | 1.156707 | 1.607094 |
| N                                                                                        | -1.9061  | -1.10049 | 1.415774 | -1.94493                                                                                                       | -1.12291 | 1.43624  | -1.86472                                                                                    | 0.916381 | 1.607094 |
| N                                                                                        | 0        | -2.20098 | -1.41577 | 0                                                                                                              | -2.24582 | -1.43624 | -0.13875                                                                                    | -2.07309 | -1.60709 |
| N                                                                                        | 1.906101 | -1.10049 | 1.415774 | 1.944933                                                                                                       | -1.12291 | 1.43624  | 0.138752                                                                                    | -2.07309 | 1.607094 |
| N                                                                                        | 1.906101 | 1.100488 | -1.41577 | 1.944933                                                                                                       | 1.122908 | -1.43624 | 1.864723                                                                                    | 0.916381 | -1.60709 |
| N                                                                                        | -1.9061  | 1.100488 | -1.41577 | -1.94493                                                                                                       | 1.122908 | -1.43624 | -1.72597                                                                                    | 1.156707 | -1.60709 |
| N                                                                                        | -0.58207 | 3.04873  | 1.797773 | -0.57693                                                                                                       | 3.13898  | 1.839794 | 2.66831                                                                                     | 1.093557 | 2.166581 |
| N                                                                                        | -2.34925 | -2.02845 | 1.797773 | -2.42997                                                                                                       | -2.06912 | 1.839794 | -2.2812                                                                                     | 1.764045 | 2.166581 |
| N                                                                                        | 0.582065 | -3.04873 | -1.79777 | 0.576926                                                                                                       | -3.13898 | -1.83979 | 0.387107                                                                                    | -2.8576  | -2.16658 |
| N                                                                                        | 2.93131  | -1.02028 | 1.797773 | 3.006899                                                                                                       | -1.06986 | 1.839794 | -0.38711                                                                                    | -2.8576  | 2.166581 |
| N                                                                                        | 2.349246 | 2.028448 | -1.79777 | 2.429974                                                                                                       | 2.069123 | -1.83979 | 2.281203                                                                                    | 1.764045 | -2.16658 |
| N                                                                                        | -2.93131 | 1.020283 | -1.79777 | -3.0069                                                                                                        | 1.069858 | -1.83979 | -2.66831                                                                                    | 1.093557 | -2.16658 |

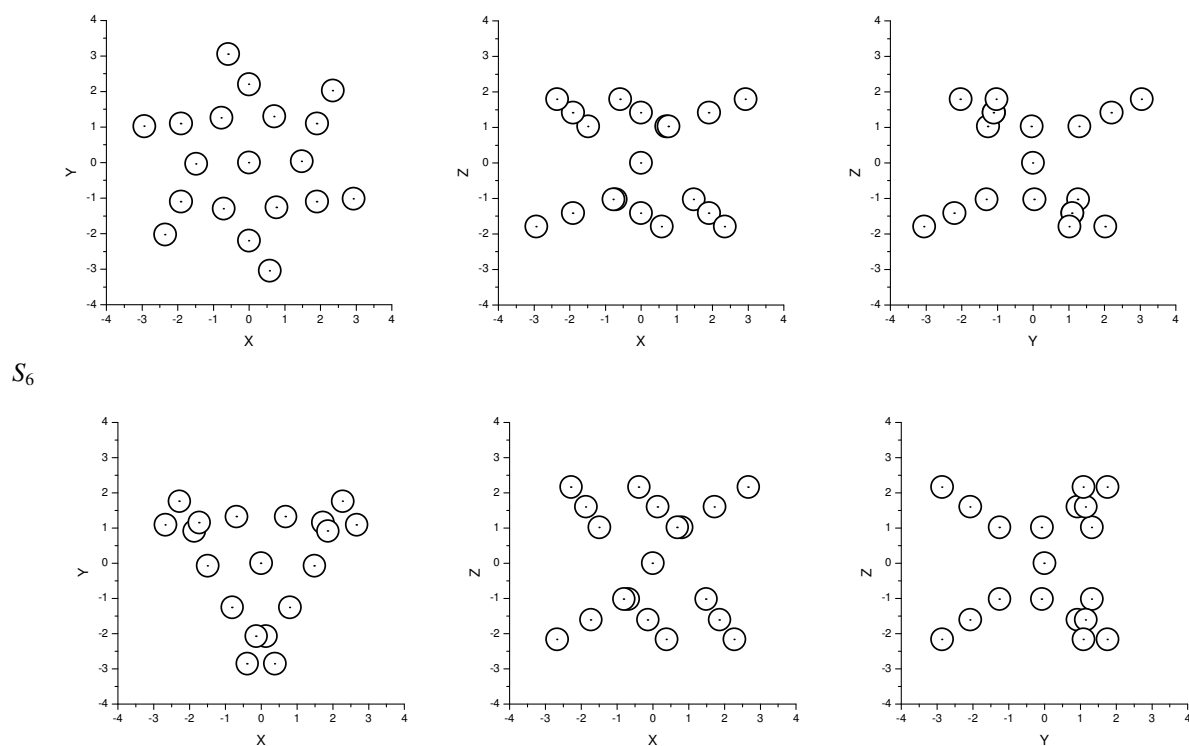
### S4. Results of frequency calculations of the $S_6$ and $D_3$ minimum energy structures<sup>a</sup>

