

**Supporting information**

to the article

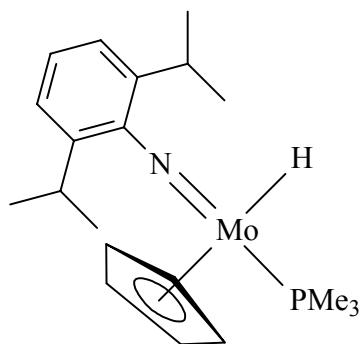
**The Unexpected Mechanism of Carbonyl Hydrosilylation Catalyzed by  
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe<sub>3</sub>)**

by Oleg Sherbrooke, Serge I. Gorelsky, Razvan Simionescu, Lyudmila G. Kuzmina, and Georgii I. Nikonov\*

**Experimental details**

All manipulations were carried out using conventional inert atmosphere glove-box and Schlenk techniques. Dry ether, THF, benzene, toluene and hexanes were obtained, using Grubbs-type purification columns. NMR spectra were obtained with a Bruker DPX-300 and Bruker DPX-600 instruments (<sup>1</sup>H: 300 and 600 MHz; <sup>13</sup>C: 75.5 and 151 MHz; <sup>29</sup>Si: 59.6 and 119.2 MHz; <sup>31</sup>P: 121.5 and 243 MHz). IR spectra were measured on ATI Mattson FTIR spectrometer. (ArN)Mo(H)(Cl)(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (Ar = 2,6-(iPr)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>) was prepared by the literature procedure<sup>1</sup>. PhSiH<sub>3</sub> was prepared from PhSiCl<sub>3</sub> by reaction with LiAlH<sub>4</sub>. Organic substrates (PhC(O)H, PhC(O)Me, PhCN, cyclohexanone) were purchased from Aldrich. All catalytic, kinetic and NMR reactions were done under nitrogen atmosphere using “Young” type NMR tubes equipped with Teflon valves. The structures and the yields of all hydrosilylated products were determined by NMR analysis using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard.

**Synthesis of (Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe<sub>3</sub>)**

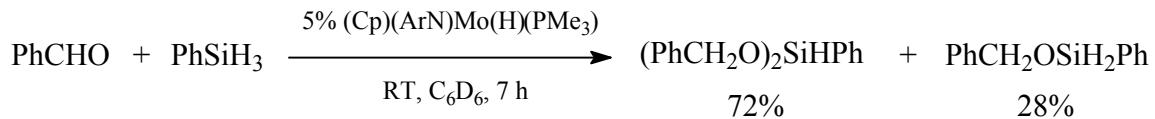


The THF solutions of (ArN)Mo(Cl)(H)(PMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.30 g, 0.56 mmol) and CpNa (0.12 g, 1.4 mmol) were mixed at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight. The

solvent was removed under vacuum, and the product was extracted with hexane giving 0.22 g of  $(ArN)Mo(Cp)(H)(PM\acute{e}_3)$  as a dark-green solid. Yield: 95%. Yield: 95%.  $^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): -5.81 (d,  $^2J_{H-P} = 33.9$  Hz, 1H, *Mo-H*), 1.06 (d,  $^2J_{H-P} = 9.0$  Hz, 9H, *PM\acute{e}\_3*), 1.30 (d,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.9$  Hz, 6H, *iPr*), 1.37 (d,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.9$  Hz, 6H, *iPr*), 4.54 (sept,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.9$  Hz, 2H, *iPr*), 4.80 (s, 5H, *Cp*), 7.10 (m, 3H, *ArN*).  $^{13}C$ -NMR (75.5 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 23.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>, *iPr*), 23.7 (d,  $^2J_{C-P} = 27.5$  Hz, *PM\acute{e}\_3*), 24.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>, *iPr*), 28.3 (CH, *iPr*), 87.0 (*Cp*), 123.0 (Ar), 124.5 (Ar), 144.2 (Ar).  $^{31}P$ -NMR (121.5 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 20.5 (s, 1P, *PM\acute{e}\_3*). IR (nujol,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1778 (Mo-H).

## CATALYTIC HYDROSILYLATION

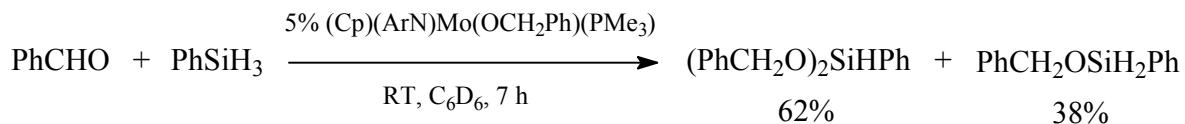
### **Hydrosilylation of benzaldehyde with phenylsilane catalyzed by $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PM\acute{e}_3)$**



Benzaldehyde (0.026 g, 0.242 mmol) and phenylsilane (0.026 g, 0.242 mmol) were mixed in the presence of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PM\acute{e}_3)$  (0.005 g, 5% mol) in  $C_6D_6$  (0.65 mL) at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by  $^1H$  NMR. The reaction was complete in 7h, yielding  $(\text{PhCH}_2\text{O})_2\text{SiHPh}$  (72%) and  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{OSiH}_2\text{Ph}$  (28%).

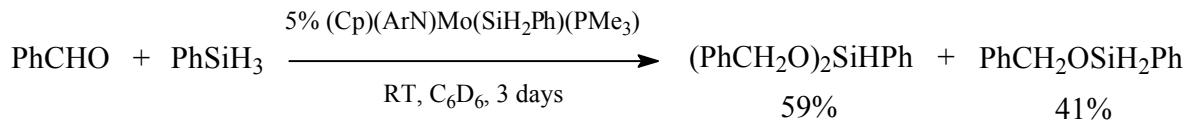
### **Hydrosilylation of benzaldehyde with phenylsilane catalyzed by**

### **$(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH_2Ph)(PM\acute{e}_3)$**



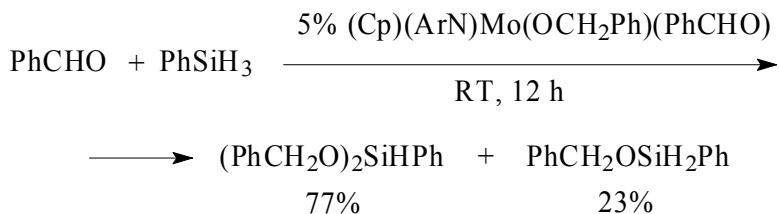
Benzaldehyde (0.026 g, 0.242 mmol) and phenylsilane (0.026, 0.242 mmol) were mixed in the presence of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH_2Ph)(PM\acute{e}_3)$  (0.006 g, 5% mol) in  $C_6D_6$  (0.65 mL) at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by  $^1H$  NMR. The reaction was complete in 7h, giving  $(\text{PhCH}_2\text{O})_2\text{SiHPh}$  (62%) and  $\text{PhCH}_2\text{OSiH}_2\text{Ph}$  (38%).

**Hydrosilylation of benzaldehyde with phenylsilane catalyzed by  
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PMe<sub>3</sub>)**



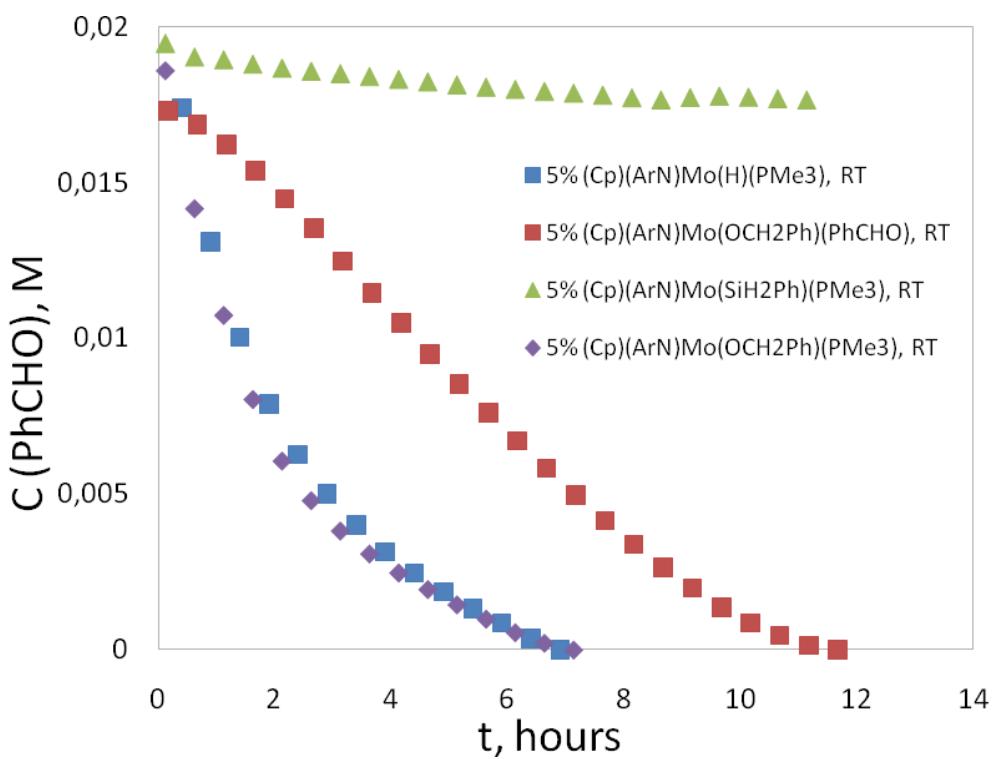
Benzaldehyde (0.026 g, 0.242 mmol) and phenylsilane (0.026 g, 0.242 mmol)) were mixed in the presence of (Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PMe<sub>3</sub>) (0.006 g, 5% mol) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (0.65 mL) at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by NMR. The reaction afforded (PhCH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>SiHPh (59%) and PhCH<sub>2</sub>OSiH<sub>2</sub>Ph (41%) in 3 days with the overall yield of 54%.

**Hydrosilylation of benzaldehyde with phenylsilane catalyzed by  
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PhCHO)**



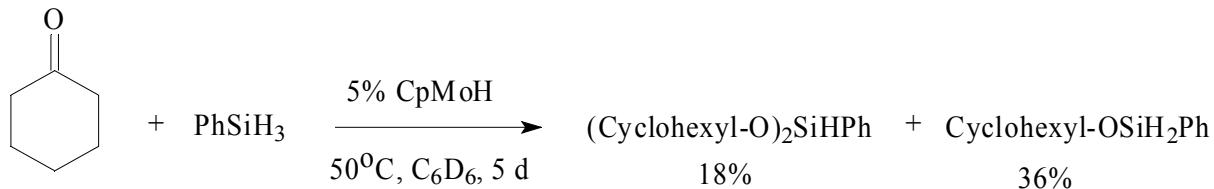
Benzaldehyde (0.026 g, 0.242 mmol) and phenylsilane (0.026 g, 0.242 mmol)) were mixed in presence of (Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PhCHO) (0.005 g, 5% mol) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (0.65 ml) at room temperature. The reaction was monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR. The reaction was complete in 12h, yielding (PhCH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>SiHPh (77%) and PhCH<sub>2</sub>OSiH<sub>2</sub>Ph (23%).

The diagram below (Figure SI1) shows the profile of phenylsilane addition to benzaldehyde in the presence of four different catalysts: (Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe<sub>3</sub>), (Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PMe<sub>3</sub>), (Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PhCHO), and (Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PMe<sub>3</sub>):



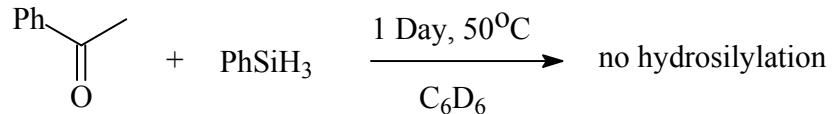
**Figure SI1.** Catalytic profile for hydrosilylation of benzaldehyde with phenylsilane in the presence of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$ ,  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$ ,  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PhCHO})$ , and  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$ ,

#### Hydrosilylation of cyclohexanone with phenylsilane catalyzed by $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$



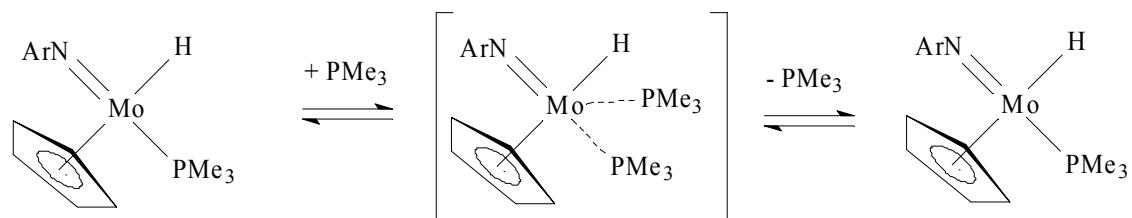
Cyclohexanone (0.035 g, 0.356 mmol) and phenylsilane (0.039 g, 0.356 mmol) were mixed in the presence of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.0074 mg, 0.018 mmol, 5% mol) in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (0.65 mL) and heated at 50 °C. The reaction afforded  $(\text{cyclohexyl-O})_2\text{SiHPh}$  (18%) and cyclohexyl-OSiH<sub>2</sub>Ph (36%) in five days in the overall yield of 54%.

**Hydrosilylation of acetophenone with phenylsilane catalyzed by  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$**

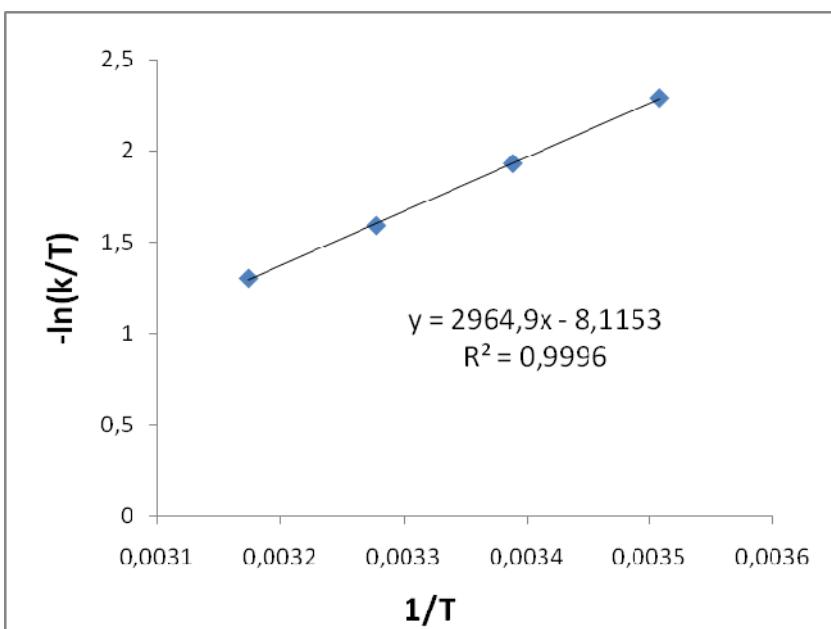


Acetophenone (0.0424 g, 0.356 mmol) and phenylsilane (0.0386 g, 0.356 mmol) were mixed in the presence of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  (0.0074 mg, 0.018 mmol, 5% mol) in  $C_6D_6$  (0.65 mL). The reaction mixture was heated at  $+50^\circ\text{C}$  for a day. There was no hydrosilylation observed. The catalyst only reacted with the phenylsilane to give  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)(PMe_3)$ .

