

## Supporting Information

### **White Light *and* Colour-Tunable Emission from a Single Component Europium-1,8-Naphthalimide Thin Film**

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## Section 1 - Ligand Characterisation Data

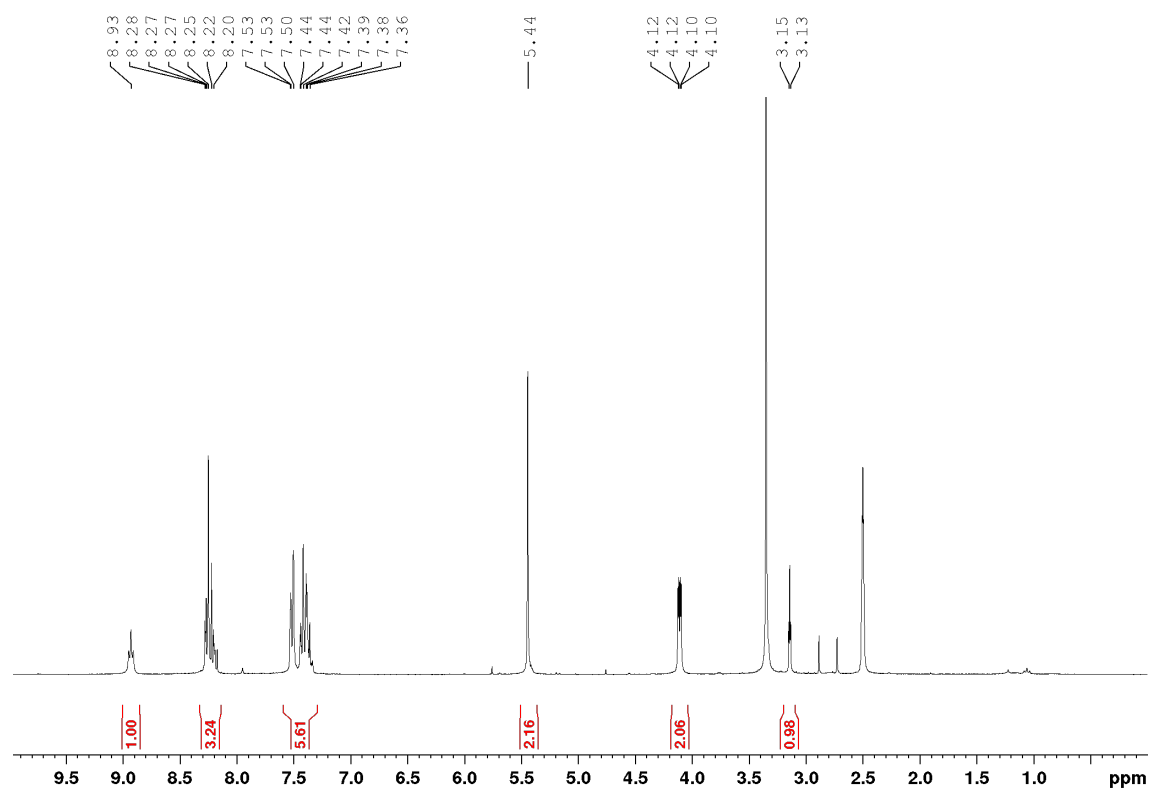


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) of A.

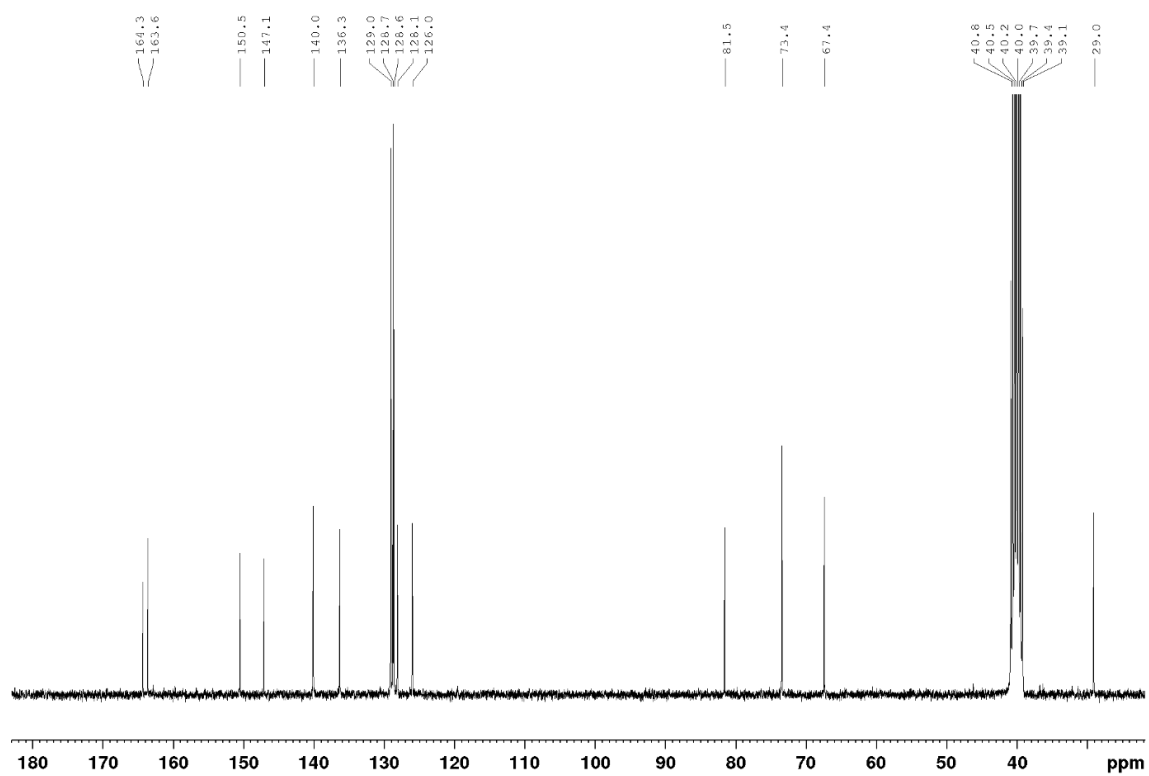
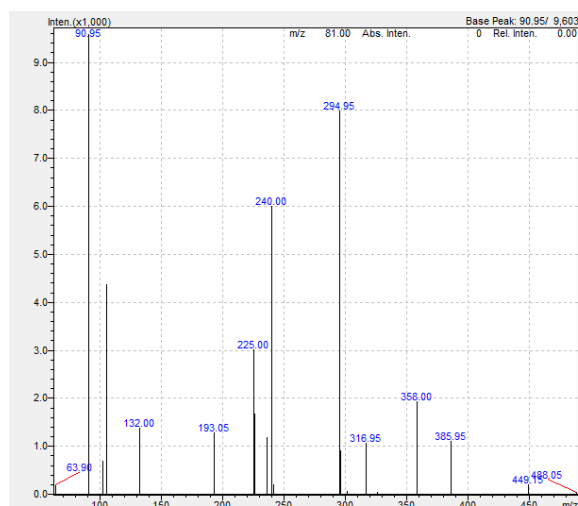
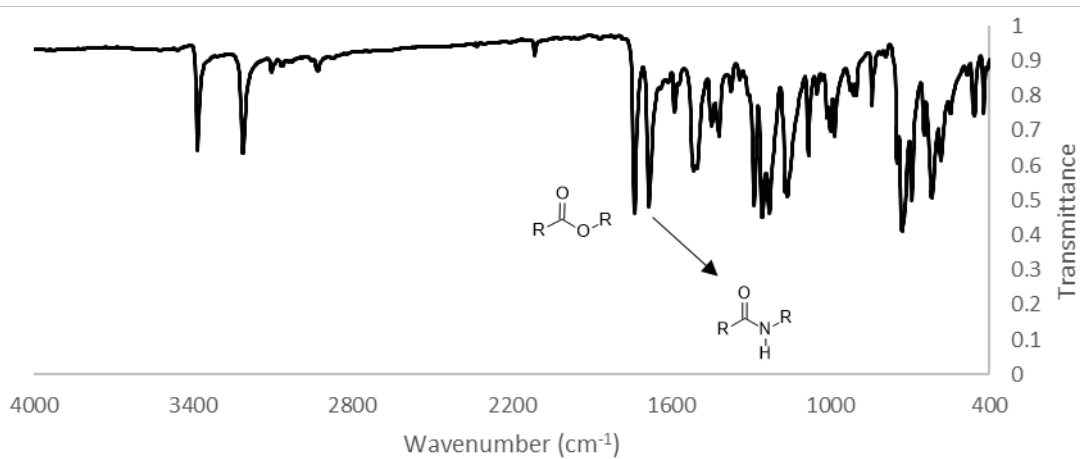


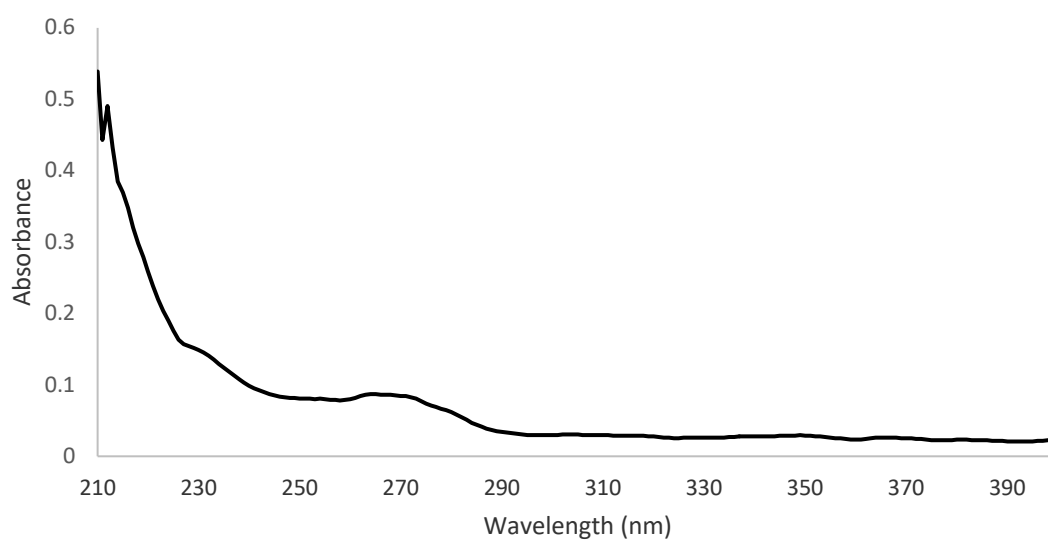
Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) of A.



**Figure S3.** LRMS  $m/z = 294.95$   $[A + H]^+$  (calc. for  $C_{17}H_{15}N_2O_3^+$ , 295.11),  $m/z = 316.95$   $[A + H]^+$  (calc. for  $C_{17}H_{15}N_2O_3^+$ , 317.19)



**Figure S4** IR spectrum of A.



**Figure S5.** UV-visible absorption spectrum of A (0.01 mM, MeOH).

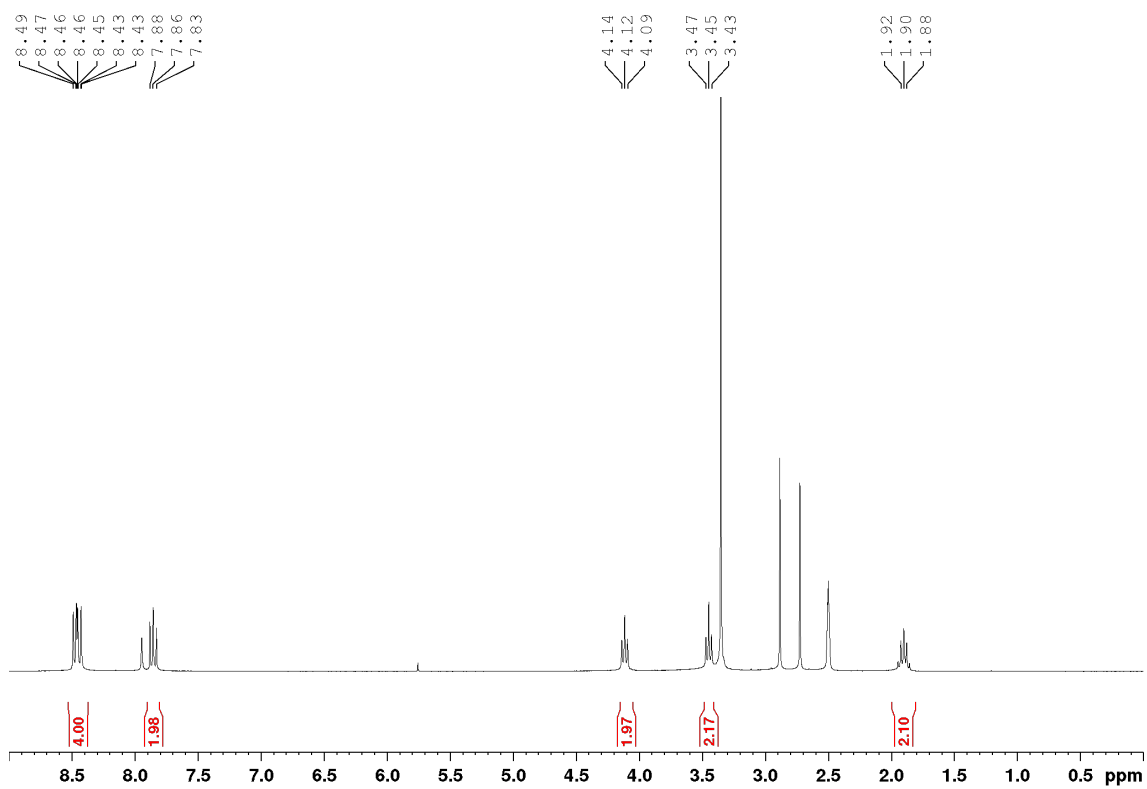


Figure S6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) of **B**.