| No | $S_6$ , RHF/6-311G* |       |       |      |      | $S_6$ , B3LYP/6-311G* |       |       |      |  | $D_3$ , RHF/6-311G* |       |       |      |      |
|----|---------------------|-------|-------|------|------|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|--|---------------------|-------|-------|------|------|
|    | $\nu$               | S     | f     | IR   | Ra   | $\nu$                 | S     | f     | IR   |  | $\nu$               | S     | f     | IR   | Ra   |
| 1  | 53.3                | $E_u$ | 48.0  | 0.01 | 0    | 37.9                  | $E_u$ | 36.6  | 0.05 |  | 31.0                | $E$   | 28.0  | 0.25 | 4.08 |
| 2  | 53.3                | $E_u$ | 48.0  | 0.01 | 0    | 37.9                  | $E_u$ | 36.6  | 0.05 |  | 31.0                | $E$   | 28.0  | 0.25 | 4.08 |
| 3  | 54.7                | $A_g$ | 49.3  | 0    | 10.0 | 41.0                  | $A_g$ | 39.7  | 0    |  | 39.3                | $A_2$ | 35.4  | 0.31 | 0    |
| 4  | 70.1                | $A_u$ | 63.2  | 0.30 | 0    | 51.4                  | $A_u$ | 49.7  | 0.17 |  | 47.4                | $E$   | 42.7  | 0.24 | 5.86 |
| 5  | 78.1                | $E_g$ | 70.4  | 0    | 17.3 | 56.8                  | $E_g$ | 54.9  | 0    |  | 47.4                | $E$   | 42.7  | 0.24 | 5.86 |
| 6  | 78.1                | $E_g$ | 70.4  | 0    | 17.3 | 56.8                  | $E_g$ | 54.9  | 0    |  | 50.8                | $A_1$ | 45.8  | 0    | 16.7 |
| 7  | 101.5               | $A_u$ | 91.5  | 0.01 | 0    | 85.3                  | $A_u$ | 82.5  | 0.17 |  | 97.4                | $A_1$ | 87.8  | 0    | 0.68 |
| 8  | 120.2               | $E_u$ | 108.3 | 1.41 | 0    | 100.2                 | $E_u$ | 96.9  | 1.78 |  | 132.1               | $E$   | 119.1 | 0.03 | 5.81 |
| 9  | 120.2               | $E_u$ | 108.3 | 1.41 | 0    | 100.2                 | $E_u$ | 97.0  | 1.78 |  | 132.1               | $E$   | 119.1 | 0.03 | 5.81 |
| 10 | 162.1               | $E_g$ | 146.1 | 0    | 6.11 | 132.9                 | $E_g$ | 128.5 | 0    |  | 168.6               | $E$   | 151.9 | 2.68 | 2.85 |
| 11 | 162.1               | $E_g$ | 146.1 | 0    | 6.11 | 132.9                 | $E_g$ | 128.5 | 0    |  | 168.6               | $E$   | 151.9 | 2.68 | 2.85 |
| 12 | 209.9               | $A_g$ | 189.1 | 0    | 6.69 | 178.1                 | $A_g$ | 172.3 | 0    |  | 227.7               | $A_2$ | 205.3 | 1.79 | 0    |
| 13 | 288.1               | $E_u$ | 259.7 | 1.32 | 0    | 249.2                 | $E_u$ | 241.0 | 1.65 |  | 275.8               | $E$   | 248.6 | 0.02 | 9.71 |
| 14 | 288.1               | $E_u$ | 259.7 | 1.32 | 0    | 249.2                 | $E_u$ | 241.0 | 1.65 |  | 275.8               | $E$   | 248.6 | 0.02 | 9.71 |
| 15 | 310.9               | $A_u$ | 280.3 | 4.51 | 0    | 265.1                 | $A_u$ | 256.4 | 4.38 |  | 297.8               | $A_1$ | 268.4 | 0    | 6.95 |
| 16 | 343.2               | $E_g$ | 309.4 | 0    | 7.17 | 300.4                 | $E_g$ | 290.5 | 0    |  | 334.1               | $E$   | 301.1 | 1.80 | 4.66 |
| 17 | 343.2               | $E_g$ | 309.4 | 0    | 7.17 | 300.4                 | $E_g$ | 290.5 | 0    |  | 334.1               | $E$   | 301.1 | 1.80 | 4.66 |