**Activation parameters for phosphine exchange:  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3) + PMe_3$**



Trimethylphosphine (0.0017 g, 0.022 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  (0.005 g, 0.012 mmol). Several SELNOGP (selective ge-1D EXSY) NMR experiments were carried out at four different temperatures,  $+12$ ,  $+22$ ,  $+32$ , and  $+42^\circ\text{C}$ , with the mixing times ( $d_8$ ) of 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 100 and 200 ms by irradiating the peaks of free and bound phosphines. Relaxation times ( $T_1$ ) were also measured for the free and bound phosphines. The exchange rate constants and activation parameters parameters were calculated using the obtained data (Figure SI2):  $(2.89 \pm 0.04)*10^1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $+12.0^\circ\text{C}$ ),  $(4.29 \pm 0.07)*10^1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $+22.0^\circ\text{C}$ ),  $(6.22 \pm 0.12)*10^1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $+32.0^\circ\text{C}$ ),  $(8.56 \pm 0.15)*10^1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $+42.0^\circ\text{C}$ )



**Figure SI2.** Eyring plot for phosphine exchange in  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)/\text{PMe}_3$

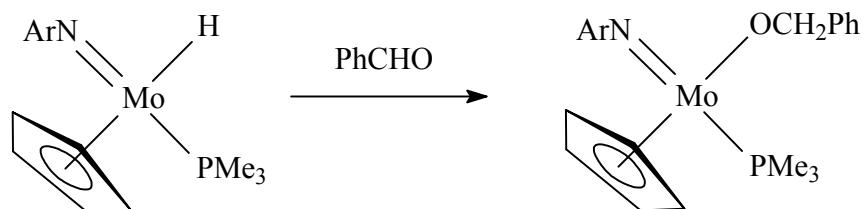
The activation parameters have been extracted from the Eyring plot (Figure SI2).

$$-\ln\left(\frac{k}{T}\right) = \frac{\Delta H^\ddagger}{RT} - \left(23.8 + \frac{\Delta S^\ddagger}{R}\right)$$

$$\Delta S^\ddagger = -(1.30 \pm 0.01) \times 10^2 \text{ J/(K*mol)}$$

$$\Delta H^\ddagger = (2.47 \pm 0.04) \times 10^1 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

#### Synthesis of $(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{Cp})(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$

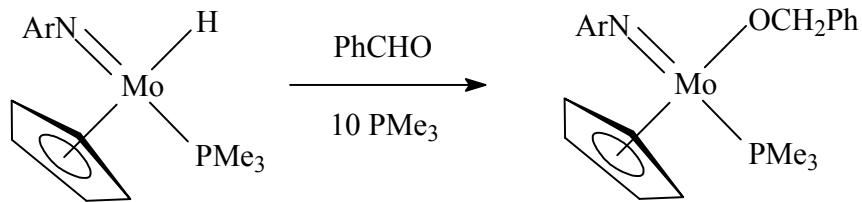


Benzaldehyde (0.053 g, 0.501 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.207 g, 0.501 mmol) in 20 mL of hexane. The reaction mixture was left for several days at room temperature until the reaction is complete. The product,  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$ , was filtered off, washed with hexane (2 x 10 ml) and dried in vacuum. Yield: 135 mg, 52%.

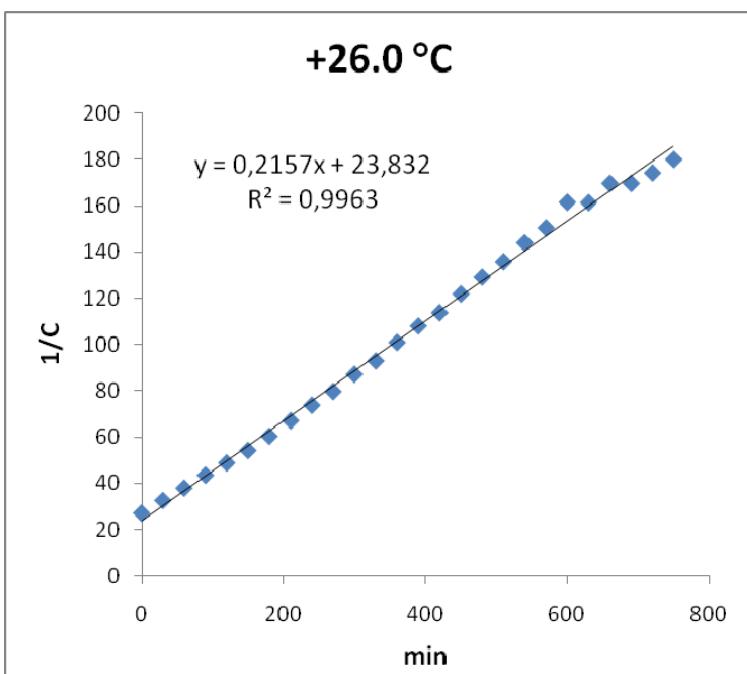
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 1.01 (d,  $^2J_{H-P} = 9.3$  Hz, 9H,  $\text{PMe}_3$ ), 1.12 (d,  $^3J_{H-H} =$

6.8 Hz, 6H, *iPr*), 1.26 (d,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.8$  Hz, 6H, *iPr*), 4.08 (sept,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.8$  Hz, 2H, *iPr*), 5.06 (s, 5H, *Cp*), 5.22 (dd,  $^2J_{H-H} = 180.3$  Hz,  $^3J_{H-P} = 14.3$  Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 7.02-7.20 (m, 4H, Ar), 7.30-7.39 (m, 2H, Ar), 7.46-7.53 (m, 2H, Ar).  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR (121.5 MHz; C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 16.1 (s, 1P, PMe<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (75.5 MHz; C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 17.1 (d,  $^2J_{C-P} = 25.2$  Hz, PMe<sub>3</sub>), 24.1 (Me, *iPr*), 24.2 (Me, *iPr*), 28.3 (CH, *iPr*), 86.0 (d,  $^3J_{C-P} = 5.3$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph), 94.7 (*Cp*), 123.4 (CH, Ar), 125.2 (CH, Ar), 126.1 (CH, Ar), 126.4 (CH, Ar), 128.5 (CH, Ar, the position of this carbon was determined by HSQC NMR), 145.1 (ipso-C, Ar), 148.7 (ipso-C, Ar), 153.9 (ipso-C, Ar).

#### Kinetic study of the formation of (Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph)(PMe<sub>3</sub>)

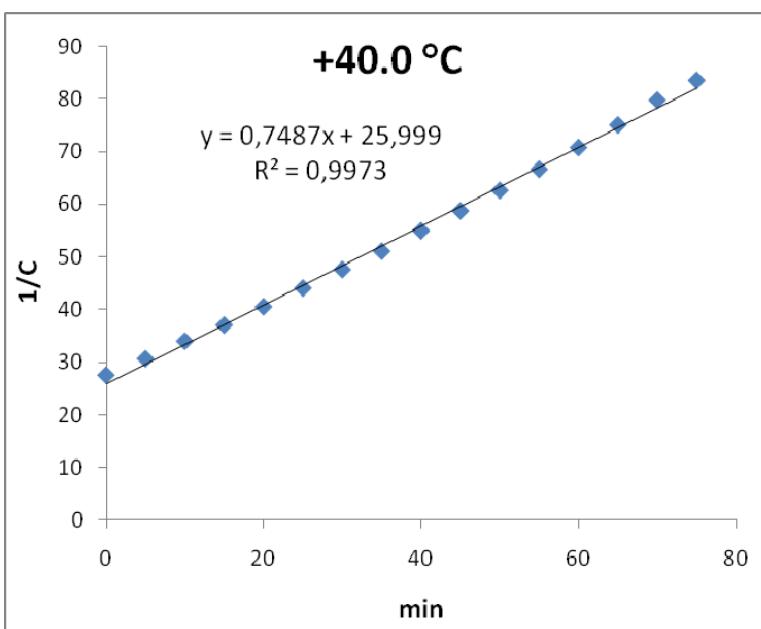


Benzaldehyde (0.0027 g, 0.026 mmol) was added to a solution of (Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe<sub>3</sub>) (0.0107 g, 0.026 mmol) in the presence of PMe<sub>3</sub> (0.0197 g, 0.259 mmol) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (0.65 mL). The formation of the product was monitored by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR at +26 (Figure SI3), +40 (Figure SI4), +50 (Figure SI5) and +60 °C (Figure SI6).



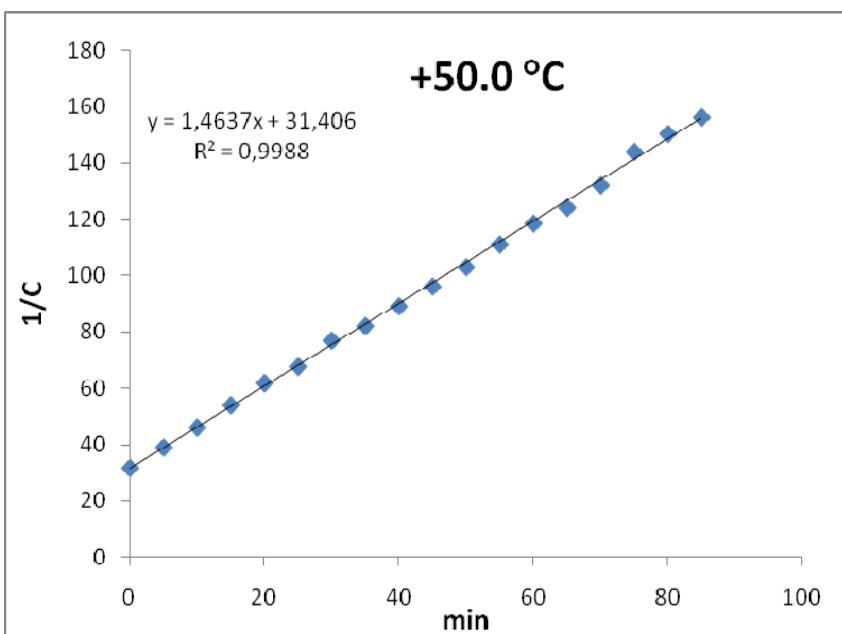
**Figure SI3.** (1/C)/time plot for the reaction of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  with PhCHO (1eq.) in presence of  $PMe_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+26.0\text{ }^\circ C$

$$k(+26.0\text{ }^\circ C) = (2.157 \pm 0.027) * 10^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{min}^{-1} = (3.60 \pm 0.05) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



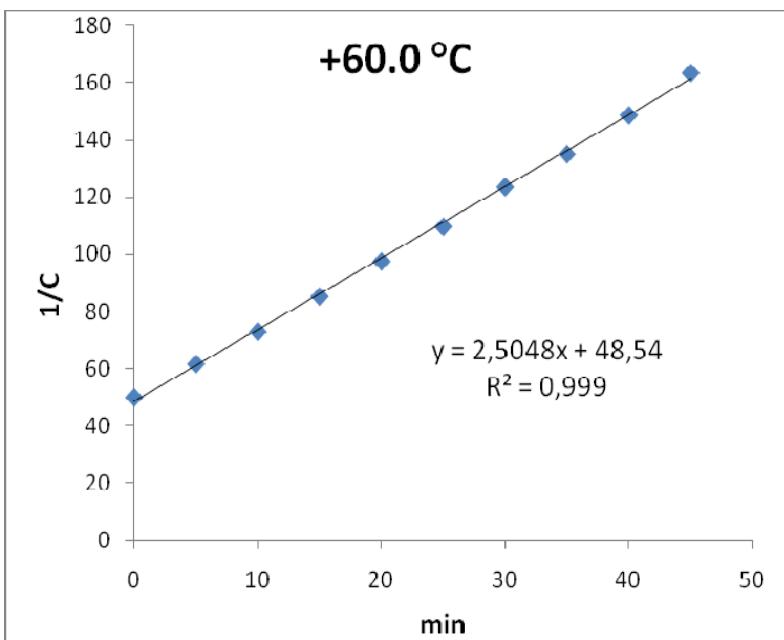
**Figure SI4.** (1/C)/time plot for the reaction of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  with PhCHO (1eq.) in the presence of  $PMe_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+40.0\text{ }^\circ C$

$$k(+40.0\text{ }^\circ C) = (7.487 \pm 0.104) * 10^{-1} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{min}^{-1} = (1.25 \pm 0.17) * 10^{-2} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI5.** (1/C)/time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with PhCHO (1eq.) in the presence of  $\text{PMe}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+50.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

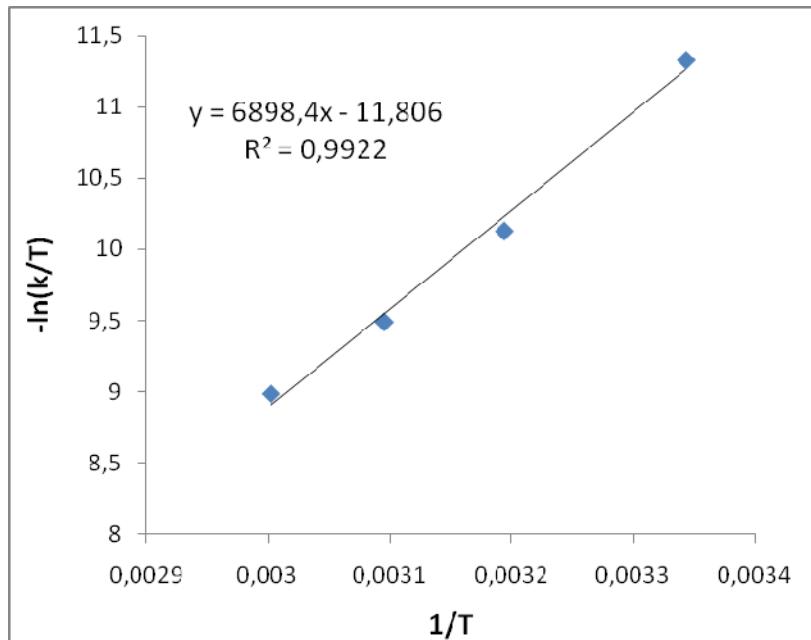
$$k (+50.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = (1.4637 \pm 0.0126) \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1} = (2.44 \pm 0.17) \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI6.** (1/C)/time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with PhCHO (1eq.) in the presence of  $\text{PMe}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+60.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

$$k (+60.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = (2.5048 \pm 0.0280) \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1} = (4.17 \pm 0.05) \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$

The activation parameters have been extracted from the Eyring plot.



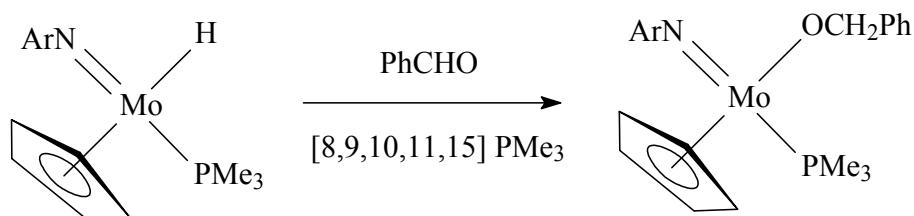
**Figure si7.** Eyring plot for the reaction of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  with PhCHO (1 eq.) in the presence of  $PMe_3$  (10 eq.)

$$-\ln\left(\frac{k}{T}\right) = \frac{\Delta H^\ddagger}{RT} - \left( 23.8 + \frac{\Delta S^\ddagger}{R} \right)$$

$$\Delta S^\ddagger = -(9.97 \pm 1.14) \times 10^1 \text{ J/(K*mol)}$$

$$\Delta H^\ddagger = (5.76 \pm 0.36) \times 10^1 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

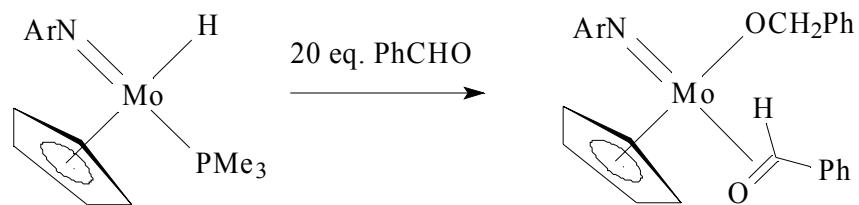
#### Formation of $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH_2Ph)(PMe_3)$



Benzaldehyde (0.0027 g, 0.026 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  (0.0107 g, 0.026 mmol) in the presence of  $PMe_3$  (8 eq (0.0158 g, 0.207 mmol), 9 eq. (0.0177 mmol), 10 eq. (0.0197 g, 0.259 mmol), 11 eq. (0.0217 g, 0.285 mmol), 15 eq. (0.0296 g, 0.388 mmol, )) in  $C_6D_6$  (0.65 mL). The formation of the product was monitored by  $^1H$  NMR at +22.0

°C. Variation of the amount of  $\text{PMe}_3$  did not influence the change in the reaction rate constant.

### Formation of $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PhCHO})$



Benzaldehyde (0.0257 g, 0.242 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.053 g, 0.010 mmol) in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (0.65 ml). Two isomers of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PhCHO})$  (**A**, 71% and **B**, 29%) formed within an hour at room temperature.