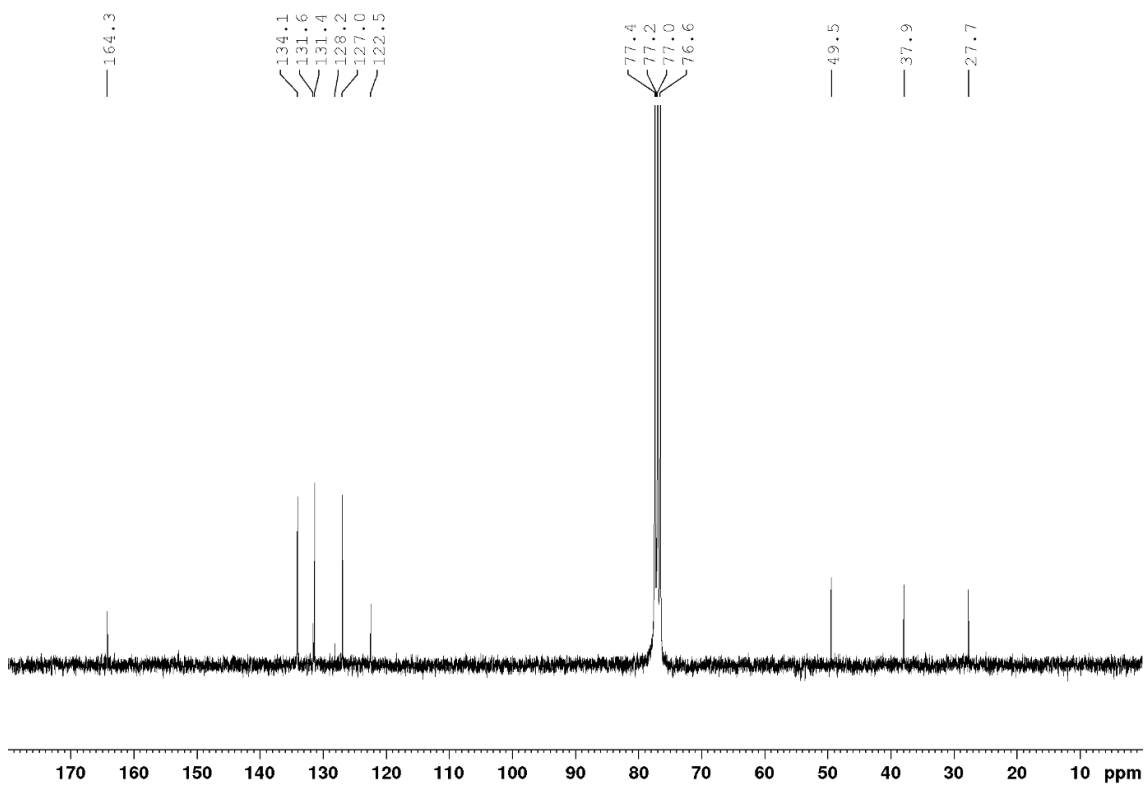
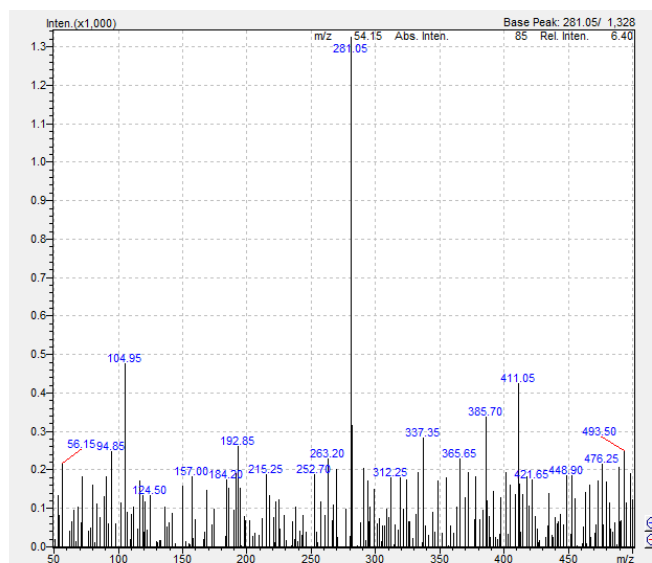
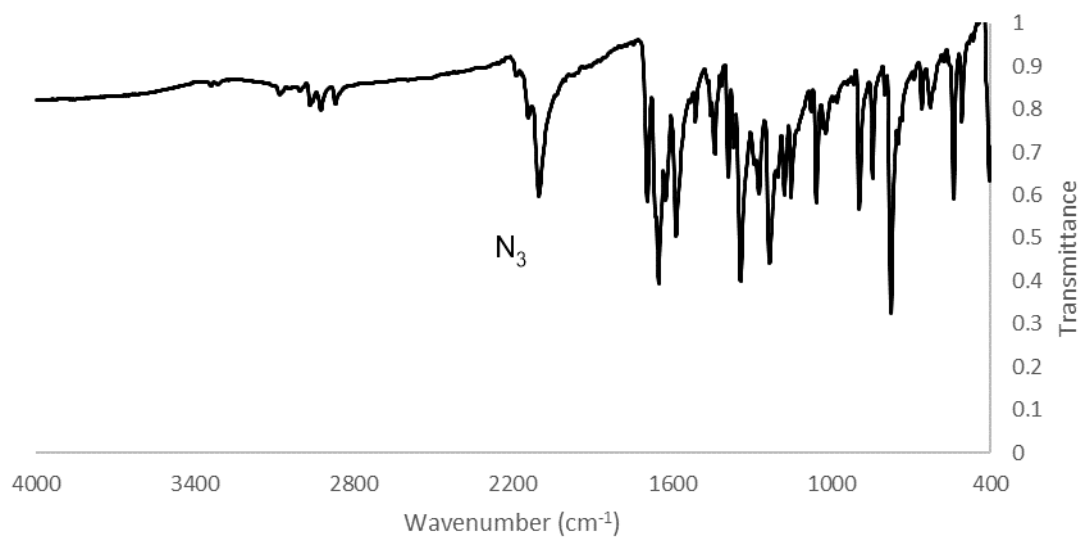


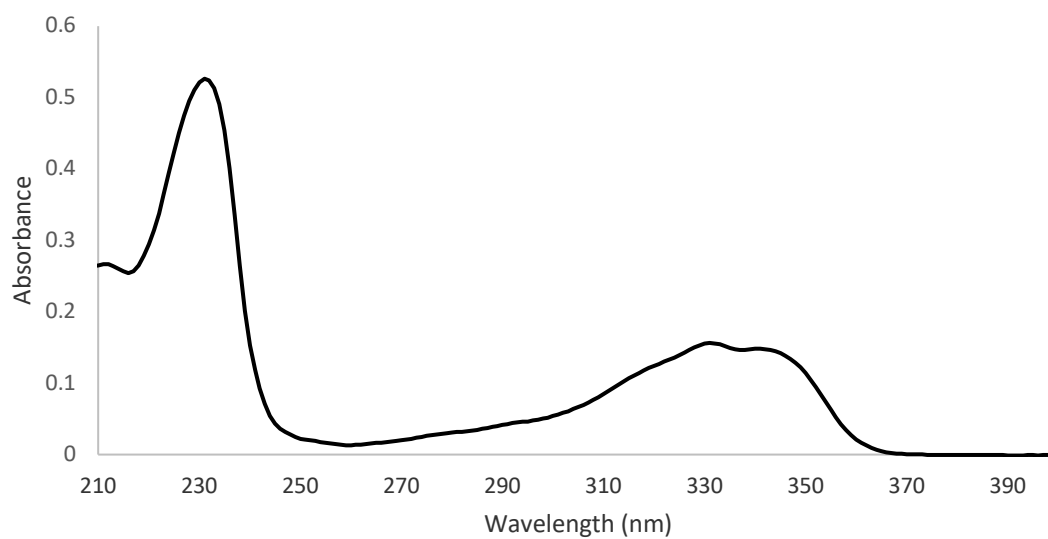
Figure S7.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (75 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) of **B**.



**Figure S8.** LRMS  $m/z = 281.05$   $[B + H]^+$  (calc. for  $C_{15}H_{12}N_4O_2^+$ , 281.10).



**Figure S9.** IR spectrum of **B**.



**Figure S10.** UV-visible absorption spectrum of **B** (0.01 mM, MeOH).

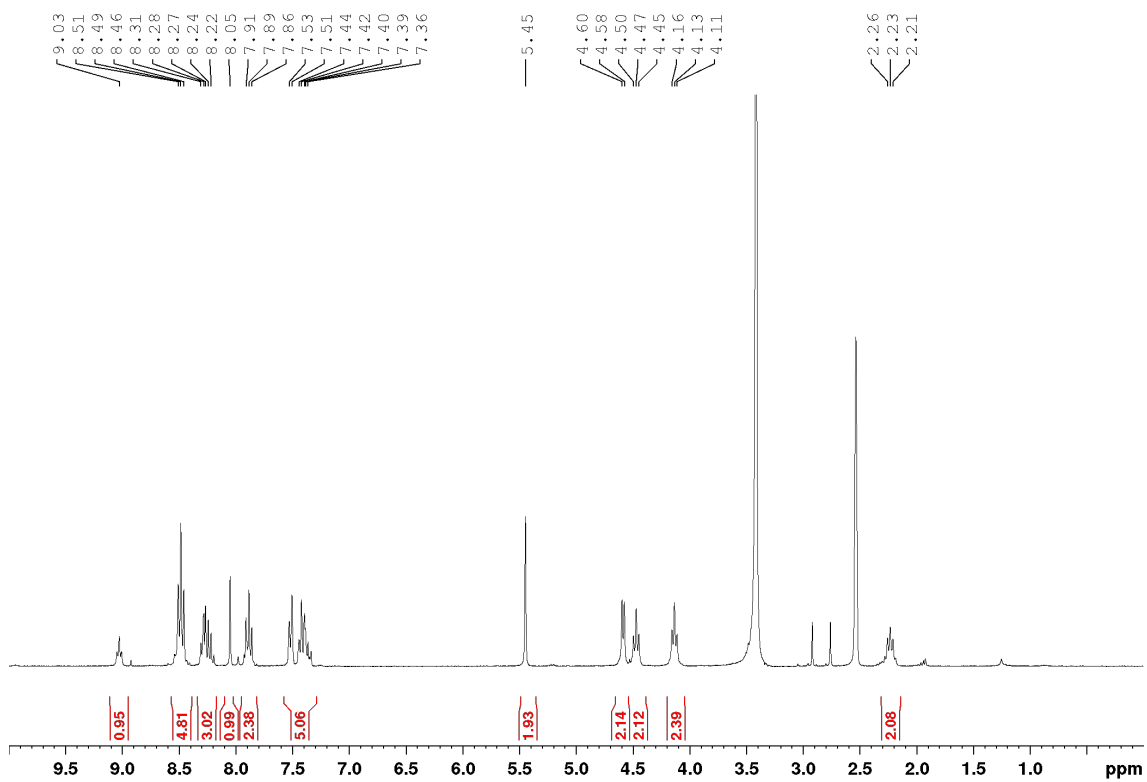


Figure S11.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) of **1Bz**.