|    |        |       |        |      |      |        |       |        |      |        |       |        |      |      |
|----|--------|-------|--------|------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|--------|-------|--------|------|------|
| 18 | 413.6  | $A_g$ | 372.7  | 0    | 1.96 | 358.3  | $A_g$ | 346.5  | 0    | 395.3  | $E$   | 356.3  | 23.8 | 1.26 |
| 19 | 426.9  | $E_g$ | 384.7  | 0    | 8.25 | 376.5  | $E_g$ | 364.1  | 0    | 395.3  | $E$   | 356.3  | 23.8 | 1.26 |
| 20 | 426.9  | $E_g$ | 384.7  | 0    | 8.25 | 376.5  | $E_g$ | 364.1  | 0    | 408.4  | $A_1$ | 368.1  | 0    | 4.76 |
| 21 | 454.8  | $E_u$ | 409.9  | 10.6 | 0    | 394.7  | $A_u$ | 381.8  | 5.97 | 460.7  | $A_2$ | 415.3  | 34.9 | 0    |
| 22 | 454.8  | $E_u$ | 409.9  | 10.6 | 0    | 395.5  | $E_u$ | 382.5  | 5.82 | 469.7  | $E$   | 423.3  | 5.6  | 1.22 |
| 23 | 460.6  | $A_u$ | 415.1  | 30.0 | 0    | 395.5  | $E_u$ | 382.5  | 5.82 | 469.7  | $E$   | 423.3  | 5.6  | 1.22 |
| 24 | 509.5  | $A_g$ | 459.2  | 0    | 19.7 | 432.4  | $A_g$ | 418.2  | 0    | 508.4  | $A_1$ | 458.2  | 0    | 19.4 |
| 25 | 600.2  | $E_u$ | 541.0  | 384  | 0    | 529.4  | $E_u$ | 512.0  | 327  | 587.9  | $E$   | 529.9  | 277  | 11.7 |
| 26 | 600.2  | $E_u$ | 541.0  | 384  | 0    | 529.4  | $E_u$ | 512.0  | 327  | 587.9  | $E$   | 529.9  | 277  | 11.7 |
| 27 | 600.8  | $A_u$ | 541.5  | 525  | 0    | 531.7  | $A_u$ | 514.3  | 423  | 617.7  | $A_2$ | 556.7  | 712  | 0    |
| 28 | 699.8  | $E_u$ | 630.7  | 27.1 | 0    | 595.0  | $E_u$ | 575.5  | 14.8 | 688.8  | $E$   | 620.8  | 0.56 | 0.01 |
| 29 | 699.8  | $E_u$ | 630.7  | 27.1 | 0    | 595.0  | $E_u$ | 575.5  | 14.8 | 688.8  | $E$   | 620.8  | 0.56 | 0.01 |
| 30 | 700.0  | $E_g$ | 630.9  | 0    | 0.62 | 595.0  | $E_g$ | 575.5  | 0    | 697.5  | $A_2$ | 628.7  | 198  | 0    |
| 31 | 700.0  | $E_g$ | 630.9  | 0    | 0.62 | 595.0  | $E_g$ | 575.5  | 0    | 702.7  | $E$   | 633.4  | 45.1 | 0.41 |
| 32 | 701.5  | $A_g$ | 632.3  | 0    | 0.87 | 597.5  | $A_g$ | 577.9  | 0    | 702.7  | $E$   | 633.4  | 45.1 | 0.41 |
| 33 | 708.5  | $A_u$ | 638.5  | 187  | 0    | 600.2  | $A_u$ | 580.5  | 110  | 707.9  | $A_1$ | 638.0  | 0    | 2.34 |
| 34 | 788.0  | $A_g$ | 710.2  | 0    | 14.3 | 678.7  | $A_g$ | 656.5  | 0    | 788.8  | $A_2$ | 710.9  | 122  | 0    |
| 35 | 809.5  | $E_g$ | 729.6  | 0    | 3.15 | 697.1  | $E_g$ | 674.2  | 0    | 796.5  | $A_1$ | 717.9  | 0    | 11.8 |
| 36 | 809.5  | $E_g$ | 729.6  | 0    | 3.15 | 697.1  | $E_g$ | 674.2  | 0    | 803.4  | $E$   | 724.1  | 11.4 | 2.13 |
| 37 | 817.1  | $A_u$ | 736.4  | 177  | 0    | 698.4  | $A_u$ | 675.5  | 90.4 | 803.4  | $E$   | 724.1  | 11.4 | 2.13 |
| 38 | 844.1  | $E_u$ | 760.8  | 399  | 0    | 721.9  | $E_u$ | 698.3  | 241  | 832.1  | $E$   | 750.0  | 272  | 3.68 |
| 39 | 844.1  | $E_u$ | 760.8  | 399  | 0    | 722.0  | $E_u$ | 698.3  | 241  | 832.1  | $E$   | 750.0  | 272  | 3.68 |
| 40 | 1417.1 | $E_g$ | 1277.2 | 0    | 2.67 | 1353.6 | $E_g$ | 1309.2 | 0    | 1409.6 | $A_2$ | 1270.5 | 908  | 0    |
| 41 | 1414.1 | $E_g$ | 1274.5 | 0    | 2.67 | 1353.6 | $E_g$ | 1309.2 | 0    | 1413.2 | $E$   | 1273.7 | 885  | 0.31 |
| 42 | 1420.4 | $A_u$ | 1280.2 | 521  | 0    | 1354.2 | $A_u$ | 1309.8 | 202  | 1413.2 | $E$   | 1273.7 | 885  | 0.31 |
| 43 | 1431.3 | $E_u$ | 1290.1 | 1006 | 0    | 1358.8 | $E_u$ | 1314.3 | 350  | 1433.4 | $E$   | 1292.0 | 52.4 | 4.95 |
| 44 | 1431.3 | $E_u$ | 1290.1 | 1006 | 0    | 1358.8 | $E_u$ | 1314.3 | 350  | 1433.4 | $E$   | 1292.0 | 52.4 | 4.95 |
| 45 | 1458.8 | $A_g$ | 1314.8 | 0    | 15.3 | 1368.2 | $A_g$ | 1323.3 | 0    | 1463.6 | $A_1$ | 1319.1 | 0    | 20.7 |
| 46 | 2461.1 | $E_g$ | 2218.2 | 0    | 190  | 2236.7 | $A_u$ | 2163.3 | 816  | 2452.6 | $A_2$ | 2210.5 | 2209 | 0    |
| 47 | 2461.1 | $E_g$ | 2218.2 | 0    | 190  | 2237.1 | $E_g$ | 2163.7 | 0    | 2455.2 | $E$   | 2212.9 | 1016 | 116  |
| 48 | 2467.2 | $A_u$ | 2223.7 | 1170 | 0    | 2237.1 | $E_g$ | 2163.7 | 0    | 2455.2 | $E$   | 2212.9 | 1016 | 116  |
| 49 | 2472.7 | $E_u$ | 2228.7 | 2717 | 0    | 2243.2 | $E_u$ | 2169.6 | 1732 | 2464.5 | $E$   | 2221.3 | 1458 | 91.9 |
| 50 | 2472.7 | $E_u$ | 2228.7 | 2717 | 0    | 2243.2 | $E_u$ | 2169.6 | 1731 | 2464.5 | $E$   | 2221.3 | 1458 | 91.9 |
| 51 | 2505.6 | $A_g$ | 2258.3 | 0    | 297  | 2262.5 | $A_g$ | 2188.3 | 0    | 2501.7 | $A_1$ | 2254.8 | 0    | 303  |