#### **Isomer A:**

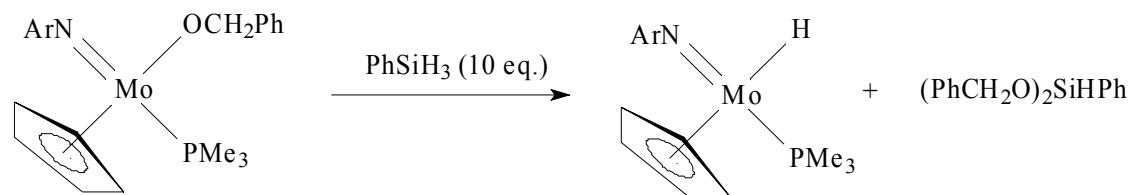
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 0.87 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.85$  Hz, 6H,  $2\text{CH}_3$ , iPr), 1.09 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.85$  Hz, 6H,  $2\text{CH}_3$ , iPr), 3.39 (sept,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.85$  Hz, 2H, iPr), 5.58 (s, 1H, PhCHO), 5.65 (s, 5H, Cp), 5.84 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H-H}} = 13.8$  Hz,  $\text{CH}^a\text{H-O}$ ), 6.25 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H-H}} = 13.8$  Hz,  $\text{CHH}^b\text{-O}$ ), 6.77-6.81 (m, 3H, Ar), 6.87-7.42 (mm, 8H, 2Ph), 7.72-7.77 (m, 2H, Ph, PhCHO).

#### **Isomer B:**

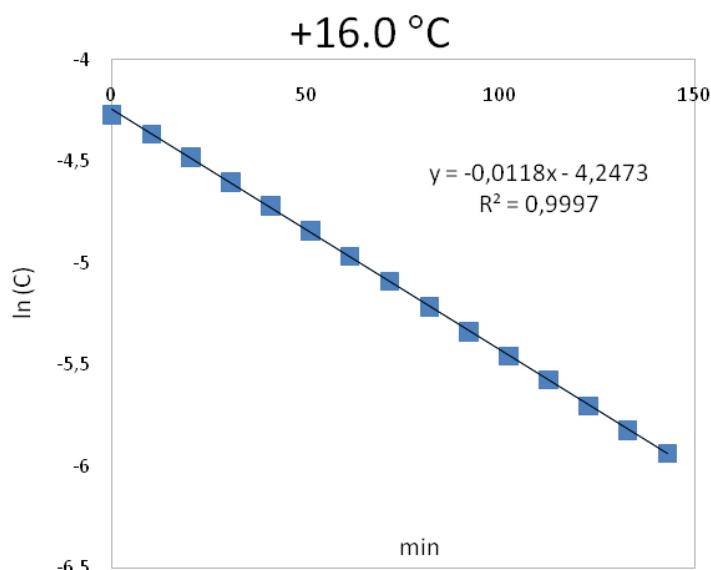
$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (300 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 1.16 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.92$  Hz, 6H,  $2\text{CH}_3$ , iPr), 1.21 (d,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.92$  Hz, 6H,  $2\text{CH}_3$ , iPr), 3.94 (sept,  $^3J_{\text{H-H}} = 6.85$  Hz, 2H, iPr), 5.38 (s, 5H, Cp), 5.92 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H-H}} = 13.8$  Hz,  $\text{CH}^a\text{H-O}$ ), 6.08 (s, 1H, PhCHO), 6.15 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H-H}} = 13.8$  Hz,  $\text{CHH}^b\text{-O}$ ), 6.91-6.94 (m, 3H, Ar), 6.87-7.42 (mm, 8H, 2Ph), 7.69-7.74 (m, 2H, Ph, PhCHO).

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (both isomers) (75.5 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 24.0 ( $\text{CH}_3$ , iPr, A), 24.2 ( $\text{CH}_3$ , iPr, B), 24.6 ( $\text{CH}_3$ , iPr, B), 25.3 ( $\text{CH}_3$ , iPr, A), 27.9 ( $\text{CH}$ , iPr, A), 28.5 ( $\text{CH}$ , iPr, B), 70.5 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{-O}$ , A), 71.3 ( $\text{CH}_2\text{-O}$ , B), 88.7 (-CHO, B), 89.0 (-CHO, A), 108.0 (Cp, B), 109.9 (Cp, A), 123.3 (CH, Ar, A), 123.5 (CH, Ar, B), 125.4 (CH, PhCHO, A), 126.8, 126.9, 127.3, 127.4, 127.5, 127.6, 127.6, 127.7, 128.0, 128.2, 128.6, 128.9, 146.0 ( $\text{C-Pr}^1$ , Ar, B), 146.6, 146.7 (C-CHO, A), 147.0 (C- $\text{Pr}^1$ , Ar, A), 148.3 (C-CHO, B), 152.7 (C-N, Ar, A) 154.0 (C-N, Ar, B).

### Kinetic study of the reaction of $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$ with $\text{PhSiH}_3$ (10 eq.)



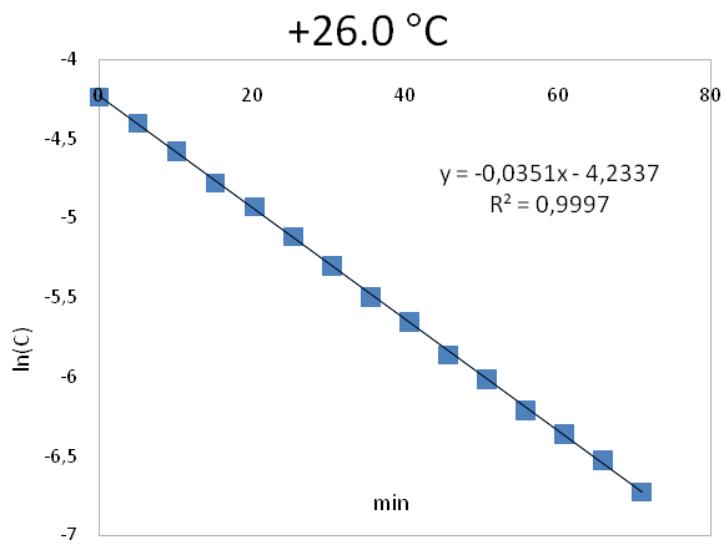
Phenylsilane (0.0117 g, 0.108 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.0056 g, 0.011 mmol) in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (0.65 mL). The reaction was monitored by NMR at +16 (Figure SI8), +26 (Figure SI9), +36 (Figure SI10) and +46 °C (Figure SI11).



**Figure SI8.**  $\ln(\text{C})/\text{time}$  plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at +16.0 °C

$$k_{\text{H}}(+16.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (1.18 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (1.97 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

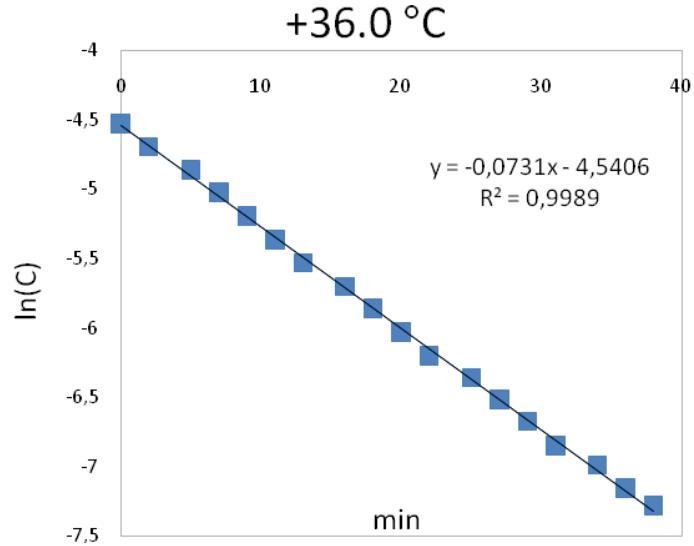
$$k_{\text{H}}^{\text{II}}(+16.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k_{\text{H}}(+16.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) / C(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (1.09 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI9.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

$$k_{\text{H}}(+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = (3.51 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (5.85 \pm 0.03) * 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

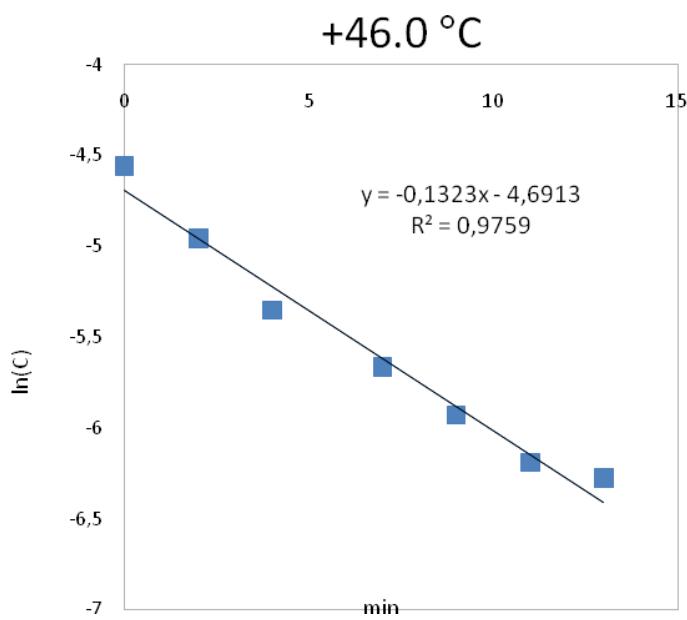
$$k_{\text{H}}^{\text{II}}(+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = k_{\text{H}}(+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C})/\text{C}(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (3.25 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI10.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+36.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

$$k_{\text{H}}(+36.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = (7.31 \pm 0.06) * 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (1.22 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

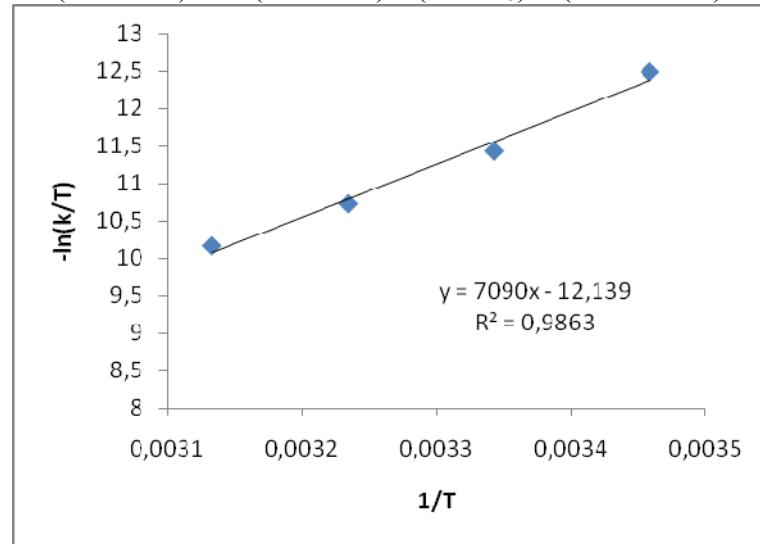
$$k_{\text{H}}^{\text{II}}(+36.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = k_{\text{H}}(+36.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C})/\text{C}(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (6.78 \pm 0.06) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI11.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+46.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

$$k_H(+46.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = (1.323 \pm 0.093) \cdot 10^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1} = (2.21 \pm 0.16) \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k_H^{\text{II}}(+46.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = k_H(+46.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C})/C(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (1.23 \pm 0.09) \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$$



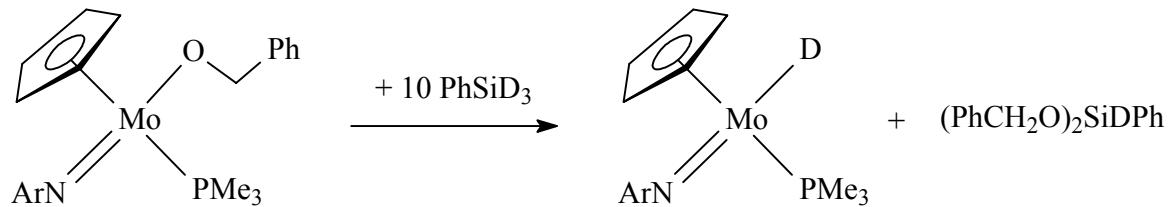
**Figure 12.** Eyring plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.).

$$-\ln\left(\frac{k}{T}\right) = \frac{\Delta H^\ddagger}{RT} - \left(23.8 + \frac{\Delta S^\ddagger}{R}\right)$$

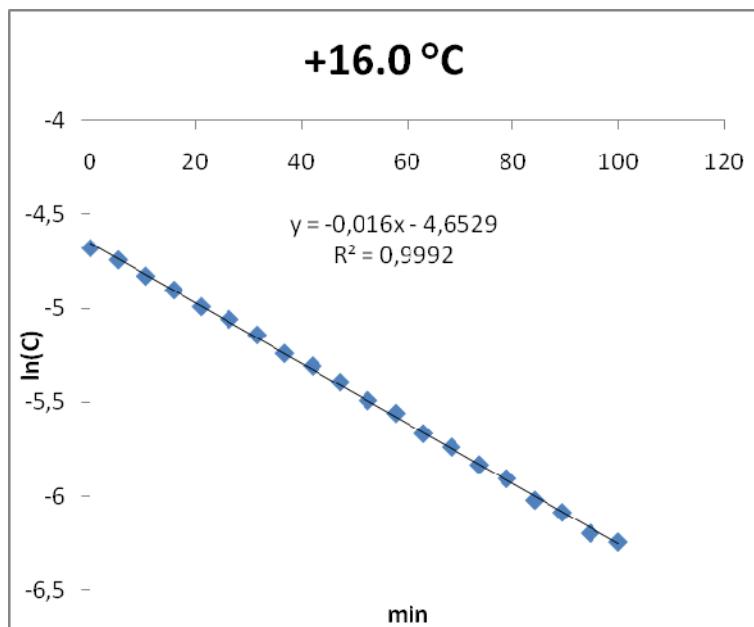
$$\Delta S^\ddagger = -(9.69 \pm 1.6) \times 10^1 \text{ J/(K*mol)}$$

$$\Delta H^\ddagger = (5.89 \pm 0.49) \times 10^1 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

**Kinetic study of the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with excess  $\text{PhSiD}_3$  under pseudo-first order conditions**



$\text{PhSiD}_3$  (0.012 g, 0.108 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.0056 g, 0.011 mmol) in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (0.65 mL). The reaction was monitored by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR at +16 (Figure SI13), +26 (Figure SI14), +36 (Figure SI15) and +46 °C (Figure SI16).