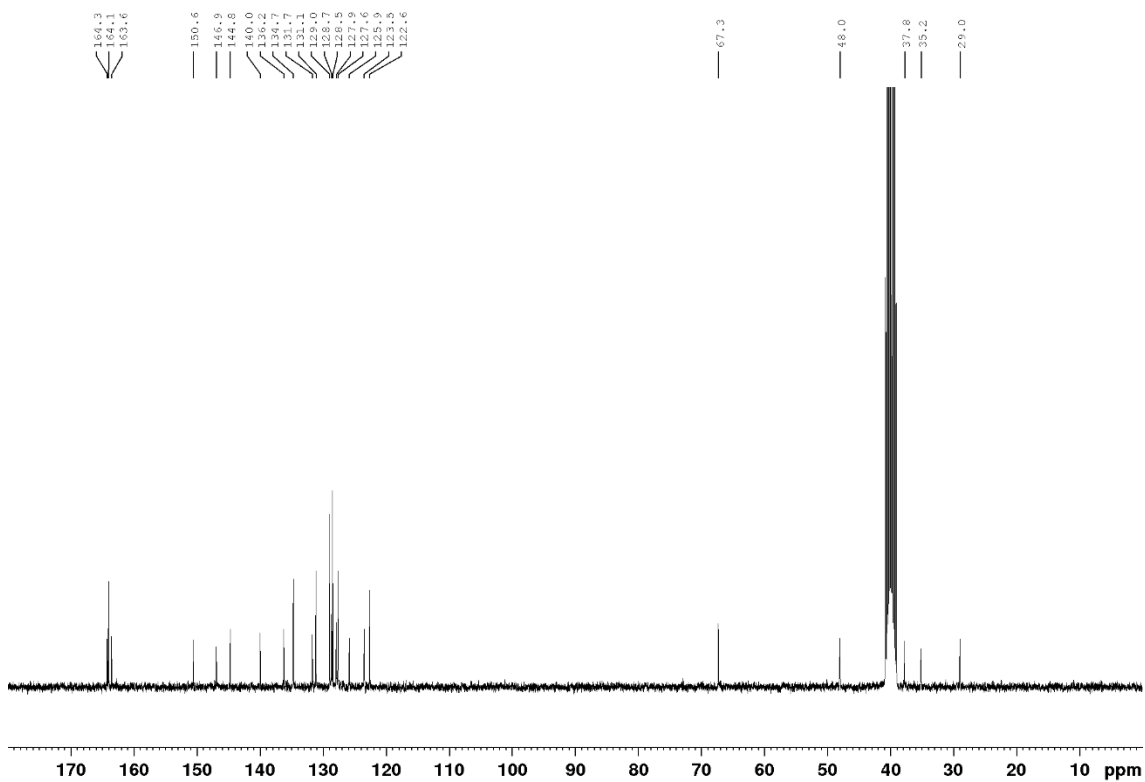


Figure S12.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (75 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) of **1Bz**.

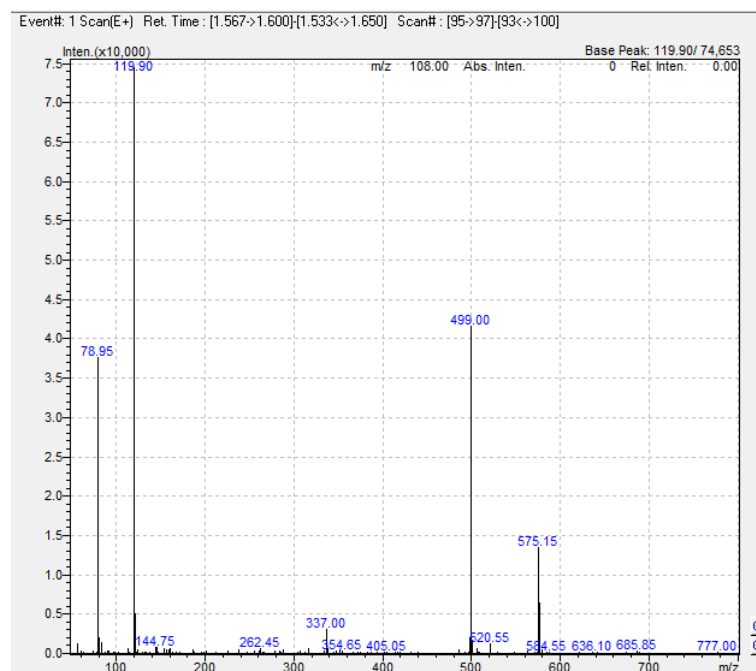


Figure S13. LRMS  $m/z = 575.15$  [ $1Bz + H$ ]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for  $C_{32}H_{27}N_6O_5^+$ , 575.20).

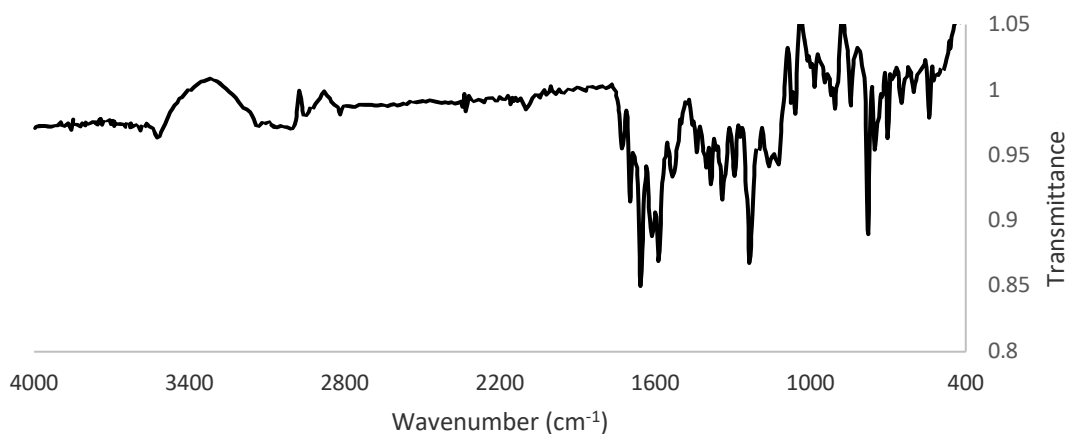


Figure S14. IR spectrum of **1Bz**.

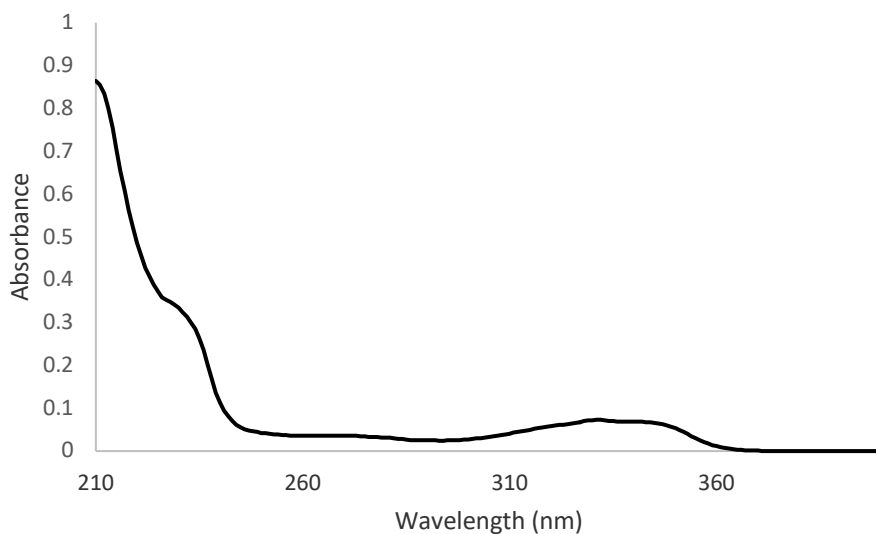


Figure S15. UV-visible absorption spectrum of **1Bz** (0.01 mM, MeOH).

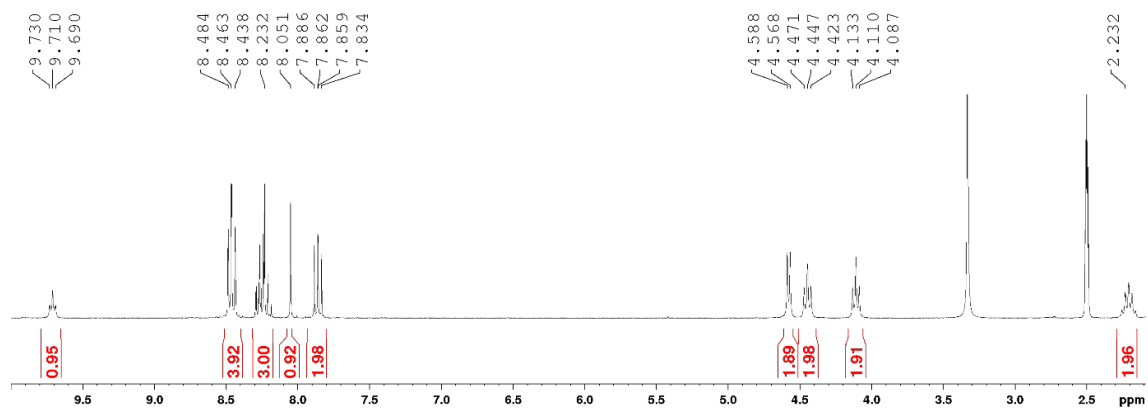


Figure S16.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) of **1H**.