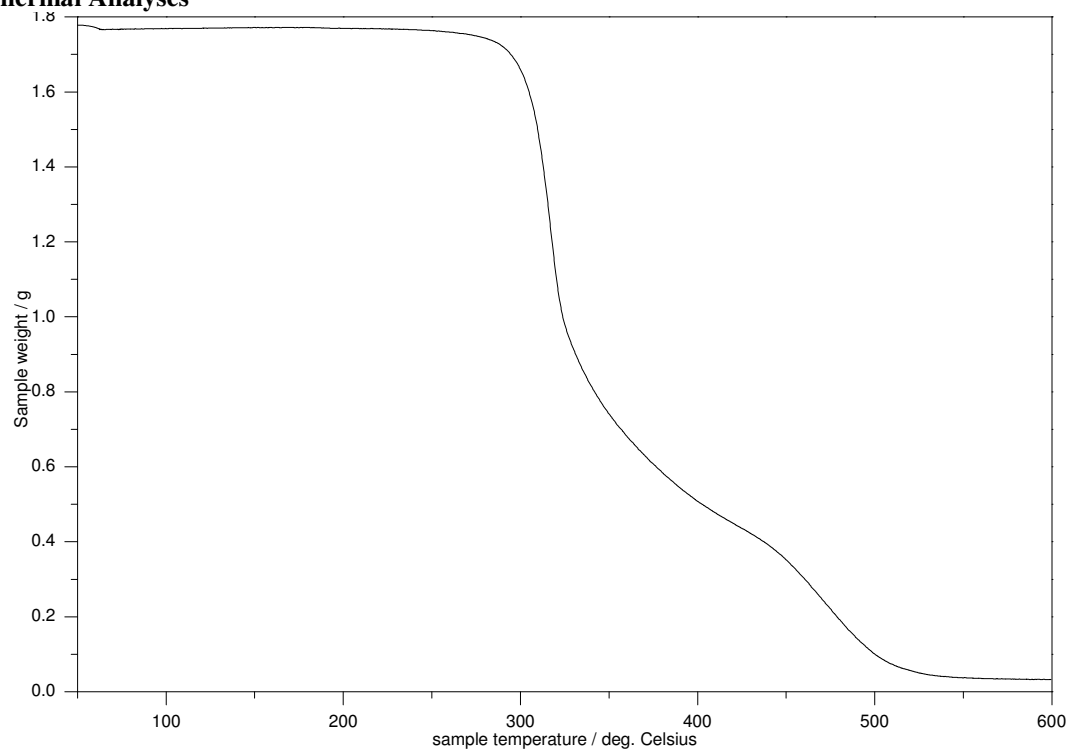
a)  $\nu$ , wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ );  $\nu$  column shows the wavenumbers obtained using the recommended scaling factors  $f = 0.9013$  (RHF/6-311G\*) and  $0.9672$  (B3LYP/6-311G\*) taken from Table 6 in ref. <sup>2</sup>; S denotes the symmetry species of the mode; columns IR and Ra show calculated IR intensities ( $\text{km mol}^{-1}$ ) and Raman scattering activities ( $\text{\AA}^4 \text{amu}^{-1}$ ), respectively.