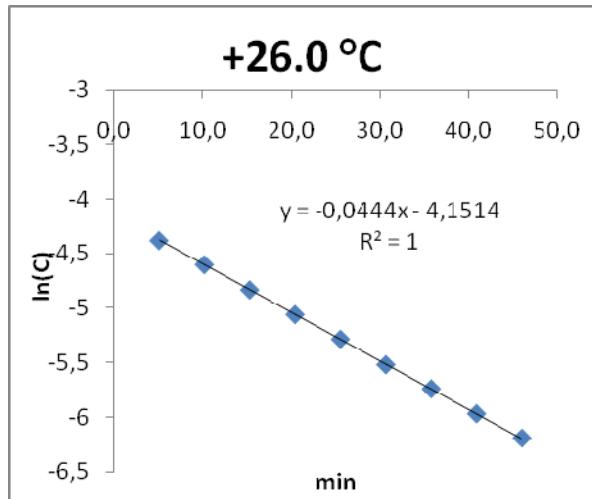


**Figure SI13.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) +16.0 °C.

$$k_D(+16 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (1.60 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (2.7 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k_D^{\text{II}}(+16.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k_D(+16.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C})/C(\text{PhSiD}_3) = (1.48 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$\frac{k_H(+16)}{k_D(+16)} = \frac{0.0118}{0.0160} \cong 0.7$$

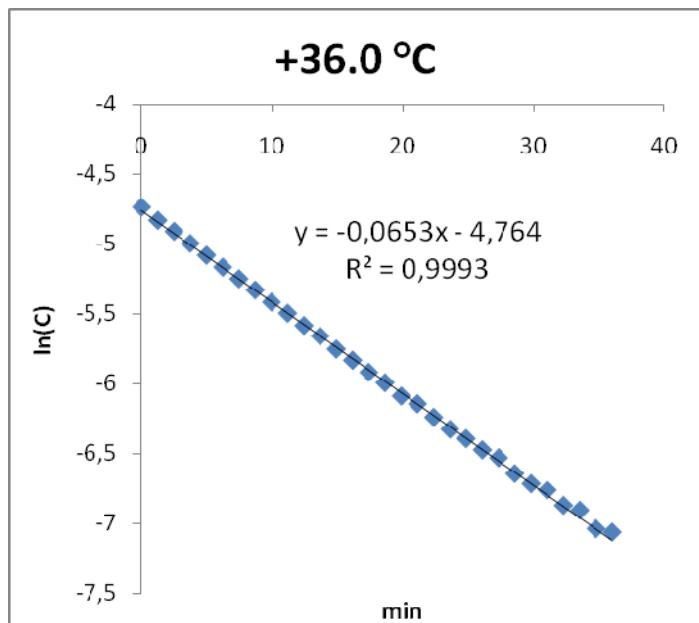


**Figure SI14.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

$$k_D(+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = (4.44 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-2}\text{ min}^{-1} = (7.40 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-4}\text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k_D^{\text{II}}(+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = k_D(+26.0\text{ }^\circ\text{C})/\text{C}(\text{PhSiD}_3) = (4.11 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-3}\text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$\frac{k_H(+26)}{k_D(+26)} = \frac{0.0351}{0.0444} \cong 0.8$$

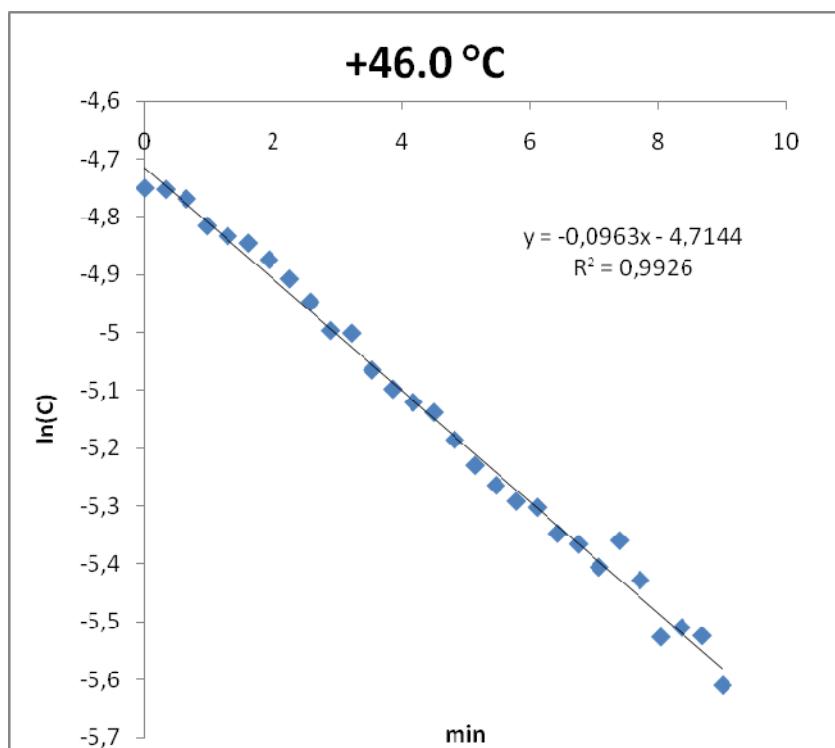


**Figure SI15.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+36.0^\circ\text{C}$ .

$$k_D(+36^\circ\text{C}) = (6.53 \pm 0.03) \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (1.09 \pm 0.01) \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k_D^{\text{II}}(+36.0^\circ\text{C}) = k_D(+36.0^\circ\text{C})/C(\text{PhSiD}_3) = (6.05 \pm 0.06) \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$\frac{k_H(+36)}{k_D(+36)} = \frac{0.0731}{0.0653} \cong 1.1$$



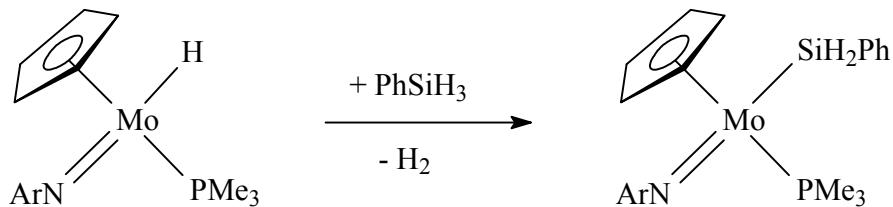
**Figure SI16.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+46.0^\circ\text{C}$ .

$$k_D(+46.0^\circ\text{C}) = (9.63 \pm 0.16) \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (1.60 \pm 0.03) \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k_D^{\text{II}}(+46.0^\circ\text{C}) = k_D(+46.0^\circ\text{C})/C(\text{PhSiD}_3) = (8.92 \pm 0.20) \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$$

$$\frac{k_H(+46)}{k_D(+46)} = \frac{0.1323}{0.0963} \cong 1.4$$

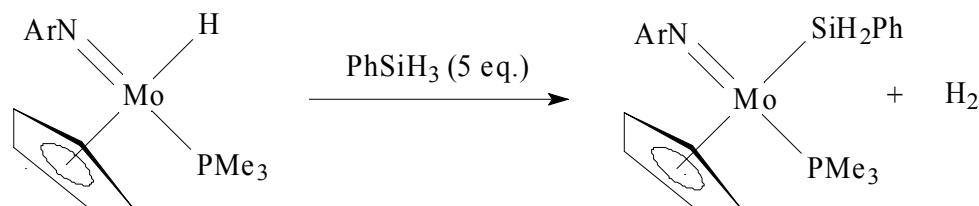
### Synthesis of $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)(PMe_3)$



Phenylsilane (0.140 g, 0.970 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  (0.270 g, 0.480 mmol) in  $Et_2O$ . The reaction mixture was left for one week at room temperature until the reaction was complete. Evaporation of all volatiles afforded  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)(PMe_3)$  (0.326 mg, 96% yield) as a brown-green oil.

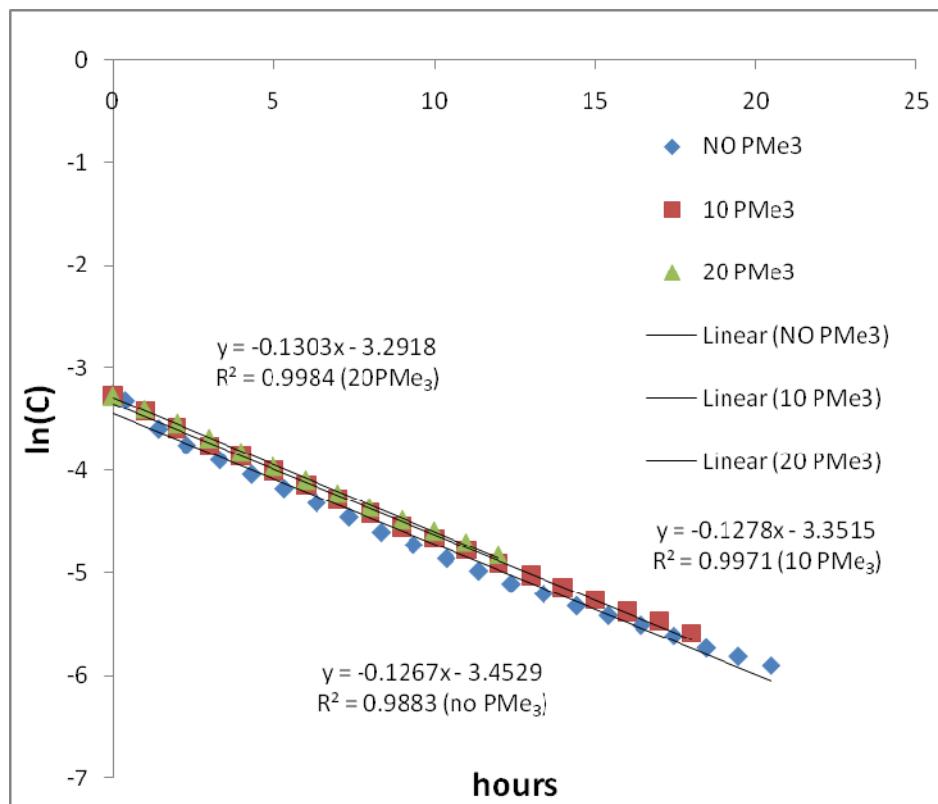
$^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 1.04 (d,  $^2J_{H-P} = 9.0$  Hz, 9H,  $PMe_3$ ), 1.16 (d,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.9$  Hz, 6H, iPr), 1.19 (d,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.9$  Hz, 6H, iPr), 4.30 (sept,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.9$  Hz, 2H, iPr), 4.70 (s, 5H, Cp), 5.18 (d,  $^3J_{H-P} = 1.5$  Hz, 1H,  $SiH_2Ph$ ), 5.56 (d,  $^3J_{H-P} = 4.2$  Hz, 1H,  $SiH_2Ph$ ), 6.89 (t,  $^3J_{H-H} = 7.5$  Hz, 1H, *p*-H, ArN), 7.05 (m, 2H, *p*-H, ArN), 7.25 (m, 1H, *p*-H, SiPh), 7.34 (t,  $^3J_{H-H} = 7.5$  Hz, 2H, m-H, SiPh), 8.12 (d,  $^3J_{H-H} = 6.5$  Hz, 2H, *o*-H, SiPh).  $^{13}C$ -NMR (75.5 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 21.5 (d,  $^2J_{C-P} = 25.7$  Hz,  $PMe_3$ ), 23.8 (s,  $CH_3$ ), 24.8 (s,  $CH_3$ ), 28.2 (s, CH), 90.0 (s, Cp), 119.3, 123.4, 125.3, 127.8, 130.5, 136.4, 137.3, 145.0 (s, aromatic).  $^{31}P$ -NMR (121.5 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 18.60 (s, 1P,  $PMe_3$ ).  $^{29}Si$ -NMR (119.24 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298 K;  $\delta$ , ppm): -4.0 (dt,  $^1J_{Si-P} = 29.8$  Hz,  $^1J_{Si-H} = 156.8$  Hz,  $SiH_2Ph$ ).

### The study of dependence of the reaction of $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$ with $PhSiH_3$ on $PMe_3$ concentration



Phenylsilane (0.0136 g, 0.125 mmol) was added to a solution  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  (0.0105 g, 0.025 mmol) in  $C_6D_6$  (0.65 mL). The reaction was monitored by  $^1H$  NMR.

This experiment have been carried out also in presence of 10 eq. PMe<sub>3</sub> (0.0193 g, 0.250 mmol) and 20 eq. PMe<sub>3</sub> (0.0386 g, 0.508 mmol). The presence of phosphine has no effect on the course of this reaction.



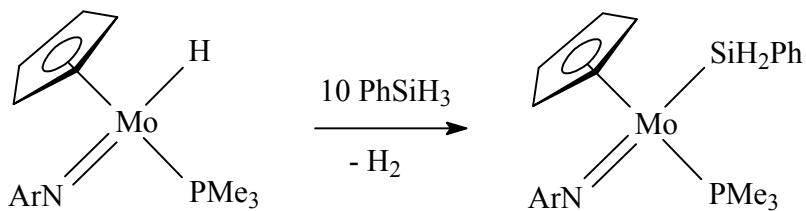
**Figure 17.** Ln(C)/time plot for the reaction of (Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe<sub>3</sub>) with PhSiH<sub>3</sub> (5 eq.) at +26.0 °C in presence of 0, 10, and 20 eq. of PMe<sub>3</sub>

$$k(\text{no PMe}_3) = (1.27 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$$

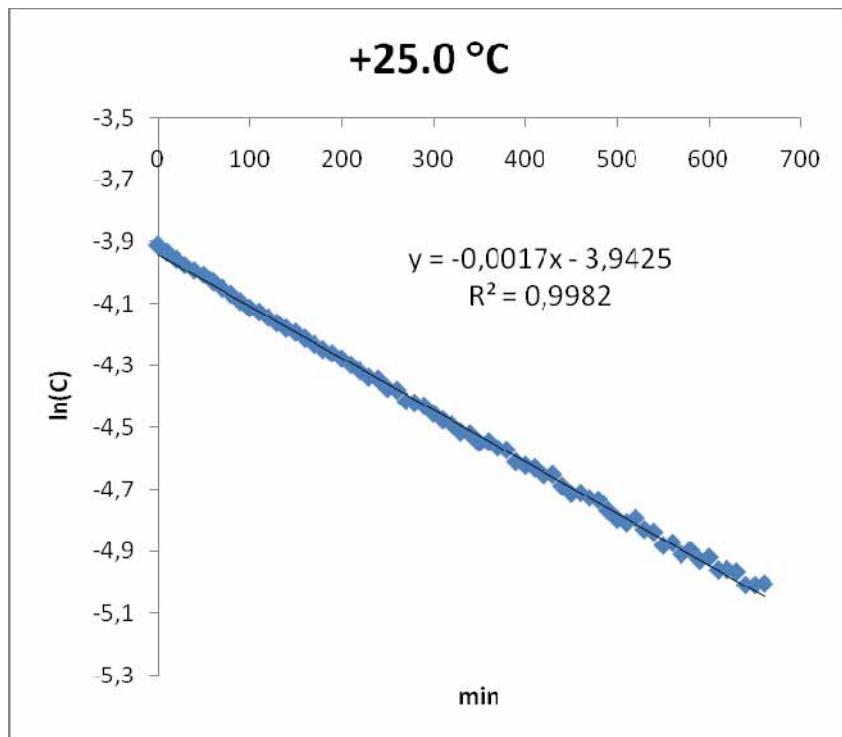
$$k(10 \text{ PMe}_3) = (1.28 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$$

$$k(20 \text{ PMe}_3) = (1.30 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$$

**The reaction of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  with 10 eq.  $PhSiH_3$**



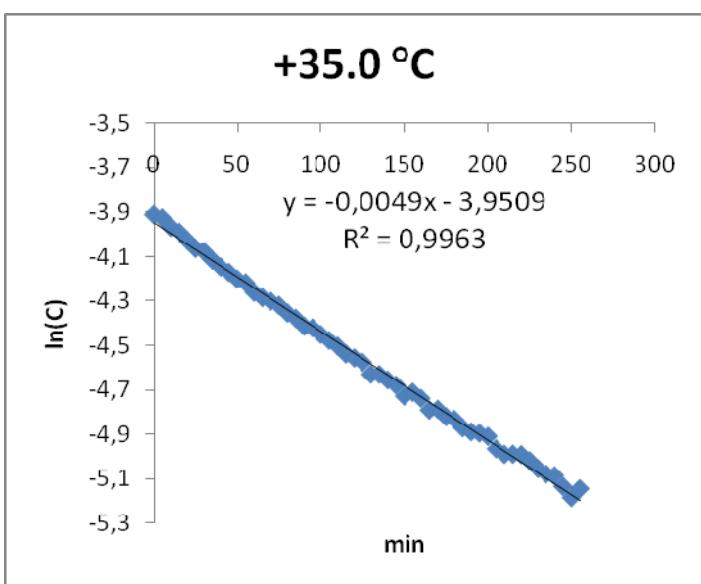
Phenylsilane (0.0131 mg, 0.121 mmol) was added to a solution  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  (0.0105 mg, 0.025 mmol) in  $C_6D_6$  (0.65 ml). The reaction was monitored by  $^1H$  NMR at +25.0 (Figure SI18), +35.0 (Figure SI19), +45.0 (Figure SI20), and +55.0 °C (Figure SI21).