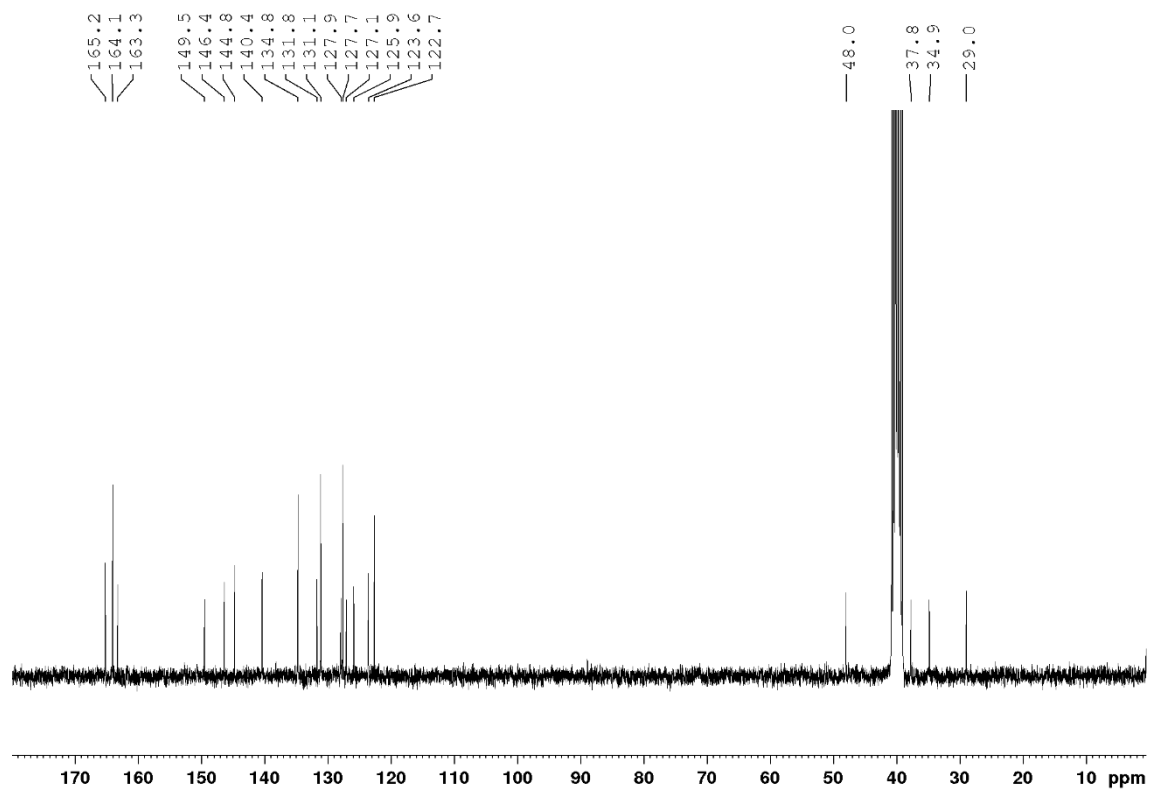
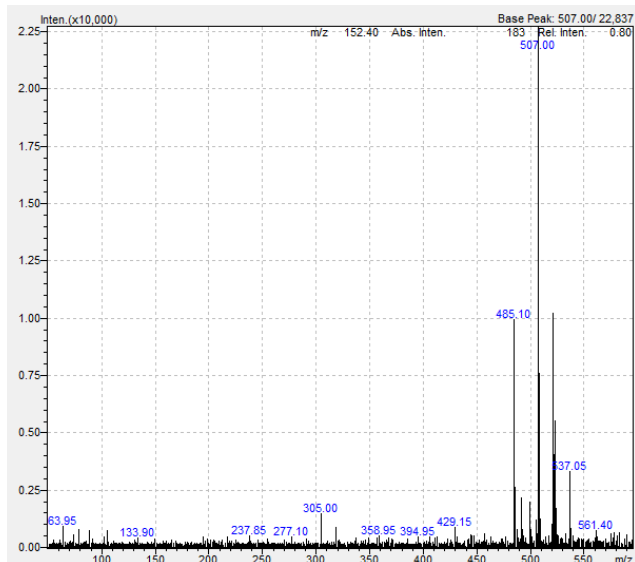
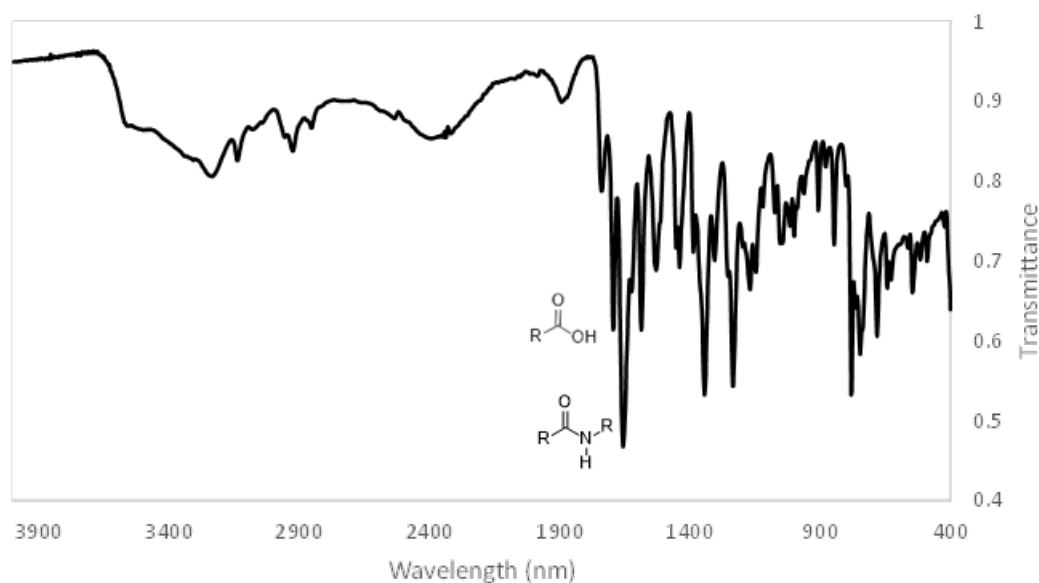


Figure S17.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (75 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) of **1H**.

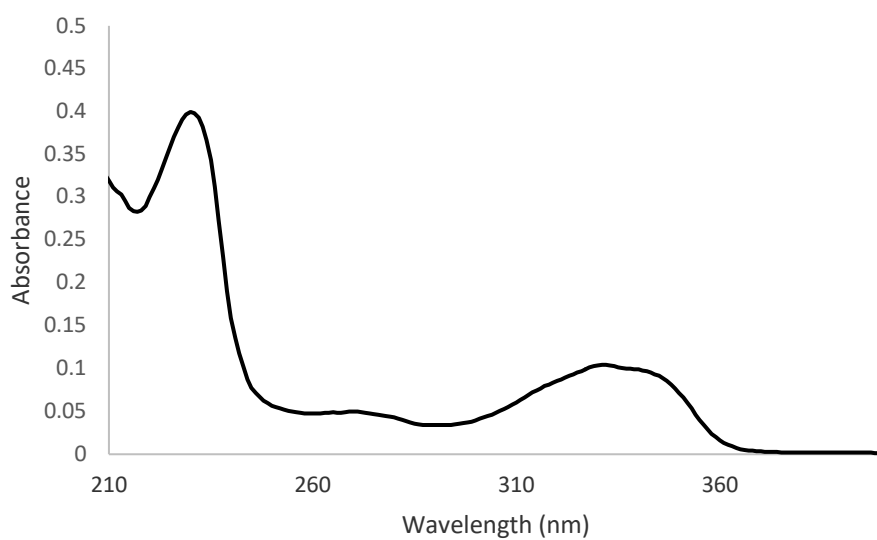




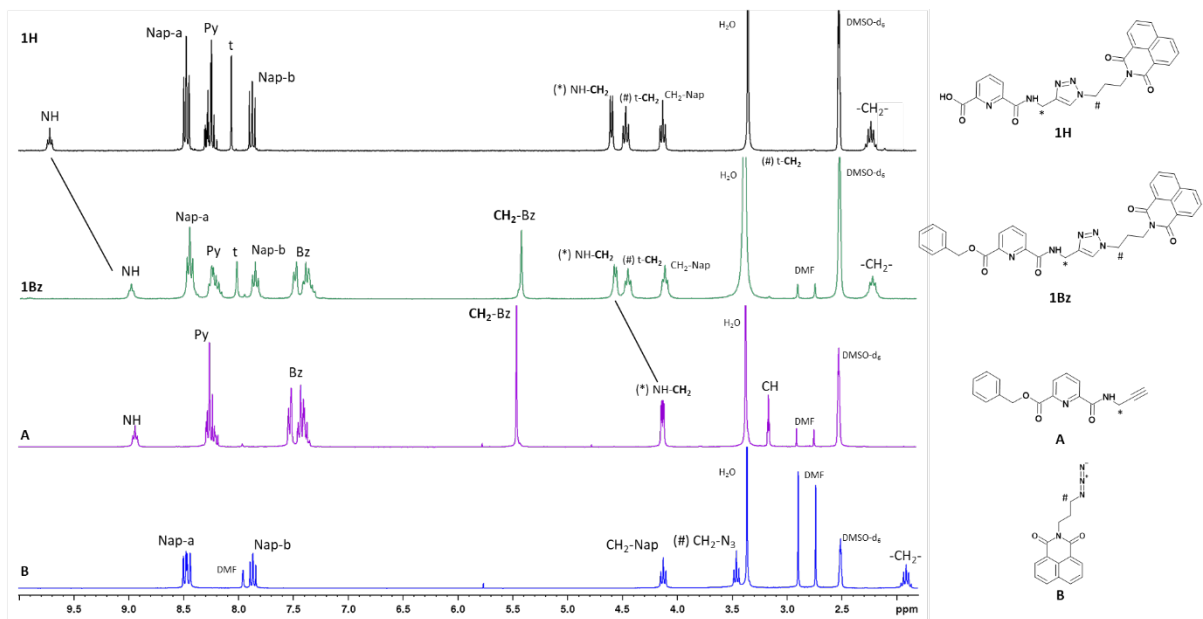
**Figure S18.** LRMS  $m/z = 485.10$  [ $1H + H$ ]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for  $C_{25}H_{21}N_6O_5^+$ , 485.16) and  $m/z = 507.00$  [ $1H + Na$ ]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for  $C_{25}H_{20}N_6O_5Na^+$ , 507.14).



**Figure S19.** IR spectrum of **1H**.



**Figure S20.** UV-visible absorption spectrum of **1H** (0.01 mM, MeOH).



**Figure S21.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of **1H**, **1Bz**, **A** and **B** (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ). Abbreviations: Nap-a for ortho and para protons of **Nap**, Nap-b for meta protons of **Nap**, Py for pyridine ring, t for 1,2,3-triazole, and Bz for benzyl ring.  $\text{CH}_2$  in bold indicates methylene associated with the signal.

## Section 2 - Lanthanide Complex Characterisation

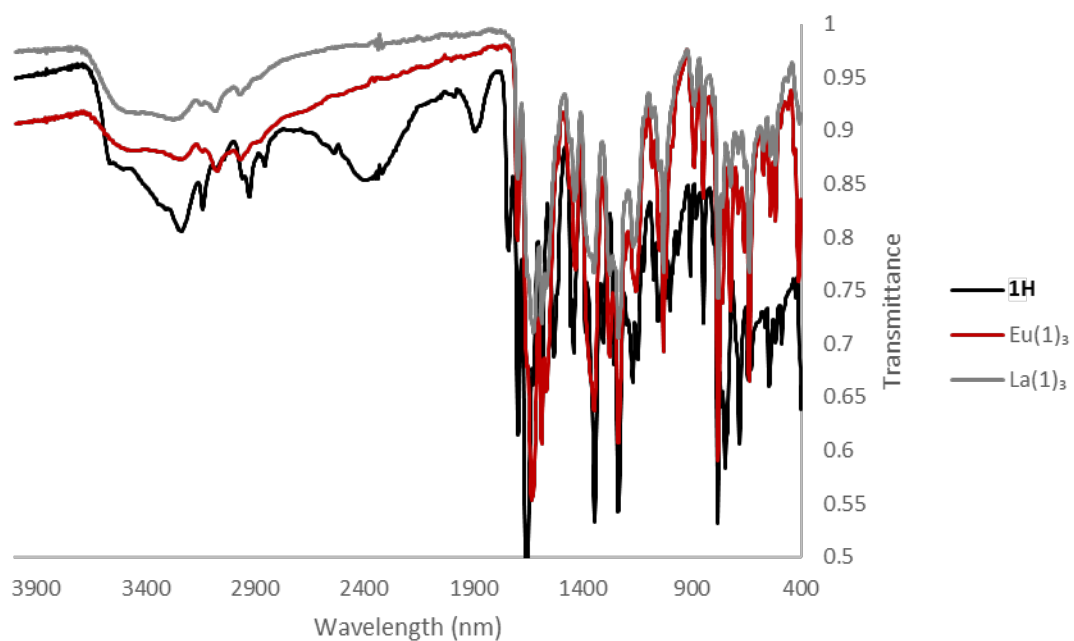


Figure S22. IR spectra of 1H, Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> and La(1)<sub>3</sub>.

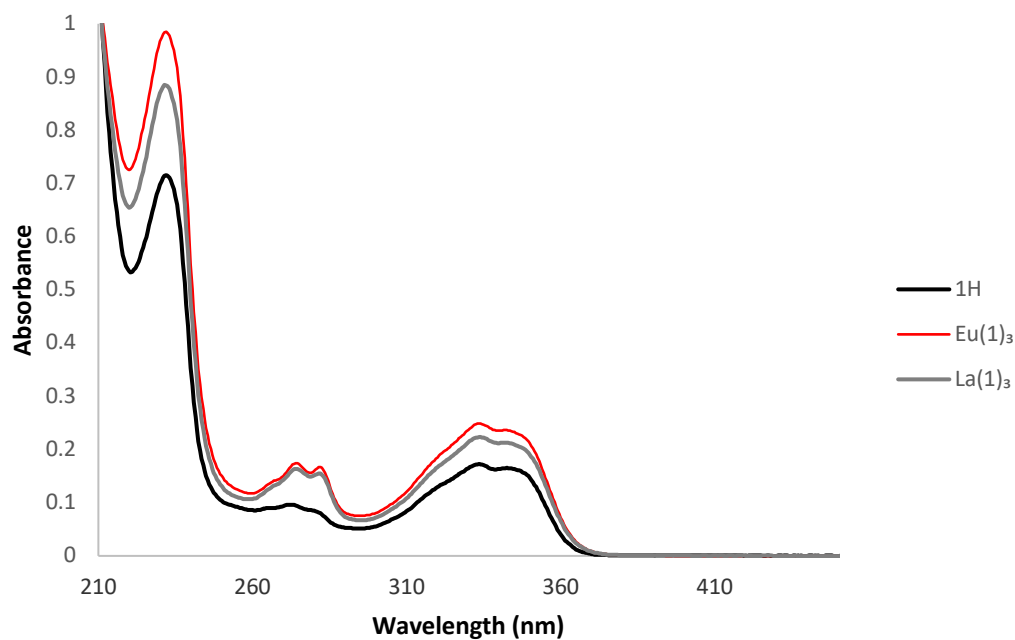


Figure S23. UV-visible absorption of 1H, Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> and La(1)<sub>3</sub> (0.01 mM, MeOH).