**4A. Projections of the calculated  $D_3$  and  $S_6$  symmetric structures in the x,y and x,z and y,z planes, scale / Å**

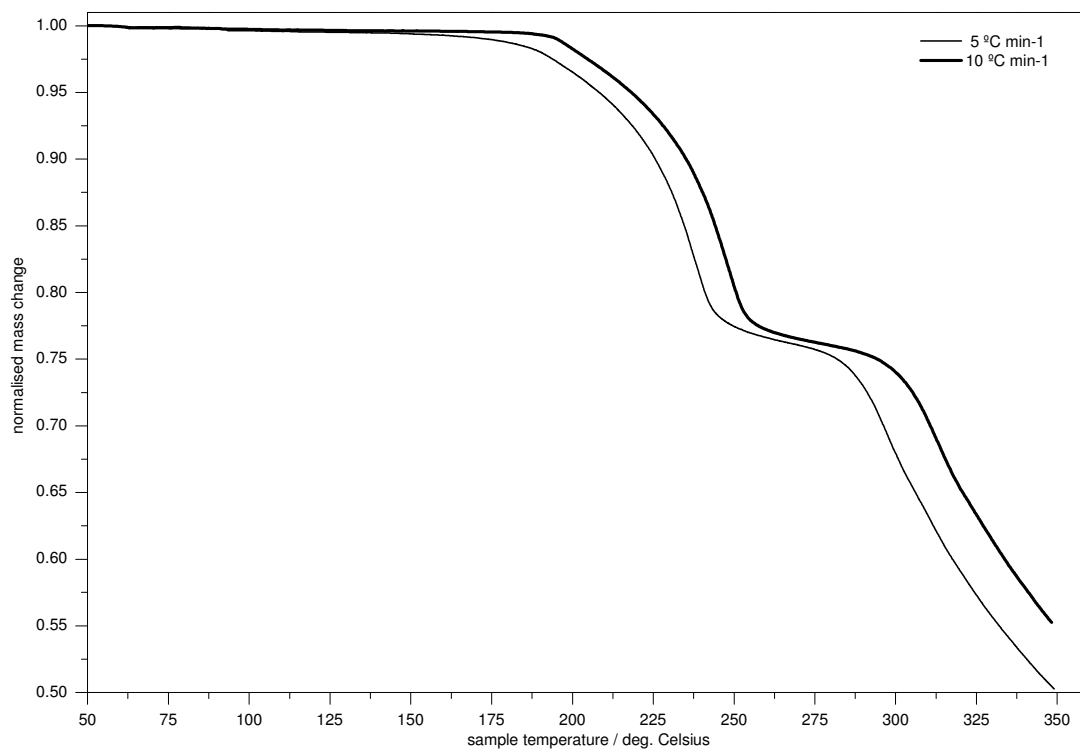


$D_3$   
 $D(N_\alpha \cdots N_\beta) = 2.7, 2.9$ ;  $D(N_\beta \cdots N_\beta') = 3.6, 3.2$  Å,  $S_6$  vs.  $D_3$ . Circles denote the position of N or P atoms.

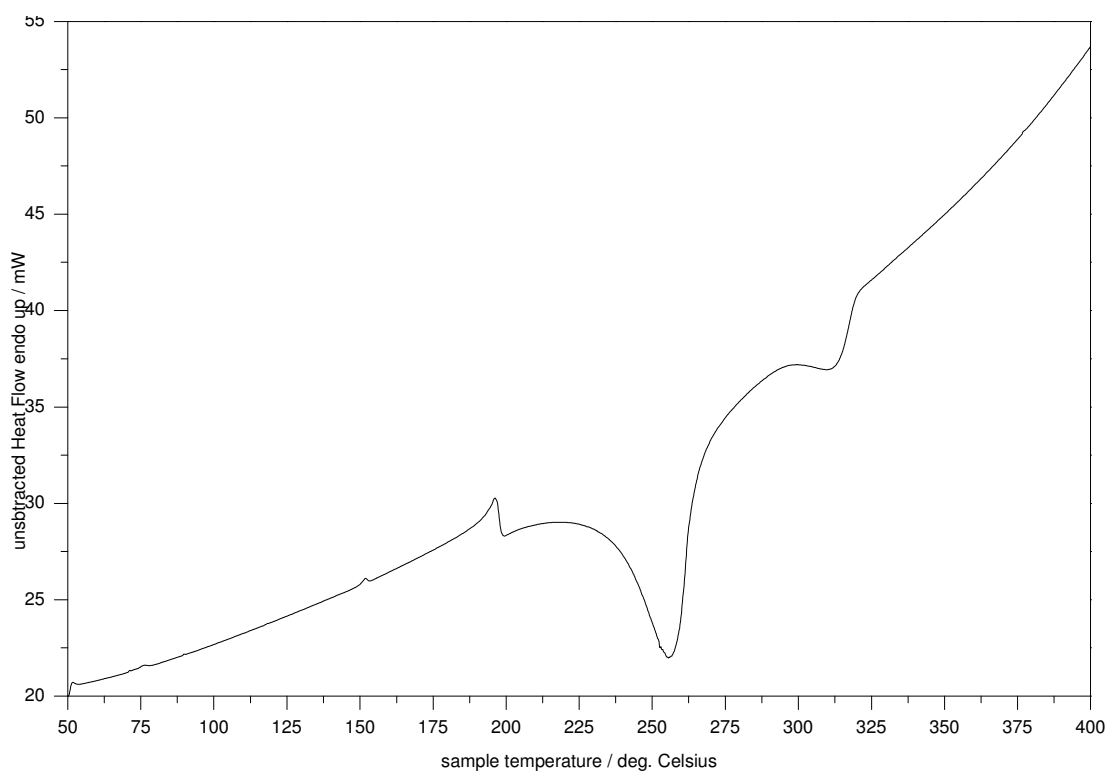
**5. Thermal Analyses**



TGA curve of (PPN) $N_3$ , heating rate 10 °C / min.