**Figure SI18.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  with  $PhSiH_3$  (10 eq.) at +25.0 °C.

$$k_H(+25.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (1.70 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1} = (2.83 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

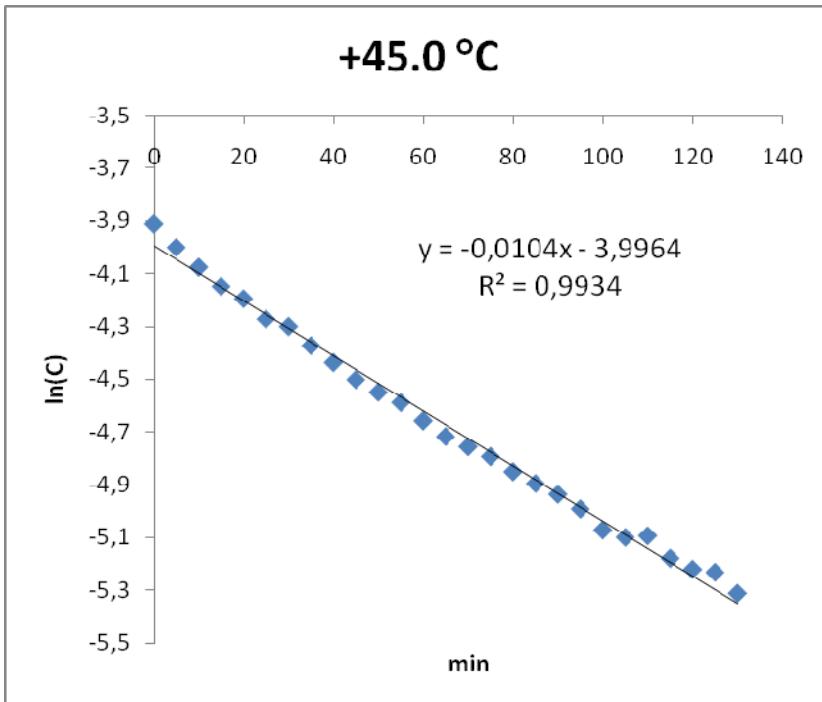
$$k_H^{II}(+25.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k_H(+25.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) / C(PhSiH_3) = (1.57 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI19.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+35.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$$k_H(+35.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}) = (4.9 \pm 0.1) * 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1} = (8.17 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

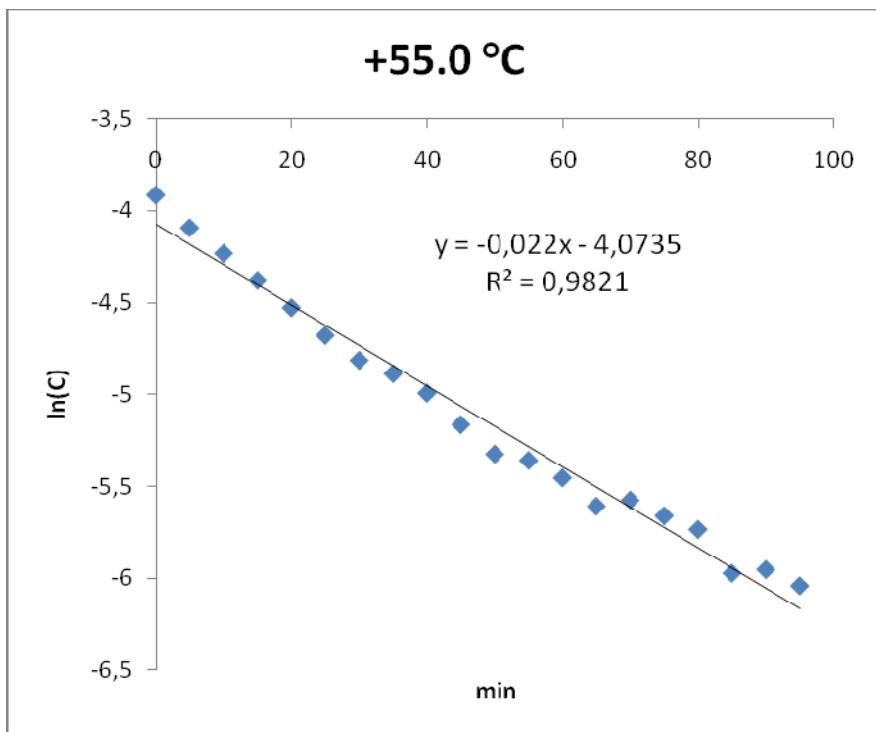
$$k_H^{\text{II}}(+35.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}) = k_H(+35.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C})/\text{C}(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (4.54 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI20.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+45.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$$k_H(+45.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (1.04 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (1.73 \pm 0.03) * 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

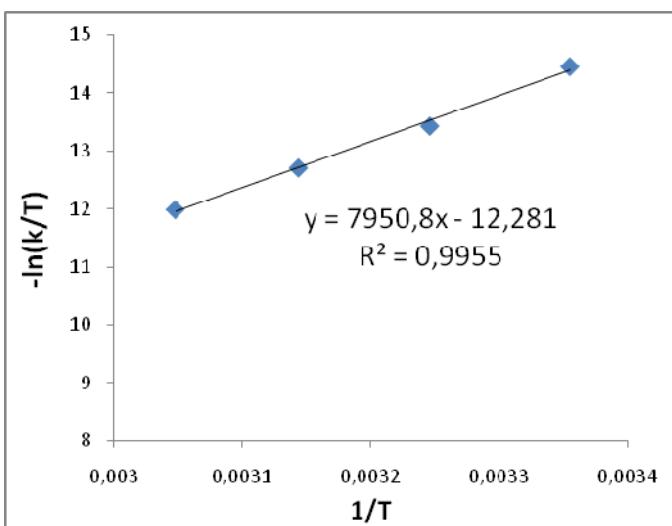
$$k_H^{\text{II}}(+45.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k_H(+45.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) / C(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (9.61 \pm 0.17) * 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI21.**  $\text{Ln}(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.) at  $+55.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$ .

$$k_H(+55.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (2.2 \pm 0.1) * 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (3.67 \pm 0.17) * 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k_H^{\text{II}}(+55.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k_H(+55.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) / C(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (2.04 \pm 0.09) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



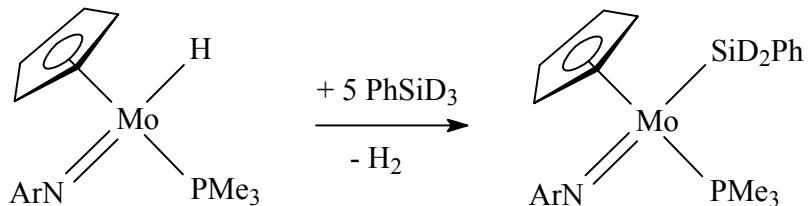
**Figure SI22.** Eyring plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.).

$$-\ln\left(\frac{k}{T}\right) = \frac{\Delta H^\ddagger}{RT} - \left(23.8 + \frac{\Delta S^\ddagger}{R}\right)$$

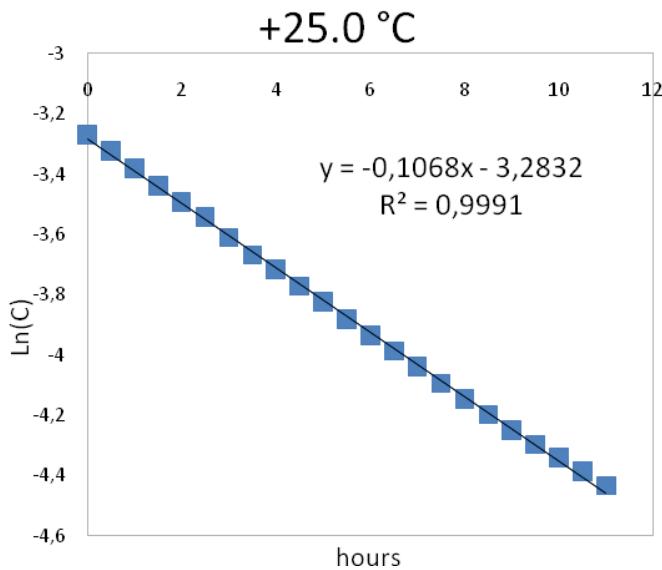
$$\Delta S^\ddagger = -(9.58 \pm 1.00) \times 10^1 \text{ J/(K*mol)}$$

$$\Delta H^\ddagger = (6.61 \pm 0.31) \times 10^1 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

#### The reaction of $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$ with $\text{PhSiD}_3$ (5 eq.)



$\text{PhSiD}_3$  (0.0136 g, 0.121 mmol) was added to a solution  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.0105 g, 0.025 mmol) in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (0.65 mL). The reaction was monitored by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR at  $+25^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Figure SI23.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiD}_3$  (5 eq) at  $+25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

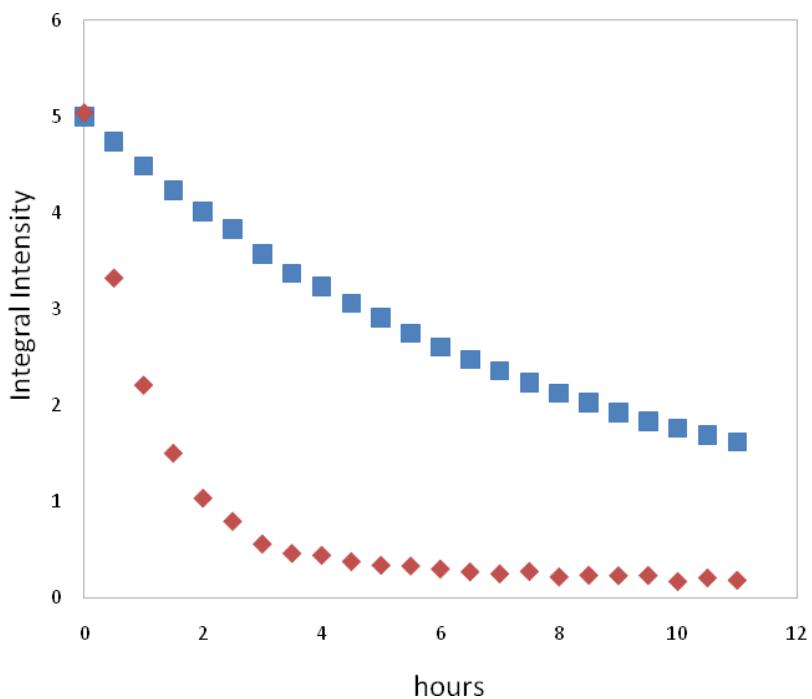
$$k_D(+25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = (1.068 \pm 0.007) * 10^{-1} \text{ hours}^{-1} = (2.97 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k_D^{\text{II}}(+25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) = k_D(+25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) / C(\text{PhSiD}_3) = (1.65 \pm 0.01) * 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$

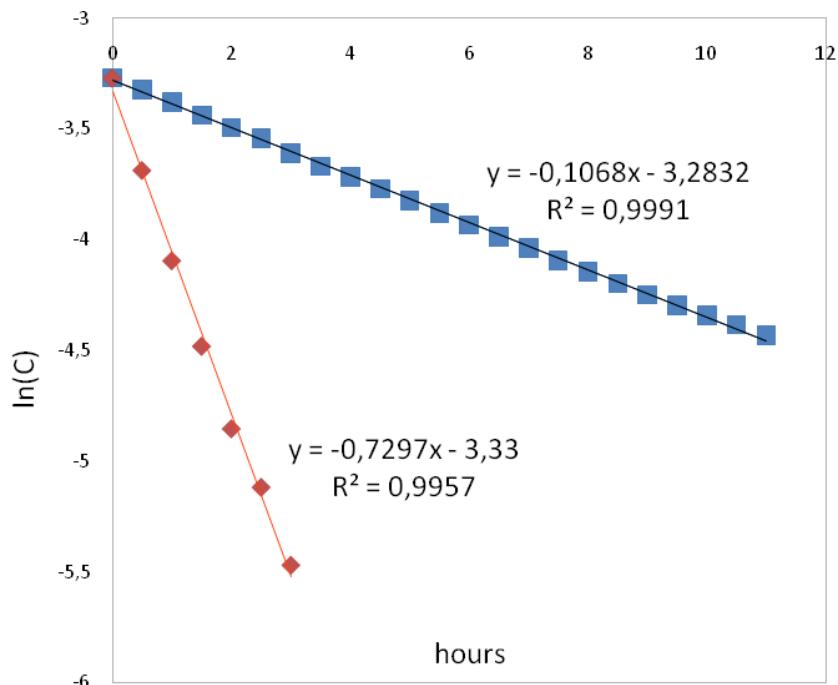
$$\frac{k_H(+25)}{k_D(+25)} = \frac{2.83 * 10^{-5}}{2.97 * 10^{-5}} \cong 1.0$$

The substitution of the Mo-bound hydride for the deuterium from  $\text{PhSiD}_3$  was observed.

The picture below (Figure SI24) illustrates the concurrent formation of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (blue marks) and the substitution of the Mo-H hydride by deuterium (red marks). After three hours, an equilibrium of the H/D exchange has been reached, while the formation of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  achieved only  $\sim 30\%$ .



**Figure SI24.** Relative integral intensity vs. time. Concurrent formation of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (blue marks) and substitution of Mo-H by deuterium (red marks) in the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiD}_3$  (5 eq) at  $+25^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Figure SI25.**  $\ln(C)/\text{time}$  plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhSiD}_3$  (5 eq) at  $+25^\circ\text{C}$ . Red line illustrates the disappearance of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$ . Blue line indicates the conversion of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H/D})(\text{PMe}_3)$  into  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{SiD}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$ .

The blue line (Figure SI25) shows the progress of conversion of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H/D})(\text{PMe}_3)$  into  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{SiD}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$ . The red line shows the disappearance of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$ , which is the result of both the H/D exchange and the conversion into the silyl-phosphine complex.

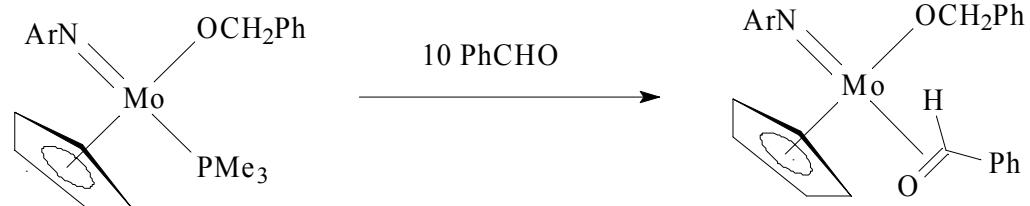
Taking these observations into account, it is possible to find both constants:

$k_1 = (0.1068 \pm 0.0007) \text{ hours}^{-1} = (2.97 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (the rate constant of the conversion to the silyl-phosphine complex),

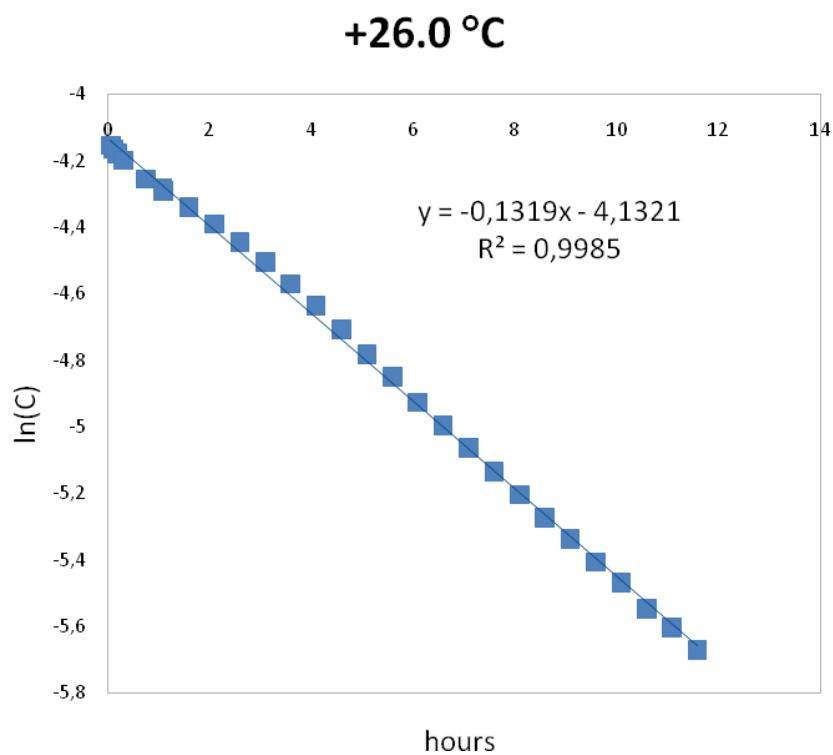
$k_1 + k_2 = (0.7297 \pm 0.0214) \text{ hours}^{-1}$ , where  $k_2 = (0.6230 \pm 0.0207) \text{ hours}^{-1} = (1.73 \pm 0.06) * 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (the rate constant of substitution of H by D).

$$\frac{k_2}{k_1} = \frac{0.6230}{0.1068} \approx 5.8$$

#### The kinetic study of the reaction of $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$ with $\text{PhCHO}$ (10 eq.)