### Eu(1)<sub>3</sub>

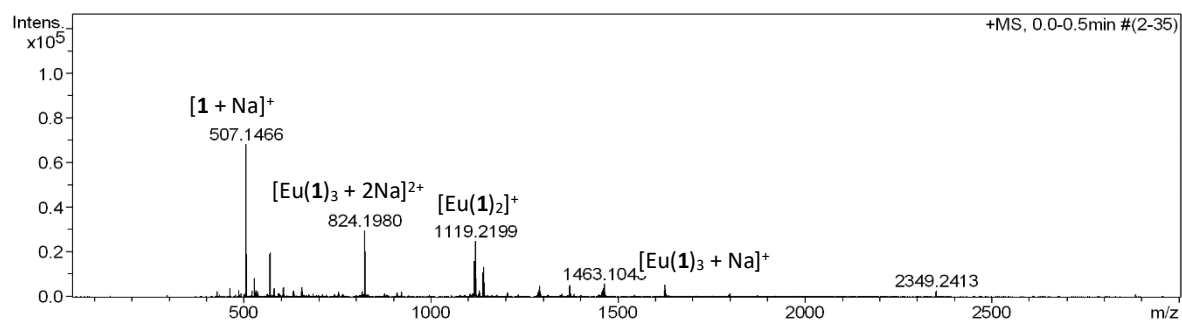


Figure S24. HRMS Eu(1)<sub>3</sub>.

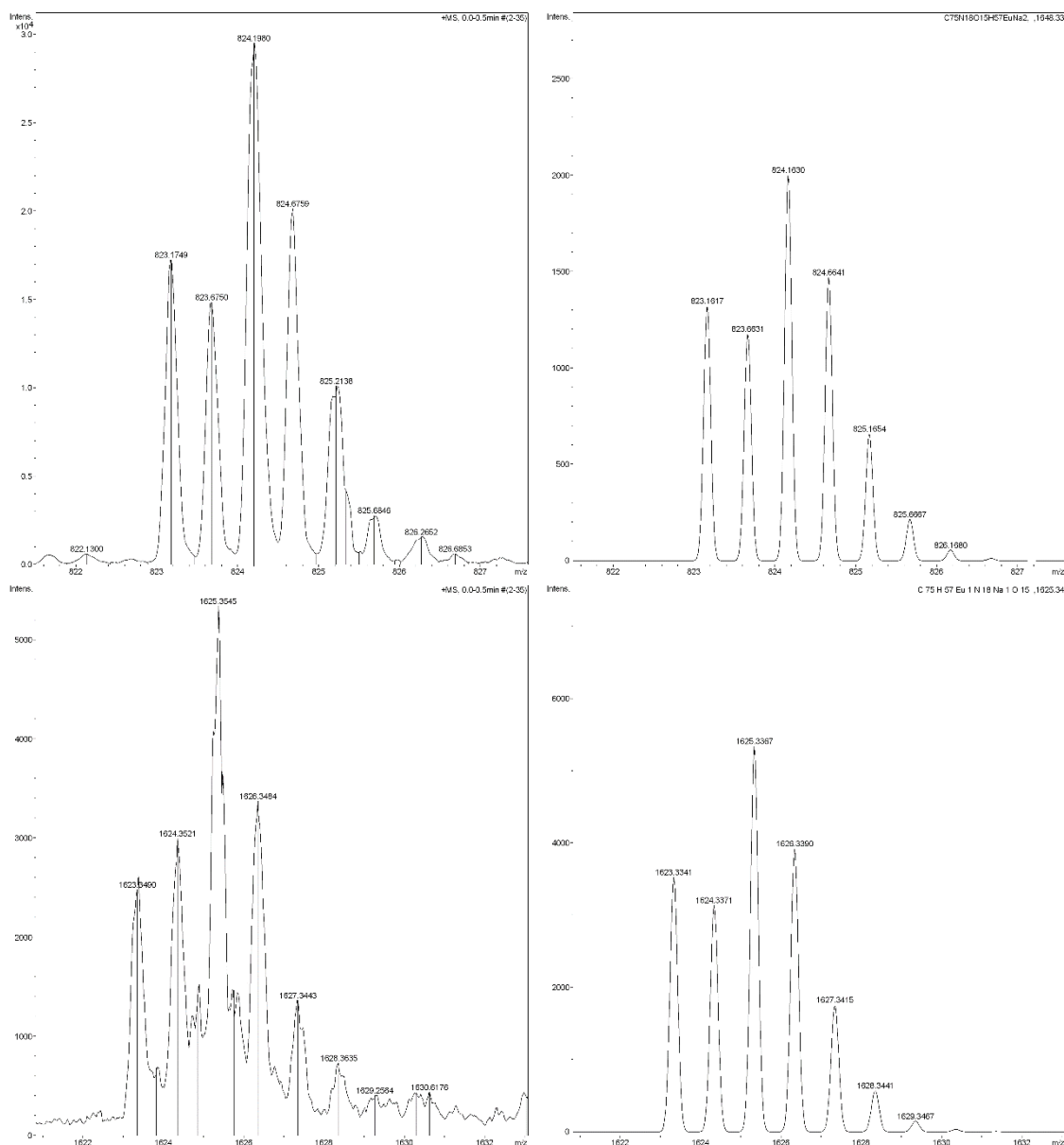


Figure S25. (Top left) HRMS  $m/z = 824.1980$   $[Eu(1)_3 + 2Na]^{2+}$ . (Top right) Calc. for  $(C_{75}H_{57}N_{18}O_{15}EuNa_2)^{2+}$ , 824.1630. (Bottom left) HRMS  $m/z = 1625.3545$   $[Eu(1)_3 + Na]^+$ . (Bottom right) Calc. for  $(C_{75}H_{57}N_{18}O_{15}EuNa)^+$ , 1625.3367.

La(1)<sub>3</sub>

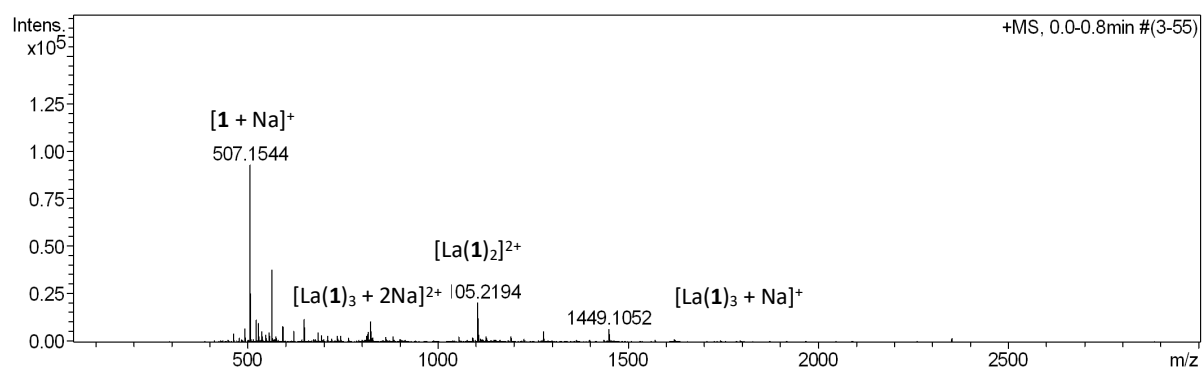


Figure S26. HRMS La(1)<sub>3</sub>.

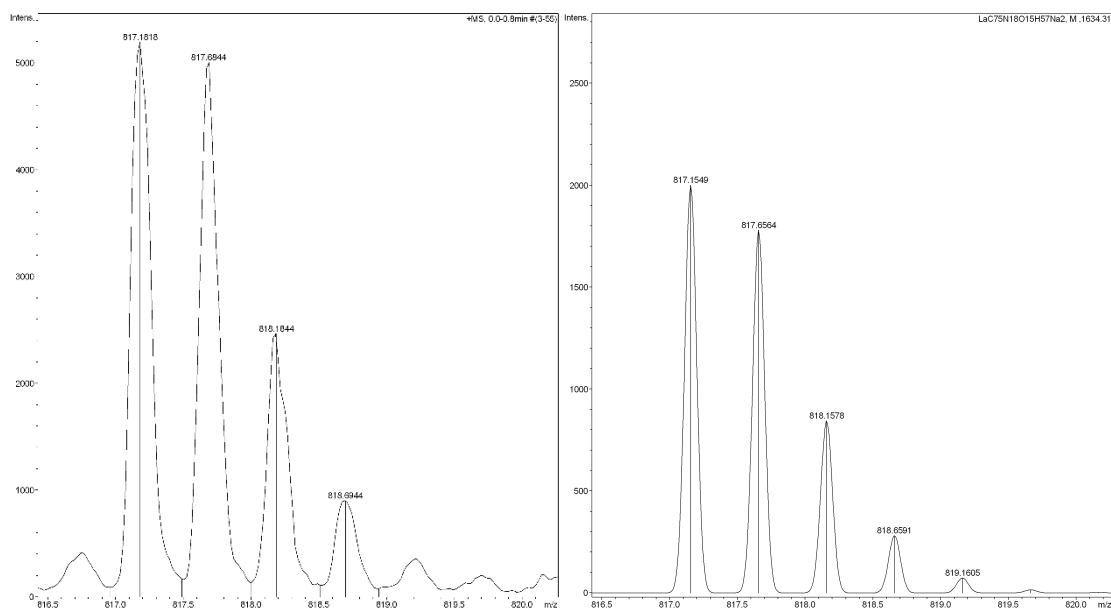
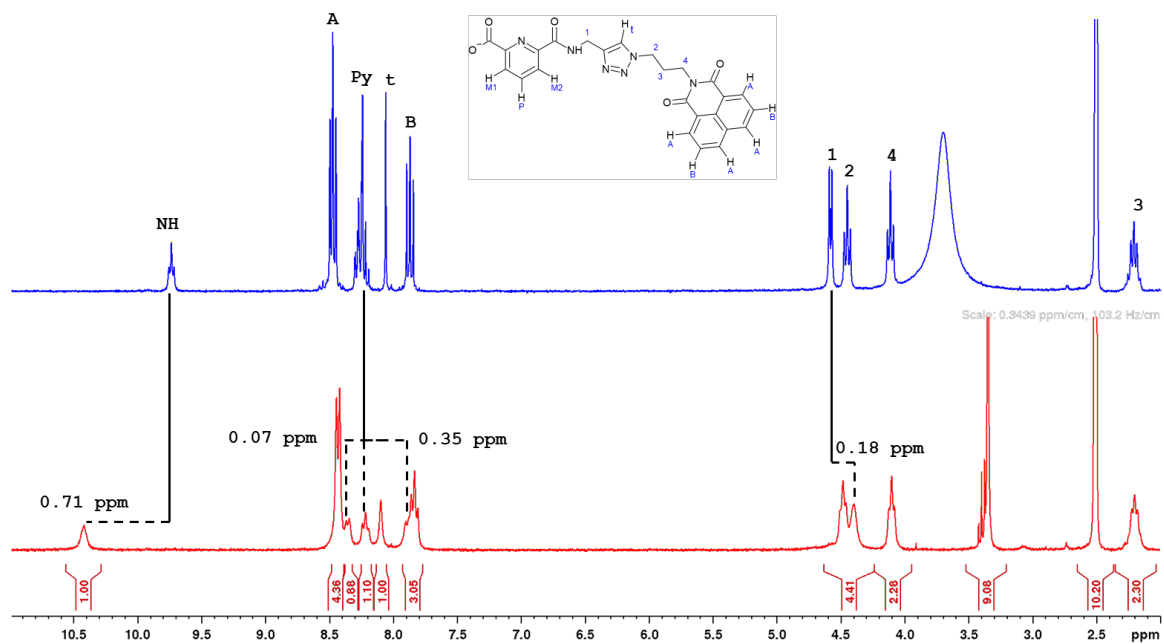
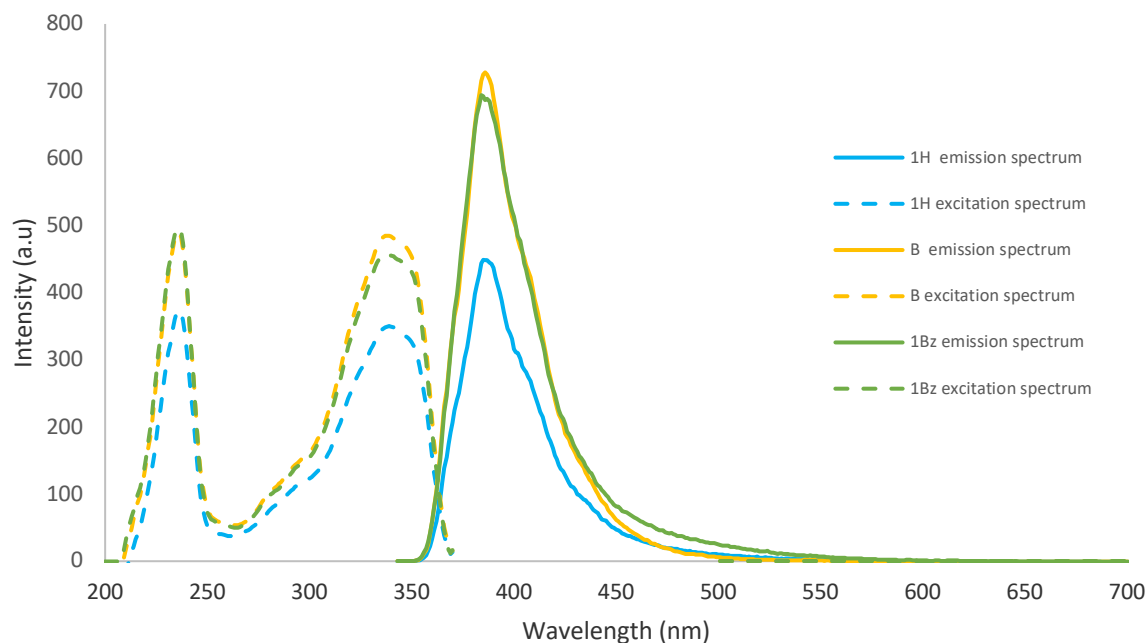