Normalised TGA curves of **2**, heating rate 5 and 10 °C / min.



DSC curve of **2**, heating rate 10 °C / min.

## 6. Spectroscopic data of 2

NMR spectra were recorded in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}-d_3$  or  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}-d_3 / \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (1 : 4) mixture and are calibrated against residual solvent proton signal ( $^1\text{H}$ , 1.94 ppm), the natural solvent abundance ( $^{13}\text{C}$ , 1.32 ppm), or externally (0.0 ppm, 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$ ; neat  $\text{CH}_3\text{NO}_2$ ,  $^{14}\text{N}$ ). Approximate line widths  $\Delta\nu_{1/2}$  were determined by Lorentzian curve fitting.

IR (nujol,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  $\bar{\nu}$  = 3378 vw ( $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3) + \nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ ), 2561 vw  $2\times\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 2113 vs  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1589 vw, 1481(3), 1437(8), 1310(2)sh, 1291(28)  $\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1182(3), 1163(1), 1117(14), 1105(4)sh, 1026(1), 997(2), 754(3), 724(25), 708(5), 690(13), 573(3), 534(38). IR ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  $\bar{\nu}$  = 3379vww, 2548vww, 2116vs, 1288w, 1117vw, 999vw, 727w, 696vw, 573vw, 548w, 536w. IR ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  $\bar{\nu}$  = 3376 vvw  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3) + \nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 2559vww  $2\times\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 2115vs  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1590vw, 1485vw, 1440w, 1288w  $\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1187vw, 1117m, 1028vw, 999vw, 572vw, 539w. IR (THF,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )  $\bar{\nu}$  = 2112vs  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1291w  $\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 727w, 695vw, 539w.

Raman of 2:  $\bar{\nu}$  = 2142(3)  $\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 2110(3)  $\nu_{\text{sym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1590(19), 1577(8), 1440(2), 1303(10)  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1286(5)  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1184(5), 1162(6), 1113(16), 1028(32), 1001(100), 987(5)sh, 724(5), 686(6)  $\delta$ , 659(30), 616(27), 455(42)  $\delta$ , 389(10)  $\delta$ , 313(11)  $\delta$ ;  $\delta$  indicates lines due to  $\delta$  vibrations of  $[\text{P}(\text{N}_3)_6]^-$ ;  $(\text{PPN})\text{N}_3$ :  $\bar{\nu}$  = 1591(34), 1577(10), 1140(3), 1321(9)sh  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1316(13)  $\nu_{\text{asym}}(\text{N}_3)$ , 1186(9), 1160(7), 1112(24), 1030(33), 1002(100), 726(5), 667(36), 615(31), 489(4)  $\delta$   $\text{N}_3$ , 366(8)  $\delta$   $\text{N}_3$ .

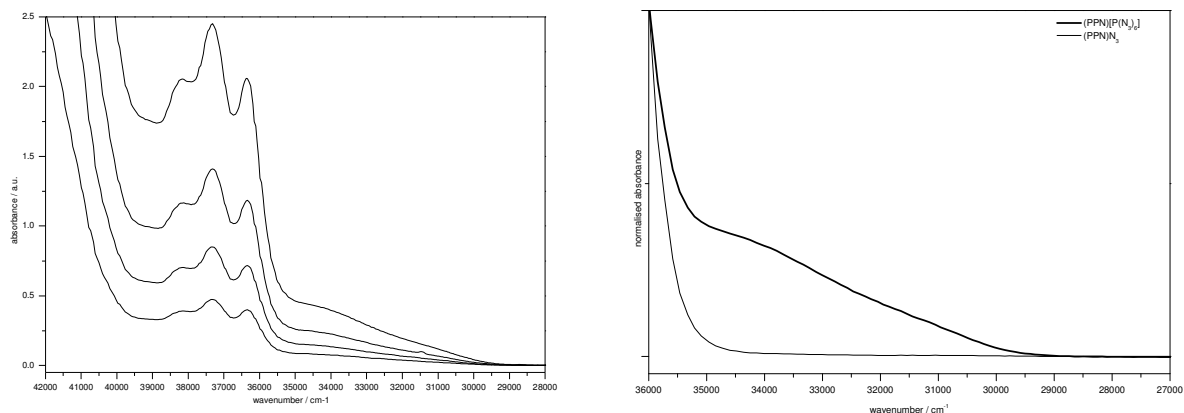
$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 7.44-7.70 (m).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 128.3 (dd,  $C_{\text{ipso}}$ ,  $^1J_{\text{CP}}$  = 107.9 Hz,  $^3J_{\text{CP}}$  = 1.9 Hz), 130.4 (m,  $C_{\text{meta}}$ ), 133.3 (m,  $C_{\text{ortho}}$ ), 134.6 (m,  $C_{\text{para}}$ ).