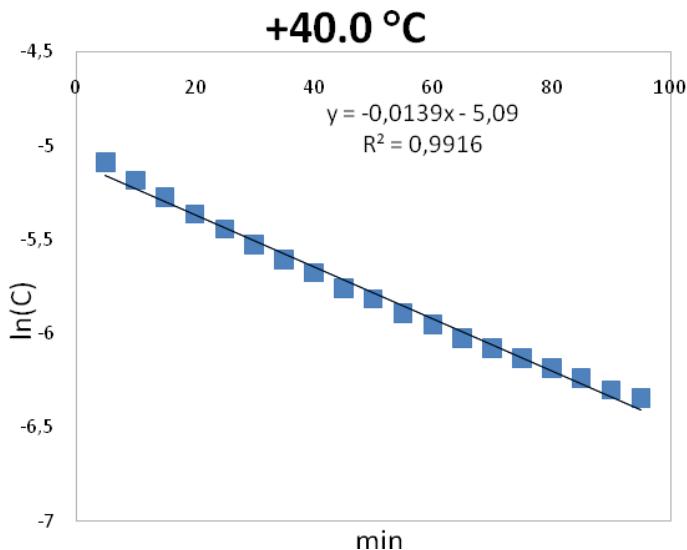
Benzaldehyde (0.0108 g, 0.102 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.0053 g, 0.010 mmol) in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (0.65 mL). The reaction was monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR at  $+26.0^\circ\text{C}$  (Figure SI26),  $+40.0^\circ\text{C}$  (Figure SI27), and  $+55.0^\circ\text{C}$  (Figure SI28).



**Figure SI26.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with PhCHO (10 eq.) at +26.0 °C.

$$k(+26.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (0.132 \pm 0.001) \text{ h}^{-1} = (3.66 \pm 0.03) * 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

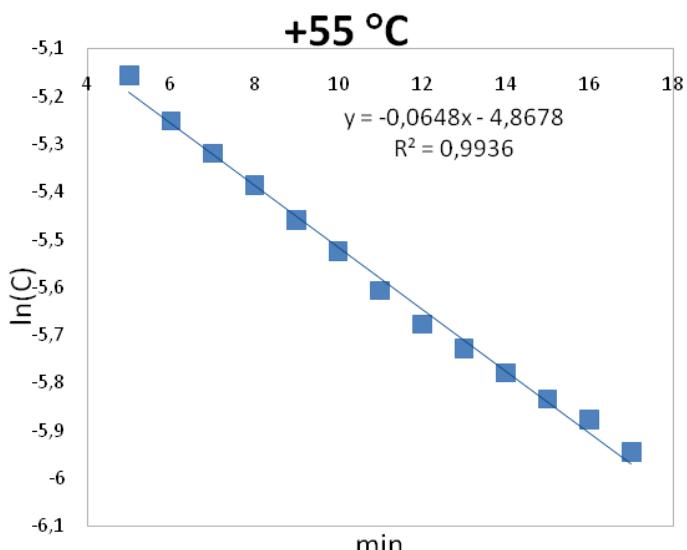
$$k^{\text{II}}(+26.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k(+26.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C})/\text{C(PhCHO)} = (2.15 \pm 0.02) * 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI27.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with PhCHO (10 eq.) at  $+40.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$$k (+40.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}) = (1.39 \pm 0.03) * 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (2.31 \pm 0.05) * 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

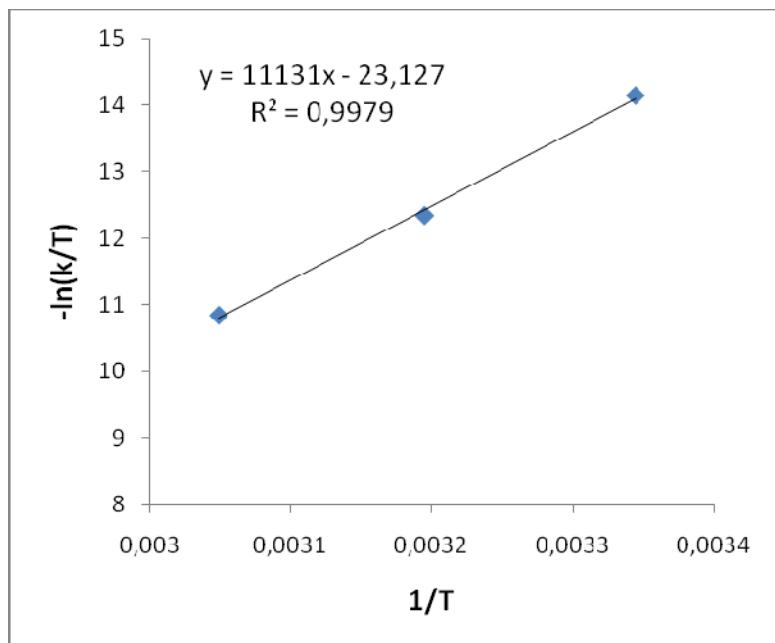
$$k^{\text{II}} (+40.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}) = k_H (+40.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}) / C(\text{PhCHO}) = (1.36 \pm 0.03) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



**Figure SI28.**  $\ln(C)$ /time plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with PhCHO (10 eq.) at  $+55.0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

$$k (+55.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (6.48 \pm 0.16) * 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1} = (1.08 \pm 0.03) * 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k^{\text{II}} (+55.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k_H (+55.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) / C(\text{PhCHO}) = (2.04 \pm 0.09) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$



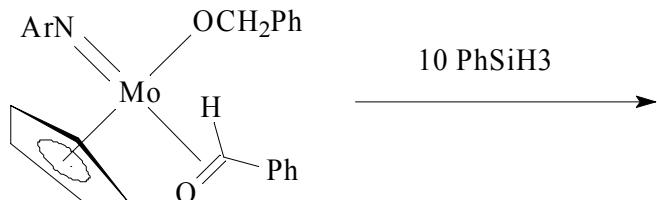
**Figure SI29.** Eyring plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$  with  $\text{PhCHO}$  (10 eq.)

$$-\ln\left(\frac{k}{T}\right) = \frac{\Delta H^\ddagger}{RT} - \left(23.8 + \frac{\Delta S^\ddagger}{R}\right)$$

$$\Delta S^\ddagger = -(5.6 \pm 13.6) \text{ J/(K*mol)}$$

$$\Delta H^\ddagger = (9.25 \pm 0.43) * 10^1 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

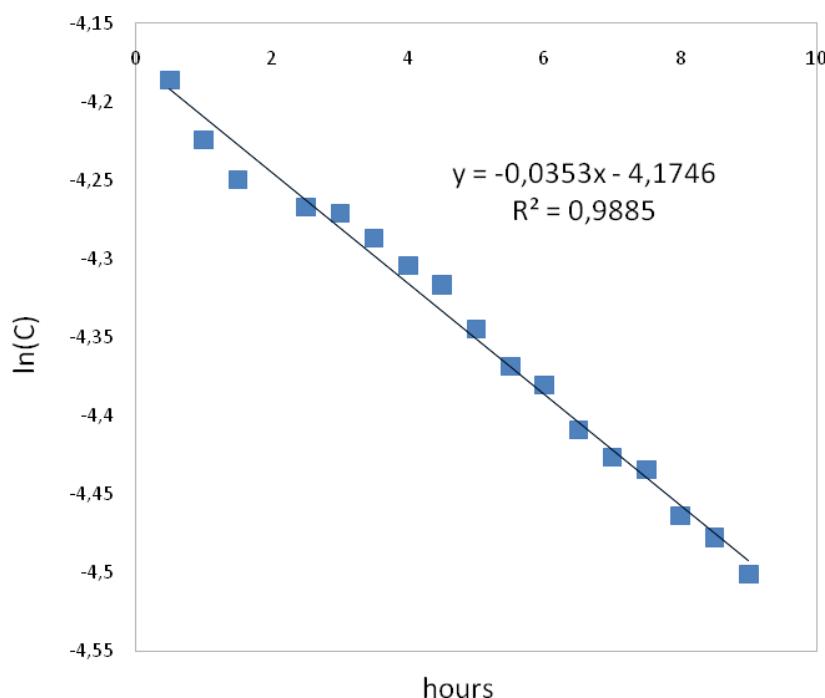
#### Reaction of $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PhCHO})$ with excess of $\text{PhCHO}$



Phenylsilane (0.0257 g, 0.242 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.053 g, 0.010 mmol) in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (0.65 ml). The reaction afforded  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PhCHO})$  in an hour at room temperature. All volatiles were evaporated, and the residue was dissolved in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$

(0.65 mL). Phenylsilane (0.013 g, 0.121 mmol) was added to the solution, and the reaction was monitored by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. The reaction did not afford an individual product. The reaction mixture contained some amounts of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})_2(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})$  and  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{H})$  distinguished by their characteristic peaks of the Mo-H protons, -0.51 ppm (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H) and 0.59 ppm (d,  $J = 4.9$  Hz, 1H) and -1.30 ppm (s, 2H) respectively.

The kinetic data show the overall process of the reaction. The changes in the  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PhCHO})$  concentration over the time have been linearized in the logarithmic coordinates.

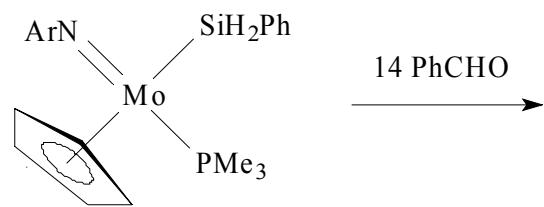


**Figure SI30.**  $\ln(\text{C})/\text{time}$  plot for the reaction of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PhCHO})$  with  $\text{PhSiH}_3$  (10 eq.).

$$k(+26.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = (3.53 \pm 0.10) * 10^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1} = (9.8 \pm 0.3) * 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

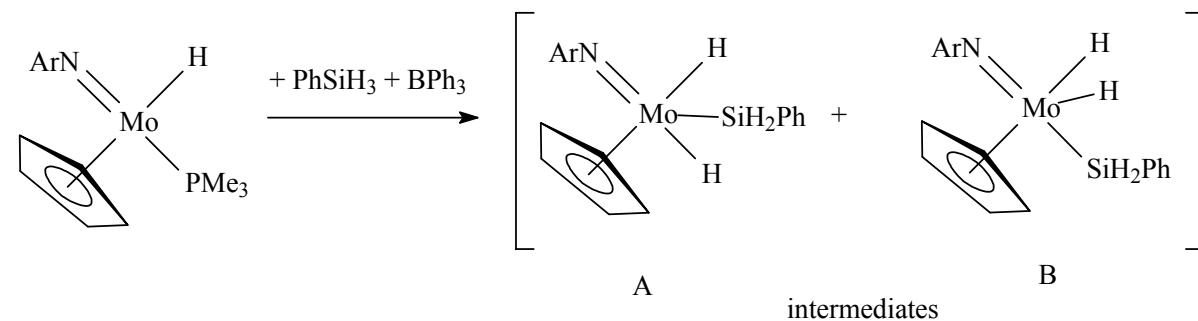
$$k''(+26.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}) = k_H(+26.0 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C})/\text{C}(\text{PhSiH}_3) = (1.08 \pm 0.03) * 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} * \text{s}^{-1}$$

**Reaction of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)(PMe_3)$  with excess of PhCHO**

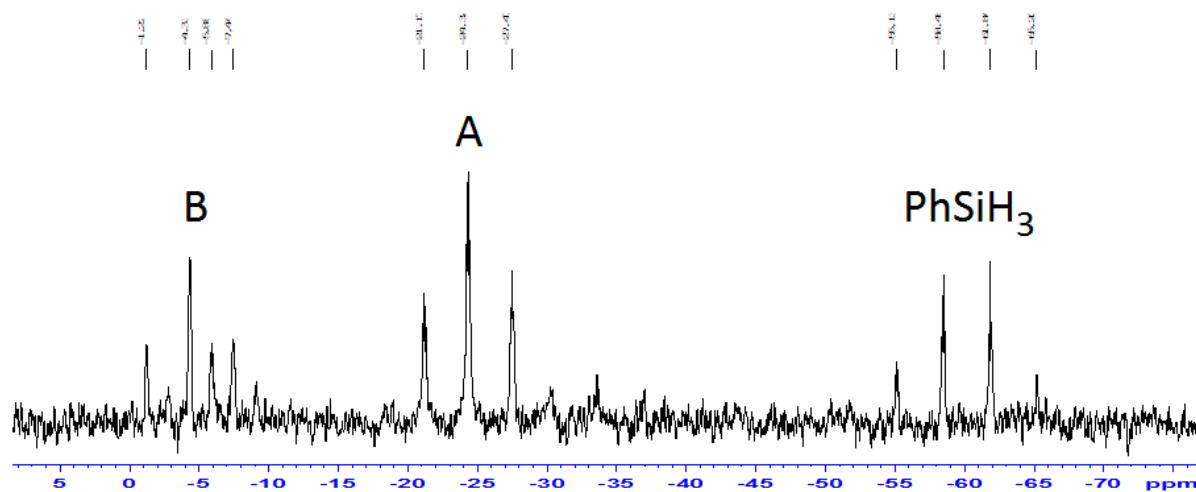


Benzaldehyde (0.0143 g, 0.1347 mmol) was added to a solution of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)(PMe_3)$  (0.005 g, 0.0096 mmol) in  $C_6D_6$  (0.65 mL). No reaction was observed after one day at room temperature.

**Reaction of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  with  $PhSiH_3$  (1 eq.) and  $Ph_3B$  (1 eq.)**

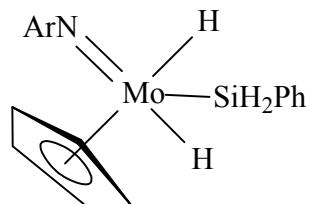


Phenylsilane (7.1  $\mu$ L, 6.23 mg, 0.057 mmol) and  $Ph_3B$  (0.0139 g, 0.057 mmol) were added to a solution of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe_3)$  (0.0238 g, 0.057 mmol) in  $C_6D_6$  at room temperature. The formation of intermediates **A** and **B** was detected by NMR (Figure SI31).



**Figure SI31.**  $^{29}\text{Si}$  INEPT+ NMR spectrum of two isomers of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})_2(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})$  (**A** and **B**) were detected. Peaks have been assigned using  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{29}\text{Si}$  HSQC and HMBS experiments.

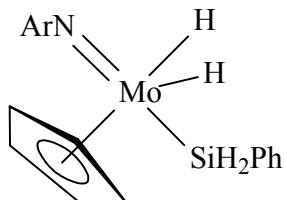
The intermediates were not stable and decomposed the next day.



$(\text{ArN})(\text{ArN})(\text{Cp})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{H})$ , **A** – characteristic peaks only:

$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (300 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): -1.30 (s, 2H, Mo(H)(SiH<sub>2</sub>)(H)), 5.82 (s, 2H, SiH<sub>2</sub>Ph).

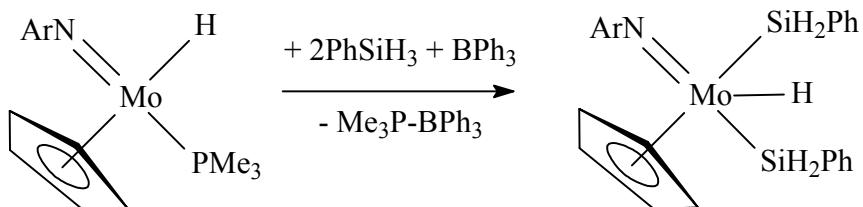
$^{29}\text{Si}$ -NMR INEPT+ (300 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): -24.32 (tt,  $^1J_{\text{Si}-\text{H}} = 188.2$  Hz,  $^2J_{\text{Si}-\text{H}} = 6.9$  Hz, 1Si).