Figure S27. (Left) HRMS  $m/z = 817.1818$  [La(1)<sub>3</sub> + 2Na]<sup>2+</sup>. (Right) Calc. for (C<sub>75</sub>H<sub>57</sub>N<sub>18</sub>O<sub>15</sub>LaNa<sub>2</sub>)<sup>2+</sup>, 817.1549.

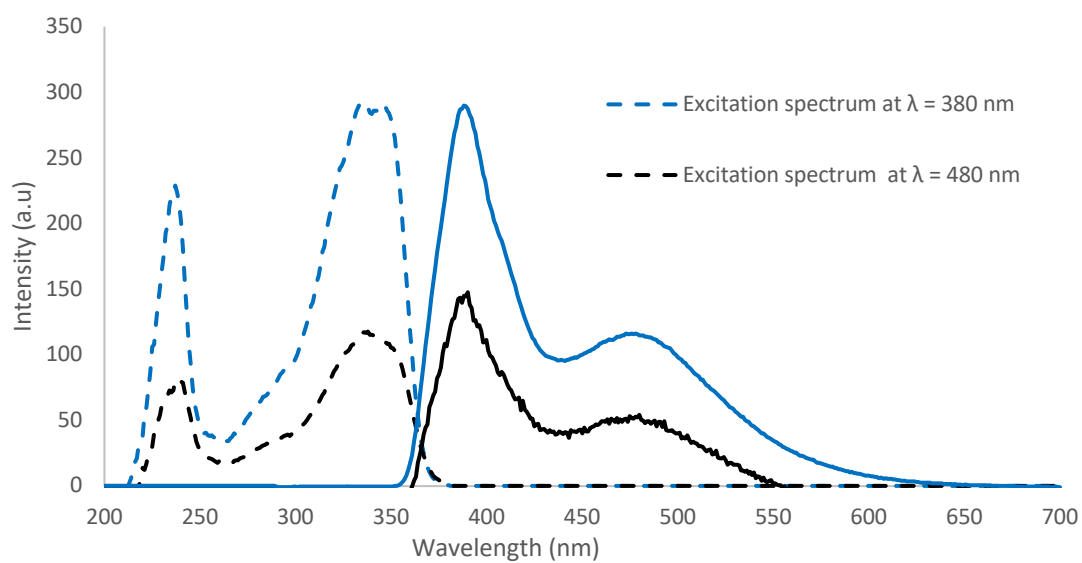


**Figure S28.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) of  $\text{La}(\mathbf{1})_3$  (bottom) and  $\mathbf{1H}$  (top).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of  $\text{La}(\mathbf{1})_3$  shows significant downfield shift in the NH signal (0.71 ppm) and a corresponding upfield shift in the methylene linker ( $\text{CH}_2\text{-NH}$ , 0.18 ppm), previously observed in similar PDC systems, indicating a change of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  coordination in the  $\text{NO}_2$  pocket. Additionally, the pyridine aromatic proton signals experienced shifts resulting in the single multiplet pyridine signal in  $\mathbf{1H}$  splitting into three separate distinct signals, which is suggestive of overall  $\text{C}_3$  symmetry within the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  coordination sphere.

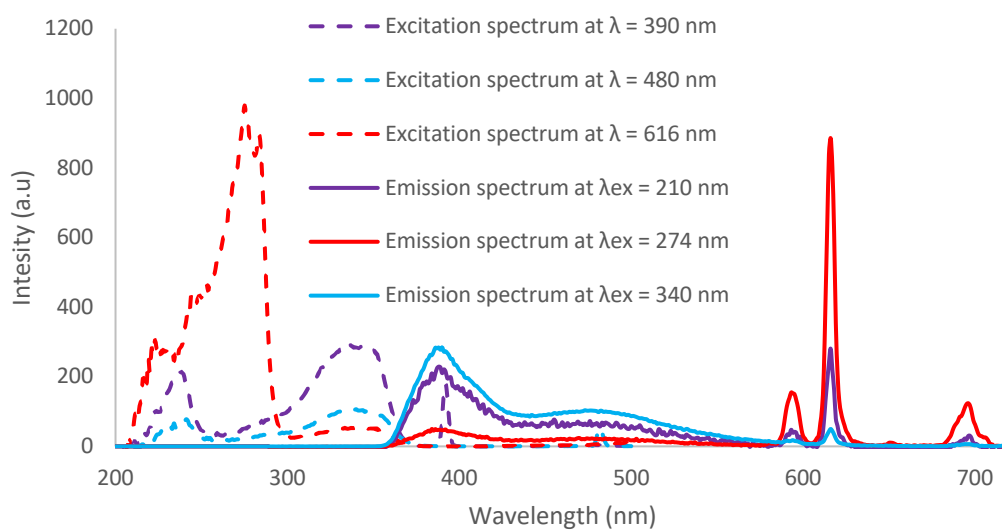
### Section 3 - Photophysical Properties of 1H, Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> and La(1)<sub>3</sub>



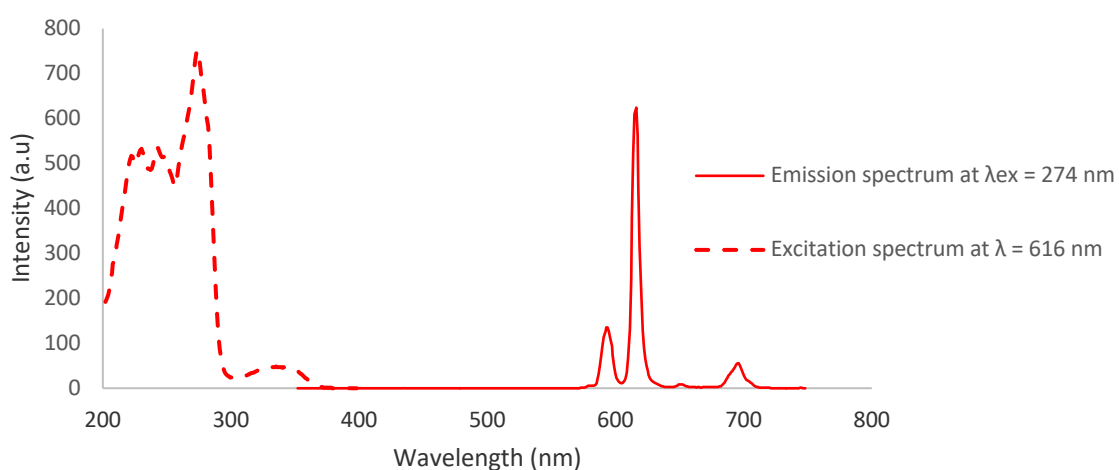
**Figure S29.** Fluorescent emission ( $\lambda_{ex}$  =340 nm) and excitation spectra ( $\lambda$  =390 nm) spectra of Ligand **1H**, intermediate **C** and precursor **B** (0.01 mM, MeOH)



**Figure S30.** La(1)<sub>3</sub> fluorescence spectra (0.01 mM, MeOH).

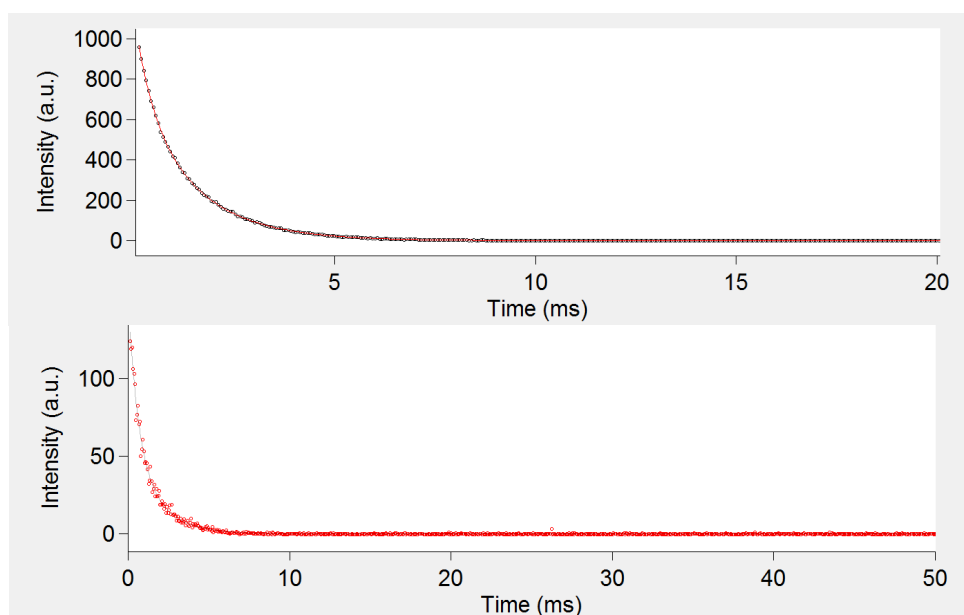


**Figure S31.** Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> fluorescence spectra (0.01 mM, MeOH).



**Figure S32.** Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> phosphorescence spectrum (0.01 mM, MeOH).





**Figure S33.** Lifetime of Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> complex fit with single exponential (Top) 616 nm (Bottom) 594 nm (0.01 mM, MeOH).

**Table S1.** Lifetime of Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> complex fit with single exponential (0.01 mM, MeOH).

Complex	Single Exponential (ms)	Average (ms)
Eu(1) <sub>3</sub> solution MeOH ( <sup>5</sup> D <sub>0</sub> → <sup>7</sup> F <sub>2</sub> )	1.177	1.175
	1.168	
	1.179	
Eu(1) <sub>3</sub> solution MeOH ( <sup>5</sup> D <sub>0</sub> → <sup>7</sup> F <sub>1</sub> )	1.055	1.059
	1.063	
	1.059	

## Quantum Yields

Quantum yield measurements were determined by the dilute comparison method<sup>2</sup> using relative standards Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(dpa)<sub>3</sub>]-8H<sub>2</sub>O, complex in a 0.1 M Tri-HCl buffer solution (pH ≈ 7.45) and quinine sulfate in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, with known quantum yields of  $\Phi_{ref} = 24 \pm 2.5 \%$ , and  $\Phi_{ref} = 0.546 \%$  respectively.<sup>3,4,5</sup> Cs<sub>3</sub>[Eu(dpa)<sub>3</sub>]-9H<sub>2</sub>O was used for Eu(**1**)<sub>3</sub> and quinine sulfate was used for the 1,8-naphthalimide emission. Barrier slit widths remained the same between measurements for different compounds with 1.5, 3 nm excitation and emission widths. Excitation wavelength was the same for all measurements with the standard 279 nm excitation wavelength being used for Eu<sup>3+</sup> emissions and 366 nm for quinine sulfate and 1,8-naphthalimide emissions. Complexes were dissolved in a 1:1 MeOH:CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and then diluted into MeOH.