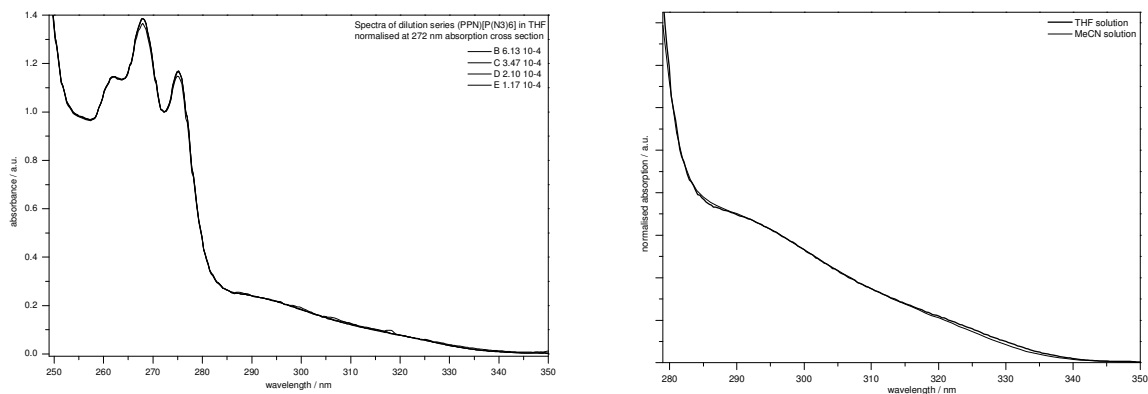
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 20.8 (s,  $\text{N}(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3)_2$ ,  $\Delta\nu_{1/2}$  = 5 Hz), -178.8 (s,  $\text{P}(\text{N}_3)_6$ ,  $\Delta\nu_{1/2}$  = 53 Hz).

$^{14}\text{N}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = -170 ( $\Delta\nu_{1/2}$  = 90 Hz), -268 ( $\Delta\nu_{1/2}$  = 670 Hz), -141 ( $\Delta\nu_{1/2}$  = 30 Hz).

## UV absorption spectra of **2** and (PPN) $N_3$ in THF and MeCN



Dilution series of **2** in THF,  $c$  ca.  $6.1, 3.5, 2.1, 1.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol l}^{-1}$  (left), and layer of normalised spectra of (PPN) $N_3$  (ca.  $1.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol l}^{-1}$ ) and (PPN)[P(N<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>] ( $6 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol l}^{-1}$ ) recorded in MeCN (right).



Dilution series in THF as before, spectra normalized using the absorption cross section at 272 nm, revealing no significant concentration dependence in the investigated range of concentrations of **2** (left); layer of normalized spectra of **2** in THF and MeCN at similar concentrations (right).

## 7. Details of empirical lattice energy calculations

Lattice potential energies (lattice energies) were calculated using the generalized empirical formula  $U_{\text{pot}} = \frac{z_+ z_-}{V} (\alpha V^{-1/3} + \beta)$ , (i),  $z_+$  = cation charge,  $z_-$  = anion charge,  $\alpha = 138.7 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} \text{ nm}$ ,  $\beta = 27.6 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ,  $V$  = Volume of formula unit obtained from crystal data,  $\nu$  = number of ions  $p + q$  per formula unit  $M_p X_q$ , as given in ref. [3].

**a)** Experimental unit cell volumes of the salts involved in the proposed initial decomposition step

|                                                        |                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| (PPN)[P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ]                | 0.95483(16) nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 1    |
| (PPN) <sub>2</sub> [Si(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] | 1.6939(7) nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 1 [4]  |
| (PPN) <sub>2</sub> [Ge(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] | 1.6946(11) nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 1 [5] |
| (PPN)N <sub>3</sub>                                    | 4.5775(16) nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 6 [6] |

**b)** Experimental unit cell volumes of reference compounds (diffraction studies)

|                                      |                                         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| NaN <sub>3</sub>                     | 0.2022 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 3 [7, 8]   |
| KN <sub>3</sub>                      | 0.2620 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 4 [8-11]   |
| RbN <sub>3</sub>                     | 0.2997 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 4 [8, 11]  |
| CsN <sub>3</sub>                     | 0.3631 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 4 [11]     |
| (NMe <sub>4</sub> )N <sub>3</sub>    | 1.2787 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 8 [12]     |
| (PPN) <sub>2</sub> ReCl <sub>6</sub> | 6.428(3) nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 4 [13]   |
| (PPN)UF <sub>6</sub>                 | 1.8256(34) nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 2 [14] |
| (PPN)I <sub>3</sub>                  | 1.7793 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 2 [15]     |
| (PPN)SCN                             | 3.2318 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 4 [16]     |
| (PPN)FeCl <sub>4</sub>               | 3.576056 nm <sup>3</sup> , Z = 4 [17]   |

**c)** Thermochemical Ion Volumes taken from reference [3]

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ReCl <sub>6</sub> <sup>2-</sup> | 0.224±0.007 nm <sup>3</sup> |
| UF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>    | 0.167±0.041 nm <sup>3</sup> |
| I <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>     | 0.171 nm <sup>3</sup>       |
| SCN <sup>-</sup>                | 0.071±0.003 nm <sup>3</sup> |
| FeCl <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>  | 0.155 nm <sup>3</sup>       |
| NMe <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>   | 0.113±0.013 nm <sup>3</sup> |