$(\text{ArN})(\text{Cp})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{H})(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})$ , **B** – characteristic peaks only:

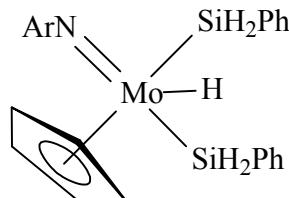
$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (300 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): -0.52 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H}-\text{H}} = 4.9$  Hz, 1H, Mo-H<sup>a</sup>), 0.58 (d,  $^2J_{\text{H}-\text{H}} = 4.9$  Hz, 1H, Mo-H<sup>b</sup>).  $^{29}\text{Si}$ -NMR INEPT+ (300 MHz;  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): -4.33 (vt,  $^1J_{\text{Si}-\text{H}} = 185.6$  Hz, 1Si).

#### Generation of $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{SiH}_2\text{Ph})_2$ .



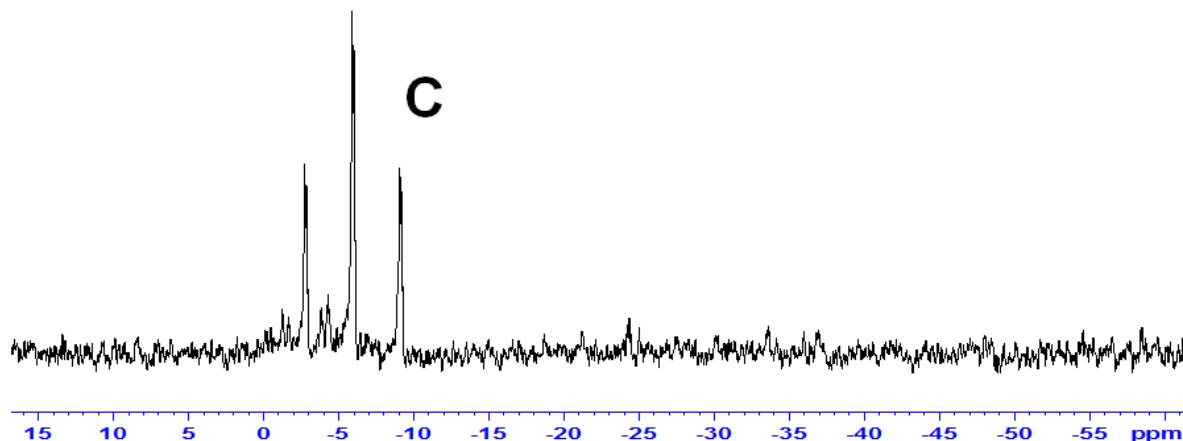
Phenylsilane (0.400 g, 3.70 mmol) and  $\text{Ph}_3\text{B}$  (0.176 g, 0.726 mmol) were added to a solution of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{H})(\text{PMe}_3)$  (0.300 g, 0.726 mmol) in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The reaction mixture was stirred for a week at room temperature until it was complete. All volatiles were removed in vacuum,

affording  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(SiH_2Ph)_2$  (0.420 g, 76% by NMR) as a dark oil. The product was contaminated with  $Ph_2SiH_2$  (~5%) and  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)(PMe_3)$  (~7-10%). All attempts to purify the compound by crystallization were unsuccessful.



$(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)_2(H)$  – characteristic peaks only:

$^1H$ -NMR (300 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): 0.28 (m, 1H, Mo-H), 4.84 (s, 5H,  $Cp$ ), 5.61 (dd,  $^2J_{H-H} = 4.5$  Hz,  $^3J_{H-H} = 2.1$  Hz, 2H, 2SiH<sup>a</sup>HPh), 5.80 (dd,  $^2J_{H-H} = 4.5$  Hz,  $^3J_{H-H} = 2.1$  Hz, 2H, 2SiH<sup>b</sup>Ph).  $^{29}Si$ -NMR INEPT+ (300 MHz;  $C_6D_6$ ; 298K;  $\delta$ , ppm): -5.90 (t,  $^1J_{Si-H} = 189.7$  Hz, 2Si).



**Figure SI32.**  $^{29}Si$  INEPT+ NMR spectrum of  $(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH_2Ph)_2(H)$ , C.

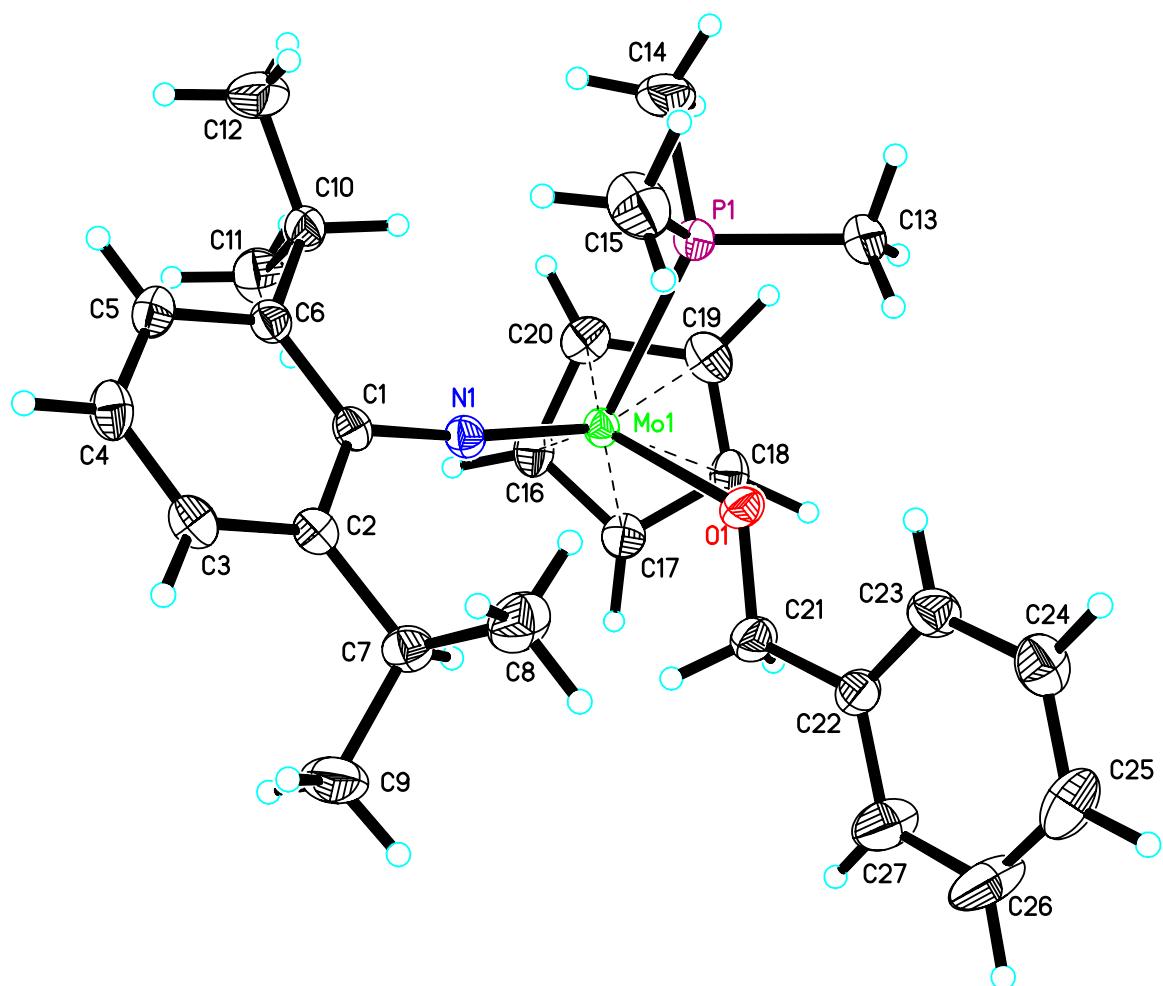
## TABLES

**Table SI1. Kinetic parameters.**

REACTION	Rate constant, <i>k</i>	$\Delta H^\ddagger$ , kJ/mol	$\Delta S^\ddagger$ , J/(mol*K)
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + PMe <sub>3</sub> , phosphine exchange	(2.89 ± 0.04)*10 <sup>1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (+12.0 °C) (4.29 ± 0.07)*10 <sup>1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (+22.0 °C) (6.22 ± 0.12)*10 <sup>1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (+32.0 °C) (8.56 ± 0.15)*10 <sup>1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> (+42.0 °C)	(2.47±0.04)*10 <sup>1</sup>	-(1.30 ± 0.01)*10 <sup>2</sup>
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + PhCHO (1 eq) + PMe <sub>3</sub> (10 eq) => (Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> )	(3.6 ± 0.1)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+26.0 °C) (1.25 ± 0.17)*10 <sup>-2</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+40.0 °C) (2.44 ± 0.17)*10 <sup>-2</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+50.0 °C) (4.17 ± 0.05)*10 <sup>-2</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+60.0 °C)	(5.76 ± 0.36)*10 <sup>1</sup>	-(9.97 ± 1.14)*10 <sup>1</sup>
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + PhSiH <sub>3</sub> (10 eq) => (Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + (PhCH <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> SiHPh	(1.09 ± 0.01)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+16.0 °C) (3.25 ± 0.02)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+26.0 °C) (6.78 ± 0.06)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+36.0 °C) (1.23 ± 0.09)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+46.0 °C)	(5.89 ± 0.49)*10 <sup>1</sup>	-(9.69 ± 1.6)*10 <sup>1</sup>
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + PhSiD <sub>3</sub> (10 eq) => (Cp)(ArN)Mo(D)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + (PhCH <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> SiDPh	(1.48 ± 0.01)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+16.0 °C) (4.11 ± 0.01)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+26.0 °C) (6.05 ± 0.06)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+36.0 °C) (8.92 ± 0.20)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+46.0 °C)	(4.20 ± 0.76)*10 <sup>1</sup>	-(1.52 ± 0.25)*10 <sup>2</sup>
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + PhSiH <sub>3</sub> (10 eq) => (Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + H <sub>2</sub>	(1.57 ± 0.01)*10 <sup>-4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+25.0 °C) (4.54 ± 0.01)*10 <sup>-4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+35.0 °C) (9.61 ± 0.17)*10 <sup>-4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+45.0 °C) (2.04 ± 0.09)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+55.0 °C)	(6.61 ± 0.31)*10 <sup>1</sup>	-(9.58 ± 1.00)*10 <sup>1</sup>
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + PhSiD <sub>3</sub> (5 eq) => (Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiD <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + HD	(1.65 ± 0.01)*10 <sup>-4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+26.0 °C)	-	-
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> ) + PhCHO (10 eq) => (Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PhCHO)	(2.15 ± 0.02)*10 <sup>-4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+26.0 °C) (1.36 ± 0.03)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+40.0 °C) (6.35 ± 0.02)*10 <sup>-3</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+55.0 °C)	(9.25 ± 0.43)*10 <sup>1</sup>	-(5.6 ± 13.6)
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PhCHO) + PhSiH <sub>3</sub> => N/A	(1.08 ± 0.03)*10 <sup>-4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> *s <sup>-1</sup> (+26.0 °C)	-	-

**Table SI2. Hydrosilylation of PhCHO with PhSiH<sub>3</sub>**

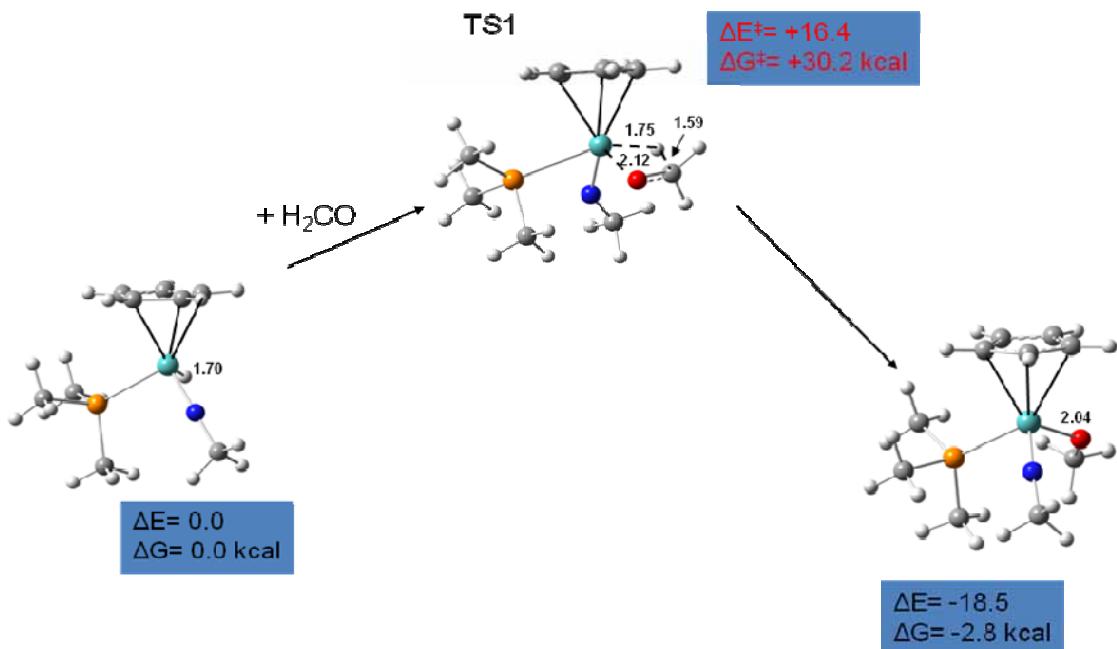
CATALYST	Products	Reactions conditions	Yield, according to <sup>1</sup> H-NMR	Catalyst mol, %	Turnover number (TON)
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(H)(PMe <sub>3</sub> )	PhCH <sub>2</sub> OSiH <sub>2</sub> Ph (PhCH <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> SiHPh	7 h	21% 79% (Σ100%)	5	20
Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> )	PhCH <sub>2</sub> OSiH <sub>2</sub> Ph (PhCH <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> SiHPh	7 h	38% 62% (Σ100%)	5	20
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(OCH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PhCHO)	PhCH <sub>2</sub> OSiH <sub>2</sub> Ph (PhCH <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> SiHPh	12 h, RT	23% 77% (Σ100%)	5	20
(Cp)(ArN)Mo(SiH <sub>2</sub> Ph)(PMe <sub>3</sub> )	PhCH <sub>2</sub> OSiH <sub>2</sub> Ph (PhCH <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> SiHPh	3 d, RT	22% 32% (Σ54%)	5	11



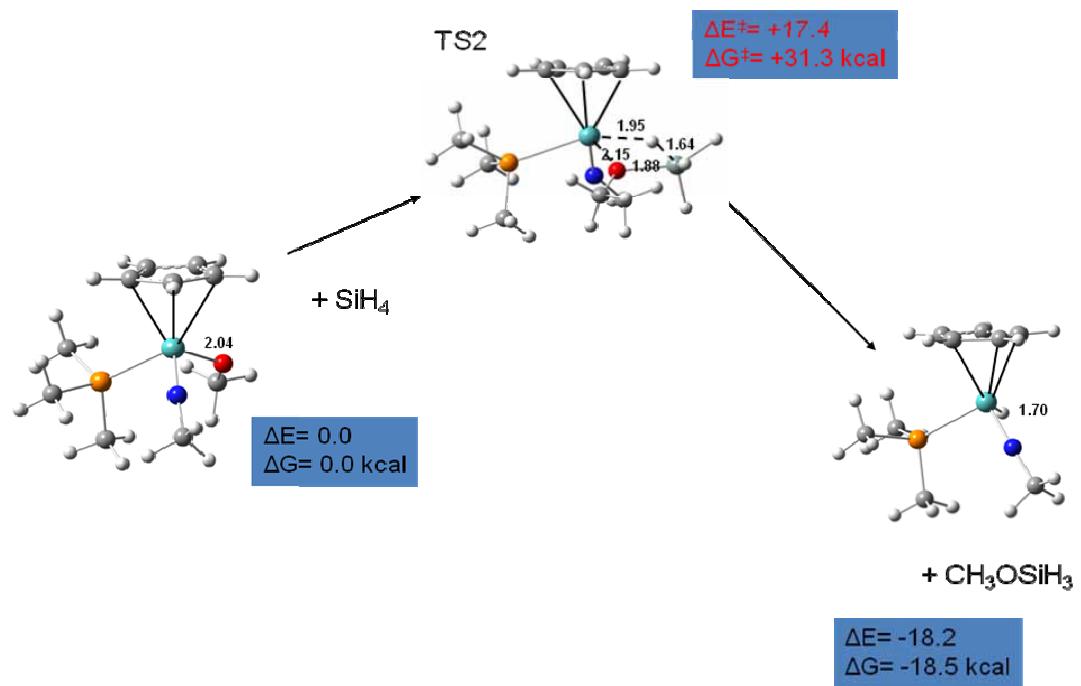
**Figure SI33.** Molecular structure of  $(\text{Cp})(\text{ArN})\text{Mo}(\text{OCH}_2\text{Ph})(\text{PMe}_3)$