Estimated overall quantum yields  $\Phi_{Ln}^L = \Phi_x$  were calculated according to the following equation 1. Here grad refer to the slope of plotted emission area vs absorbance (emission area was taken from specific emission peaks, Eu(**1**)<sub>3</sub> (<sup>5</sup>D<sub>0</sub> → <sup>7</sup>F<sub>2</sub>), and 1,8-naphthalimide excimer and monomer broad emissions vs quinine sulfate), *n* refers to refractive index of the solution (a refractive index of *n* = 1.3295 was found for MeOH:CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution), and subscript are ref for reference and x for sample.<sup>3</sup>

$$\Phi_x = \Phi_{std} \left( \frac{grad_x}{grad_{ref}} \times \left( \frac{n_x^2}{n_{ref}^2} \right) \right) \quad (1)$$

Radiative lifetime ( $\tau^{rad}$ ) of Eu(**1**)<sub>3</sub> was estimated by equation 2 which assumes that the magnetic dipole of Eu<sup>3+</sup> (<sup>5</sup>D<sub>0</sub> → <sup>7</sup>F<sub>1</sub>) is independent of its coordination environment.<sup>3</sup> Abbreviations refer to; *n* for refractive index,  $\frac{I_{MD}}{I_{tot}}$  is the ratio of area under the Eu<sup>3+</sup> (<sup>5</sup>D<sub>0</sub> → <sup>7</sup>F<sub>1</sub>) to the integrated total emission (J=0-6), and  $A_{MD,0}$  is the spontaneous emission probability of the Eu<sup>3+</sup> (<sup>5</sup>D<sub>0</sub> → <sup>7</sup>F<sub>1</sub>) transition (14.65 s<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>3</sup>

$$\tau^{rad} = \frac{1}{A_{MD,0} n^3} \left( \frac{I_{MD}}{I_{tot}} \right) \quad (2)$$

From this intrinsic quantum yields ( $\Phi_{Ln}^L$ ) can be estimated with equation 3 using observed lifetime ( $\tau_{obs}$ ) and in turn used to find the sensitization efficiency ( $n_{sens}$ ) with equation 4.<sup>3</sup>

$$\Phi_{Ln}^L = \frac{\tau_{obs}}{\tau^{rad}} \quad (3)$$

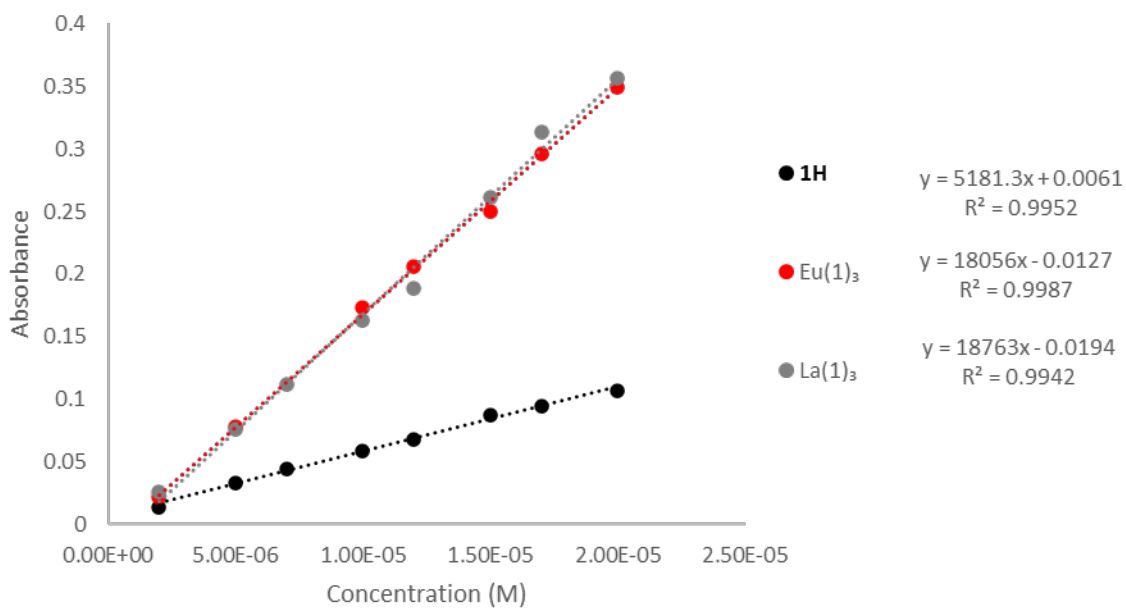
$$n_{sens} = \frac{\Phi_{Ln}^L}{\Phi_{Ln}^L} \quad (4)$$

**Table S2.** Quantum yield results for Eu<sup>3+</sup> centred emission.

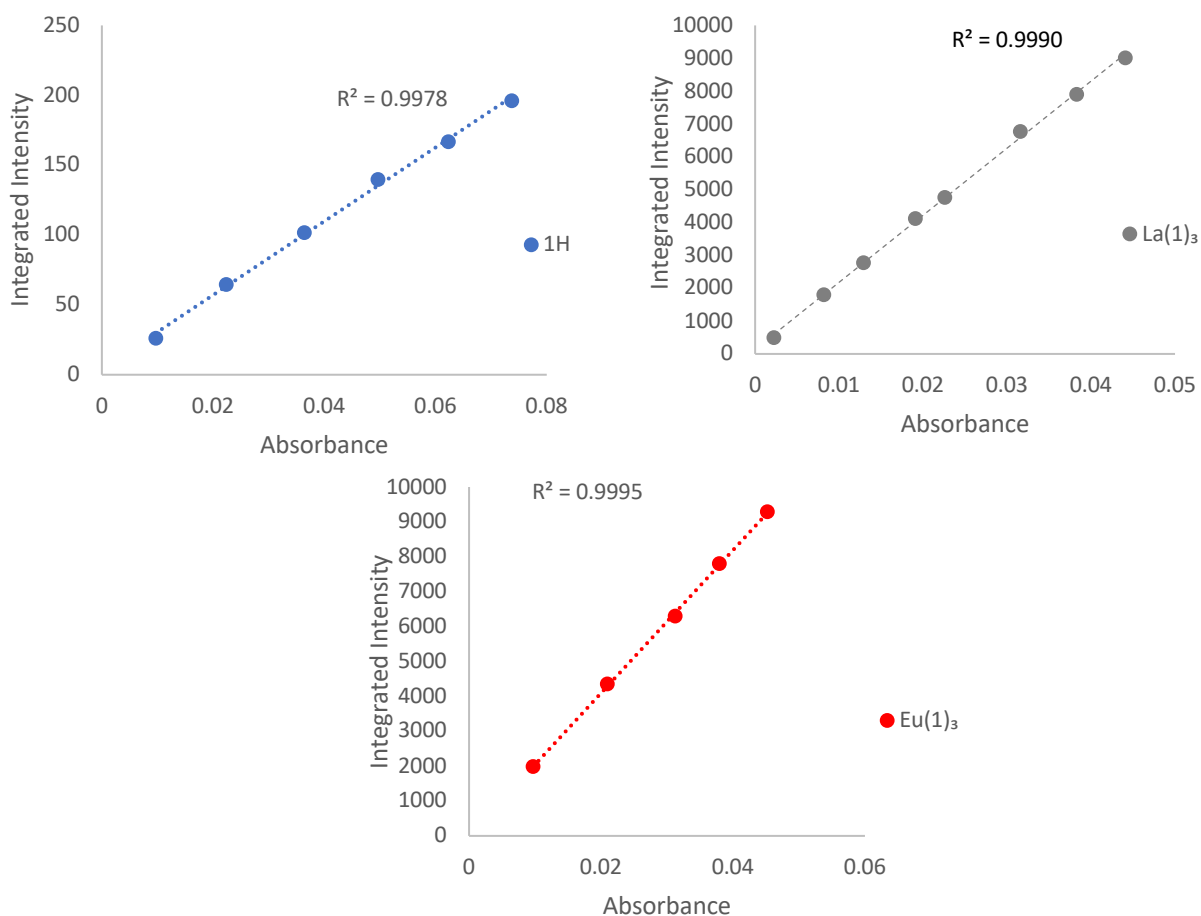
Complex	$\Phi_{Ln}^L$	$\tau_{obs}$ (ms)	$\tau_{rad}$ (ms)	$\Phi_{Ln}^L$	$n_{sens}$
Eu( <b>1</b> ) <sub>3</sub>	7.6 %	1.059	4.998	21.2 %	35.9 %

**Table S3.** Fluorescence quantum yield results for 1,8-naphthalimide centred emission.

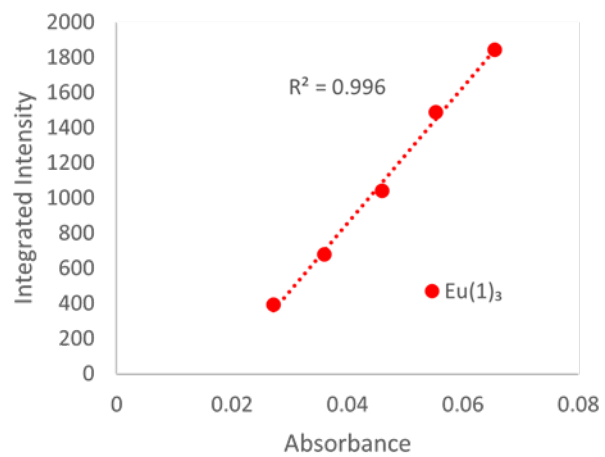
Complex	$\Phi_f$
<b>1H</b>	12.4 %
Eu( <b>1</b> ) <sub>3</sub>	15.0 %
La( <b>1</b> ) <sub>3</sub>	15.0 %



**Figure S34.** Concentration vs absorbance for 1H, Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> and La(1)<sub>3</sub> in MeOH.

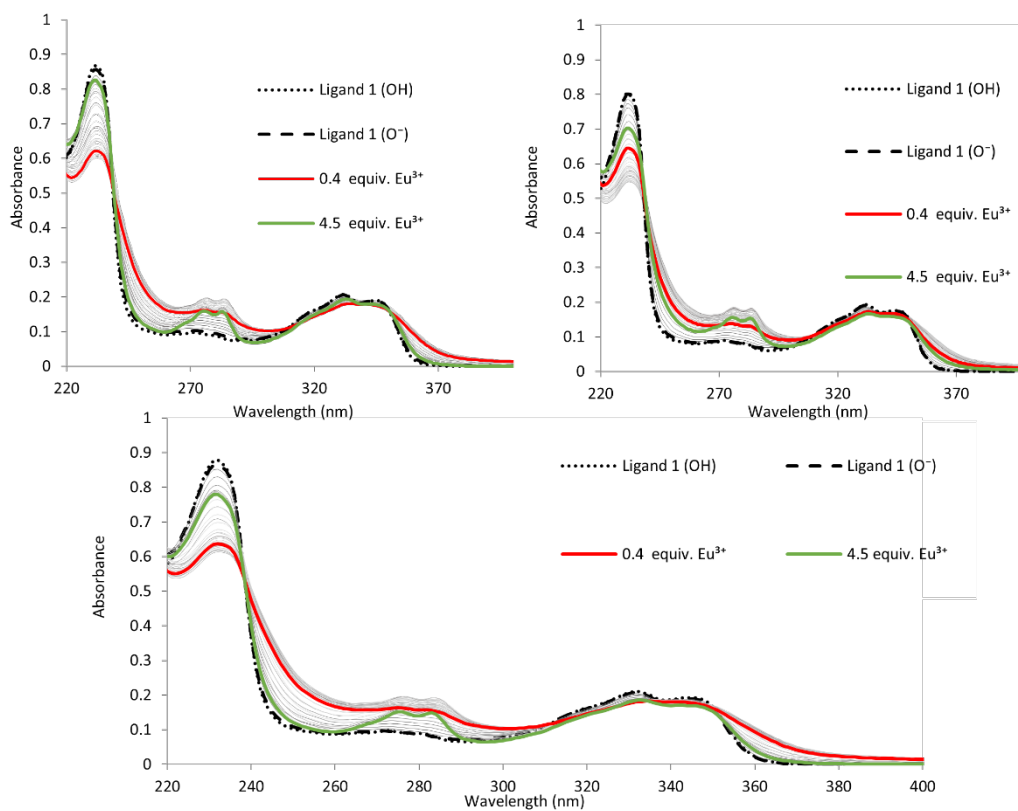


**Figure S35.** Integrated intensity vs absorbance of 1H, Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> and La(1)<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (1.5 and 3 nm excitation and emission widths,  $\lambda_{ex} = 366$  nm).