**d)** Volumes generated using Goldschmidt radii as quoted in reference [3]

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Na <sup>+</sup> | 0.00394 nm <sup>3</sup> |
| K <sup>+</sup>  | 0.00986 nm <sup>3</sup> |
| Rb <sup>+</sup> | 0.01386 nm <sup>3</sup> |
| Cs <sup>+</sup> | 0.01882 nm <sup>3</sup> |

**e)** Thermochemical volumes derived using the parameters from (a) – (d)

|                                                |                                  |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| PPN <sup>+</sup>                               | 0.726±0.022 nm <sup>3</sup>      |
| P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>   | 0.228±0.022 nm <sup>3</sup>      |
| P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>   | 0.156±0.022 nm <sup>3</sup> (*)  |
| Si(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> <sup>2-</sup> | 0.241±0.044 nm <sup>3</sup>      |
| Ge(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> <sup>2-</sup> | 0.242±0.044 nm <sup>3</sup>      |
| N <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>                    | 0.060±0.010 nm <sup>3</sup>      |
| Si(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> <sup>-</sup>  | 0.203±0.044 nm <sup>3</sup> (**) |
| Ge(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> <sup>-</sup>  | 0.204±0.044 nm <sup>3</sup> (**) |

\*) estimated,  $V([P(N_3)_4]^+) \approx 13/19 V([P(N_3)_6]^-)$

\*\*) estimated,  $V([E(N_3)_5]^-) \approx 16/19 V([E(N_3)_6]^{2-})$

**f)** Estimated potential lattice energies using formula

|                                                                                                      |                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (i) (*)                                                                                              |                                |
| NaN <sub>3</sub>                                                                                     | -749(±36) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| Na[P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ]                                                                 | -507(±14) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| (PPN)[P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ]                                                              | -337(±4) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>  |
| [P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> [P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>-</sup> (**) | -447(±15) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| (PPN) <sub>2</sub> [Si(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ]                                               | -864(±12) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| (PPN) <sub>2</sub> [Ge(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ]                                               | -864(±12) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| (PPN)[Si(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>(**)</sup>                                             | -339(±7) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>  |
| (PPN)[Ge(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>(**)</sup>                                             | -339(±7) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>  |
| (PPN)N <sub>3</sub>                                                                                  | -356(±4) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>  |

\*) error estimates based on propagation of errors of volumes. Function (i) has a correlation coefficient of  $R = 0.91$  for MX, MX<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>2</sub>X salts. Imprecision of the predicted energies as a result of poor correlation have not been included. The experimentally determined lattice energy of NaN<sub>3</sub> is ca. 725 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, which function (i) reproduces within the error margins.

\*\*) Hypothetical compounds.

Estimation of gain or loss of lattice energy:

|    |                                                                                                                                        |                                |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a) | Na[P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] → NaN <sub>3</sub> + P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>                                              | -242(±50) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| b) | Na[P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] → NaN <sub>3</sub> + ½ [P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> ][P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ]       | -466(±58) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| c) | (PPN)[P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] → (PPN)N <sub>3</sub> + P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>5</sub>                                        | -19(±8) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>   |
| d) | (PPN)[P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] → (PPN)N <sub>3</sub> + ½ [P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> ][P(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] | -243(±16) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |
| e) | (PPN) <sub>2</sub> [E(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] → (PPN)N <sub>3</sub> + (PPN)[E(N <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>5</sub> ]                  | +169(±23) kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> |

**Discussion.** The nature of phosphorous pentaazide is unknown and there are two obvious structures conceivable at room temperature, [P(N<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>][P(N<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>] and P(N<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>. It can be expected that both forms would give rise to a mass spec signal corresponding to N<sub>15</sub>P. The thermochemical measurements of complex **2** show a 130 to 240 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> greater enthalpic change than complexes **3** and **4** during step 1 of the decomposition. Depending on the nature of phosphorus pentaazide the difference in the net lattice energy change is ca. 190 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> and ca. 410 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> (see eq.s c, d and e). The gas phase affinities of N<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to P(N<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub> and [E(N<sub>3</sub>)<sub>5</sub>]<sup>-</sup> are not known. A crude estimate calculated

on the SCF/6-31G\* level yielded ca.  $-200 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  for the reaction  $\text{P(N}_3)_5 + \text{N}_3^- \rightarrow [\text{P(N}_3)_6]^-$ . At this stage it becomes obvious that  $\Delta H$  for step 1 in the decomposition of  $(\text{PPN})[\text{P(N}_3)_6]$  is much more negative than the sum of azide dissociation energy and net gain in lattice energy, ca.  $+180 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  (eq. c, estimated) vs.  $-946 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  (experimental). Clearly, under the conditions of the thermal analysis the evolved phosphorous pentaazide decomposes itself, releasing dinitrogen. This is supported by the 23% mass loss, which would correspond to ca. 7 equivalents of  $\text{N}_2$ , leaving behind  $(\text{PPN})\text{N}_3$  and 'PN'. Irrespective of the nature of phosphorus azide, it is nevertheless clear that a dissociation of the  $\text{E(N}_3)_6^{2-}$  salts has a penalty of ca.  $170 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$  of lattice energy to overcome, which contributes to their slightly higher stability. More theoretical and experimental investigations are necessary to fully understand the thermochemical behaviour of these energetic compounds.

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