## Computational Details.

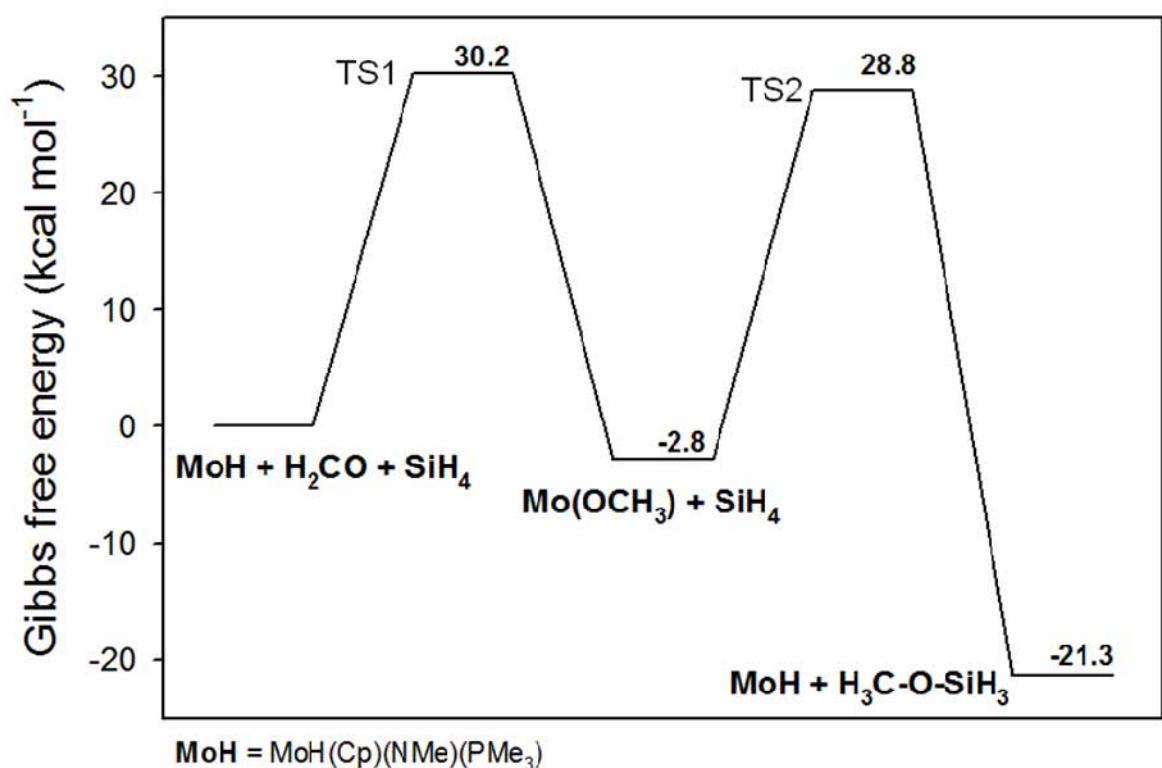
Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations have been performed using the *Gaussian 03* program.<sup>1</sup> In all calculations, the spin-restricted method was employed. Wave function stability calculations were performed to confirm that the calculated wave functions corresponded to the electronic ground state. The structures of all species were optimized using the B3LYP exchange-correlation (XC) functional<sup>2,3</sup> with the all-electron, mixed basis set (DZVP<sup>4</sup> on Mo and TZVP<sup>5</sup> on all other atoms). Tight SCF convergence criteria ( $10^{-8}$  a.u.) were used for all calculations. Harmonic frequency calculations with the analytic evaluation of force gradients (OPT=CalcAll) were used to determine the nature of the stationary points. Intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC)<sup>6</sup> calculations were used to confirm the reaction pathways through transition states (TSs) for all reactions. Free energies of species were evaluated at 298K and 1 atm.



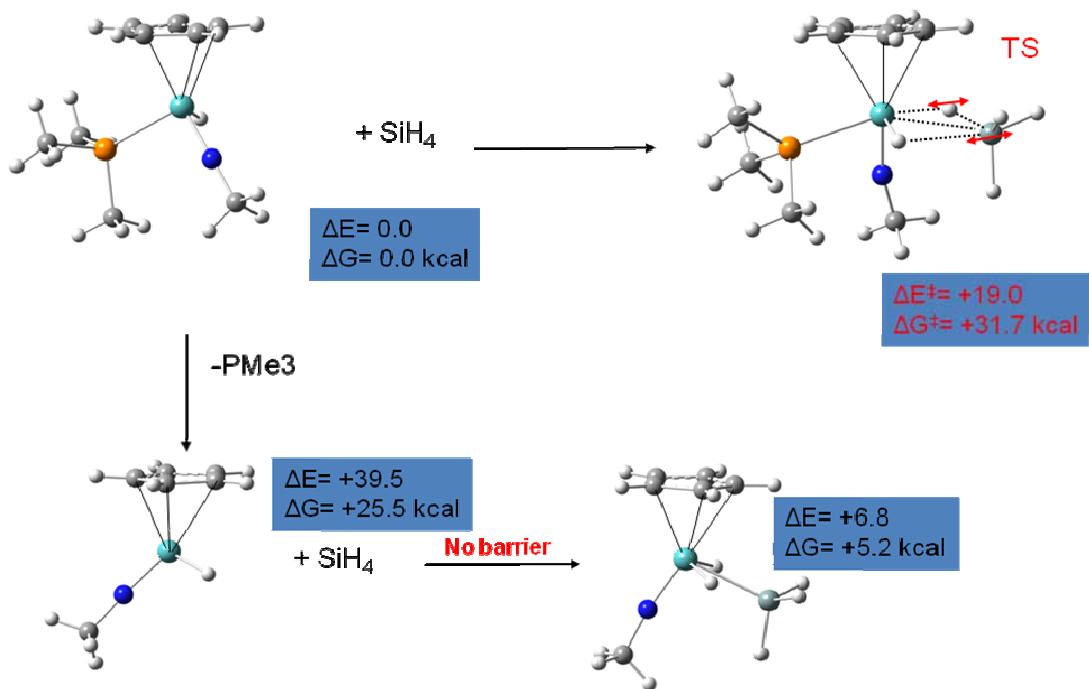
**Figure SI34. Computed reaction pathways for the formation of  $\text{Cp}(\text{MeN})\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)(\text{OCH}_3)$  (at 298 K)**



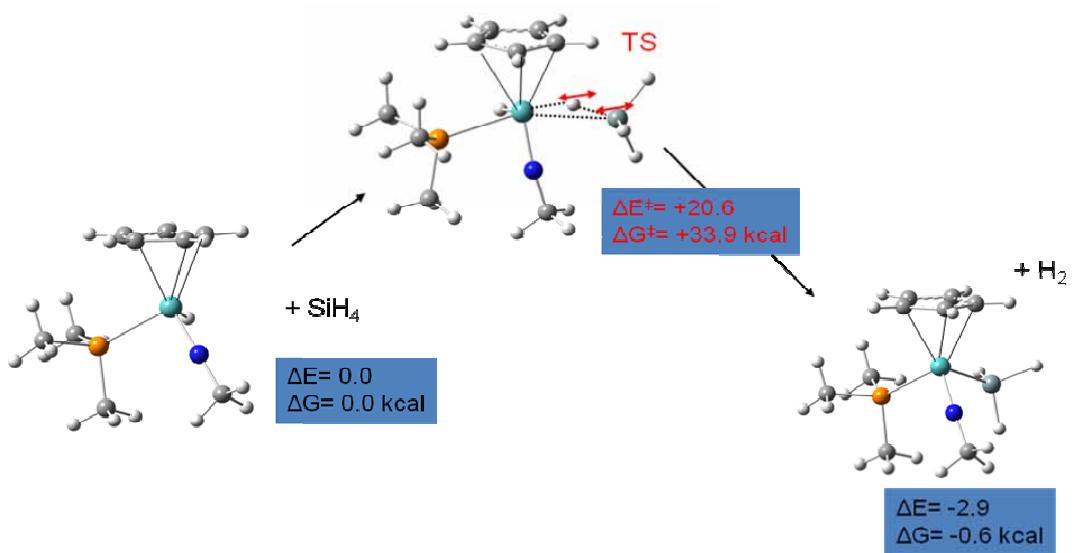
**Figure SI35. Computed reaction pathways for the addition of  $\text{SiH}_4$  to  $\text{Cp}(\text{MeN})\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)(\text{OCH}_3)$  (at 298 K)**



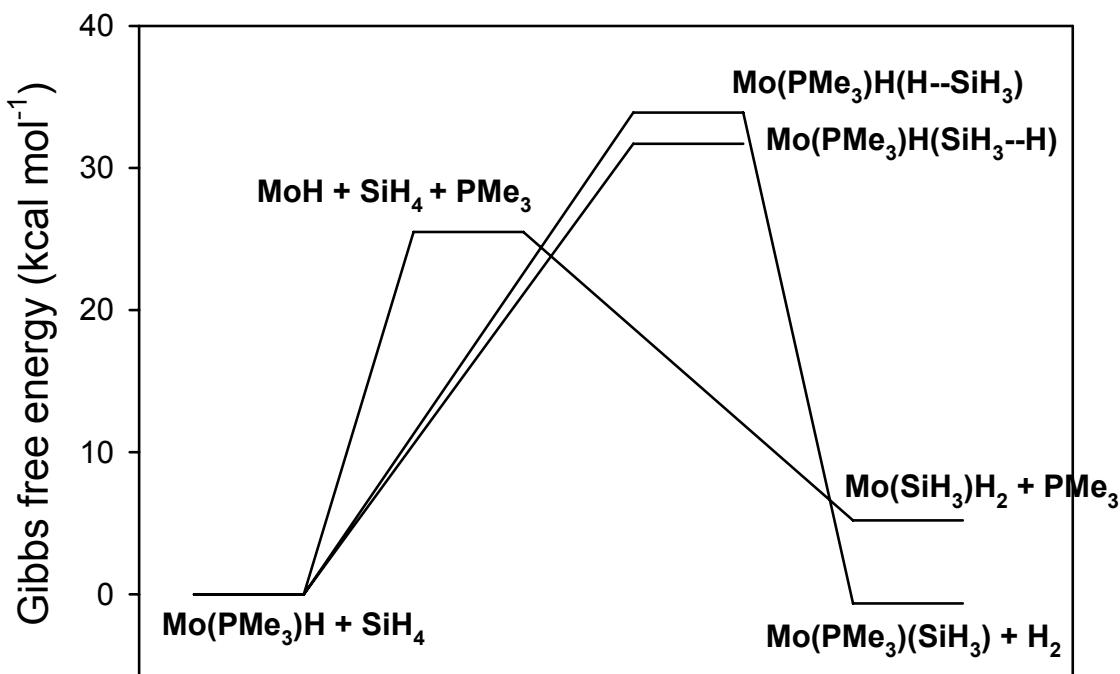
**Figure SI36.** Energy profile for the addition of  $\text{SiH}_4$  to  $\text{H}_2\text{C=O}$  mediated by  $\text{Cp}(\text{MeN})\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)(\text{H})$  (at 298 K)



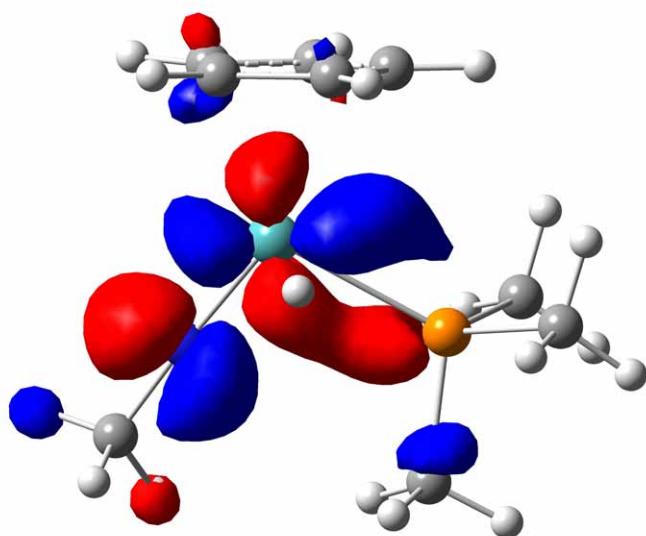
**Figure SI37.** Computed reaction pathways for the formation of  $\text{Cp}(\text{MeN})\text{MoH}_2\text{SiH}_3$  (at 298 K)



**Figure SI38.** Computed reaction pathway for the formation of  $\text{Cp}(\text{MeN})\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)(\text{SiH}_3)$  (at 298 K)



**Figure SI39.** Energy profile for the reactions of SiH<sub>4</sub> with Cp(MeN)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)(H) (at 298 K)



**Figure SI40.** The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) of Cp(MeN)Mo(PMe<sub>3</sub>)(H).

### Crystallographic study

A crystal of **3** was coated with polyperfluoro oil and mounted on the Bruker Smart APEX three-circle diffractometer with CCD area detector at 123 K.<sup>7</sup> The crystallographic data and characteristics of the structure solution and refinement are given in Table SI3. The Bruker SAINT program<sup>8</sup> was used for data reduction. An absorption correction based on measurements of equivalent reflections was applied (SADABS).<sup>9</sup> The structures were solved by direct methods<sup>10</sup> and refined by full-matrix least squares procedures, using  $\omega(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2$  as the refined function. All non-hydrogen atoms were found from the electron density map and refined with anisotropic thermal parameters, whereas all hydrogen atoms were calculated geometrically and refined using the “riding” model.

**Table SI3. Crystal data, data collection, structure solution and refinement parameters**

Empirical formula	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>38</sub> MoNOP
Formula weight	519.49
Colour, habit	black plate
Crystal size, mm	0.38 × 0.32 × 0.04
Crystal system, space group	Triclinic, P $\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> , Å	9.9782(7)
<i>b</i> , Å	10.3691(7)
<i>c</i> , Å	14.1074(10)
$\alpha$ , deg	108.5940(10)
$\beta$ , deg	96.9990(10)
$\gamma$ , deg	105.3790(10)
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	1299.42(16)
<i>Z</i>	2

$d$ , g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.328
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.584
$F(000)$	544
Diffractometer	Bruker SMART-APEX-2
Temperature, K	123(2)
Radiation, ( $\lambda$ , Å)	graphite monochromatized MoK $\alpha$ (0.71073)
Scan mode	$\omega$
Step per scan, deg	0.3
Scan time, sec	15
Theta range, deg	1.56 to 30.00
Limiting indices	-14 ≤ $h$ ≤ 12, -11 ≤ $k$ ≤ 14, -19 ≤ $l$ ≤ 19
Reflections collected / unique ?	16642 / 7517 [R(int) = 0.0238]
Completeness, %	99.2
Reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$	6610
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Min. and Max. transmission	0.8085 and 0.9770
Solution method	Direct methods (SHELXS-97, G.M.Sheldrick, Acta Cryst., A46, 1990, 467-473)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$ (SHELXL-97, Program for the Refinement of Crystal Structures. University of Gottingen, 1997)
Weighting scheme	$W = 1 / [\sigma^2(Fo^2) + (0.0372 P)^2 + 0.17 P]$
Hydrogen treatment	All H atoms were found from diff. Fourier synthesis and refined isotropically
Data / restraints / parameters	7517 / 0 / 280
GOOF on $F^2$	1.074
Final $R$ indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0289$ , $wR_2 = 0.0713$
$R$ indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0358$ , $wR_2 = 0.0740$
Largest diff. peak and hole, e/Å <sup>3</sup>	1.016 and -0.383

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