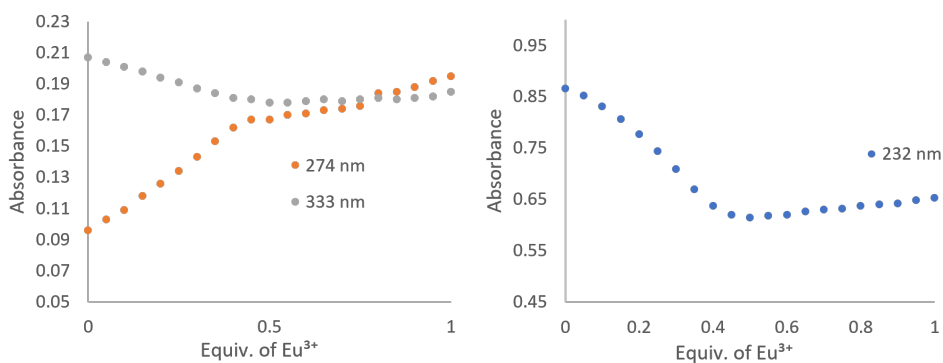


**Figure S36.** Integrated intensity vs absorbance of  $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_3$  in MeOH (1.5 and 3 nm excitation and emission widths,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 279$  nm).

## Section 4 - Self-Assembly Titrations

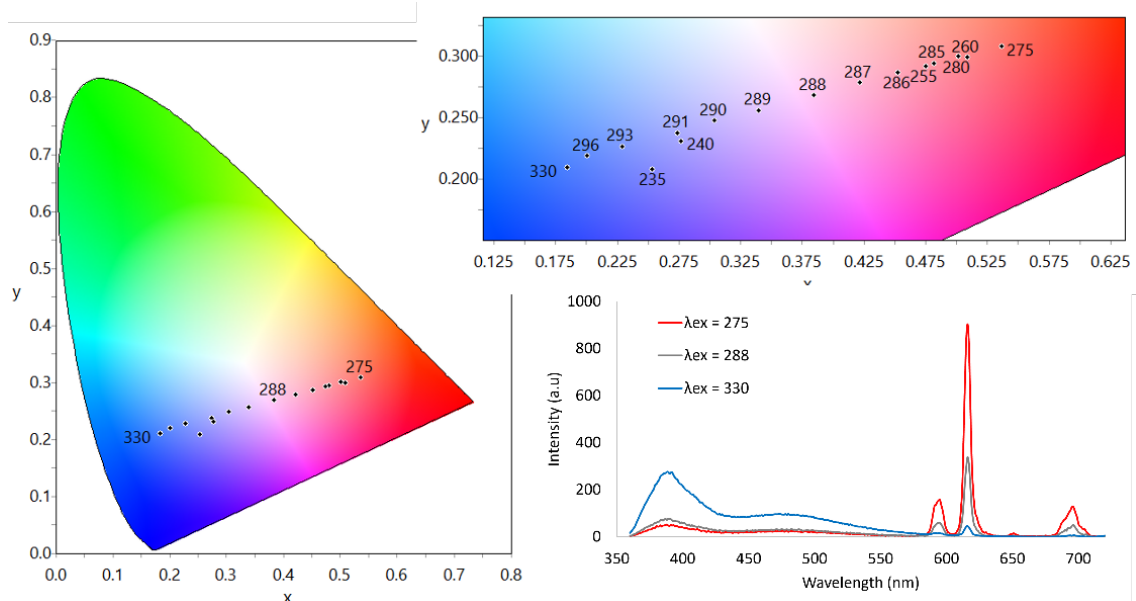


**Figure S37.** UV-visible absorption titration of **1H** with  $\text{Eu}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$  from 0 to 4.5 equivalents, done in triplicate (0.02 mM, MeOH).

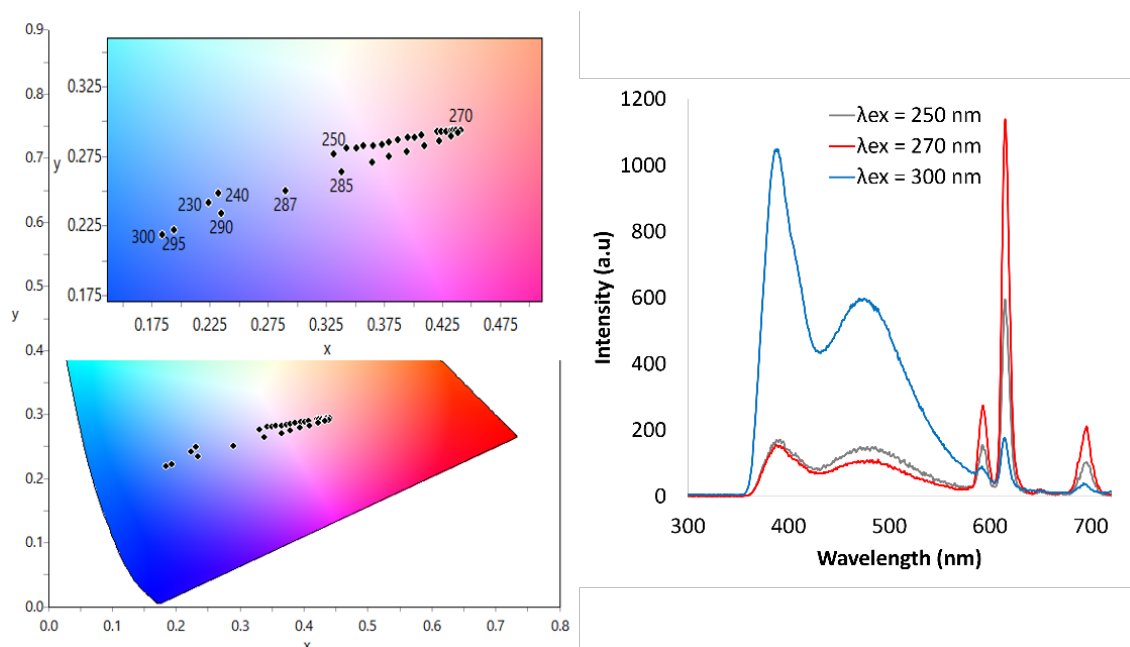


**Figure S38.** Monitoring changes in UV-visible absorption spectra at specific wavelengths (232, 274 and 333 nm) during titration of **1H** (0.02 mM, MeOH) with  $\text{Eu}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_3$  from 0 to 1 equivalents.

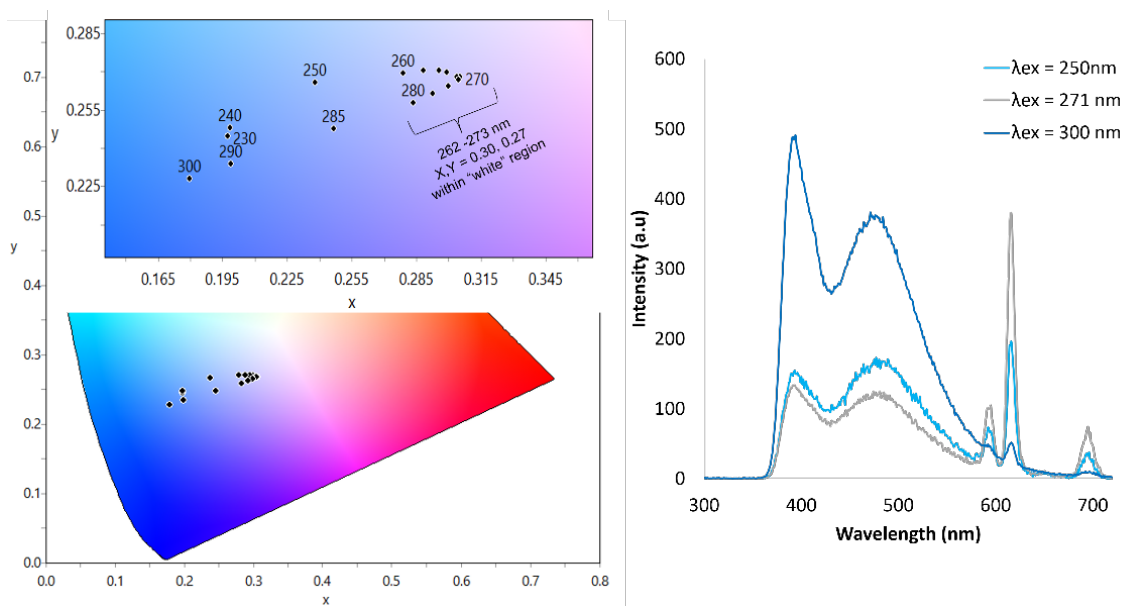
## Section 5 - Colour-Tunable Emission



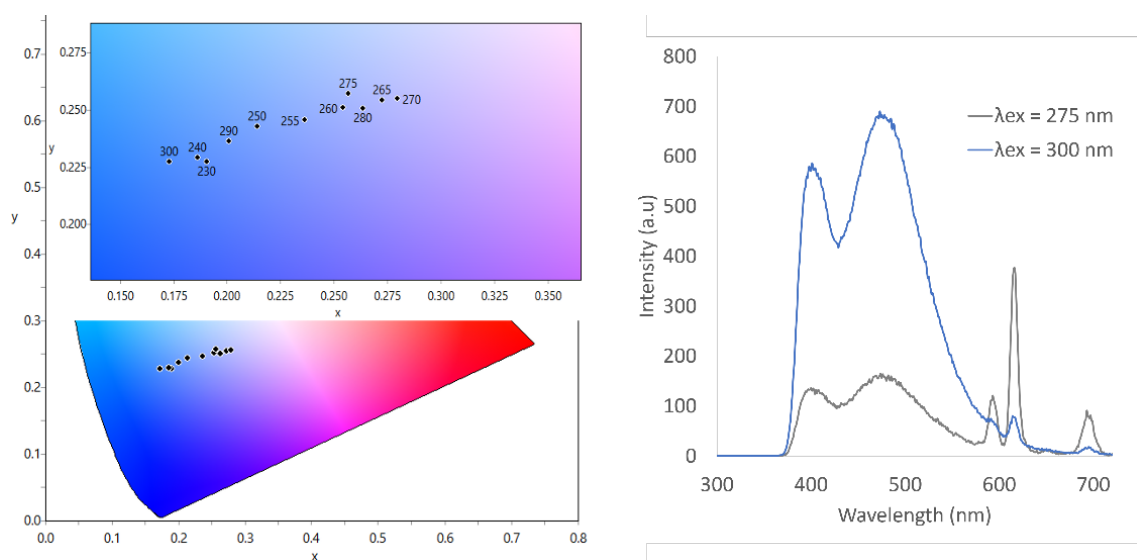
**Figure S39.** CIE chromaticity diagram with different overall colours capable of  $\text{Eu}(\text{1})_3$  in a 0.01 mM MeOH solution dependent on  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  and fluorescence spectra at important  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ . Calculated 1931 CIE coordinates, 235 nm  $x,y = 0.25, 0.21$ ; 240 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.23$ ; 255 nm  $x,y = 0.47, 0.29$ ; 260 nm  $x,y = 0.51, 0.30$ ; 275 nm  $x,y = 0.54, 0.30$ ; 280-4 nm  $x,y = 0.50, 0.30$ ; 285 nm  $x,y = 0.48, 0.29$ ; 286 nm  $x,y = 0.45, 0.29$ ; 287 nm  $x,y = 0.42, 0.28$ ; 288 nm  $x,y = 0.38, 0.27$ ; 289 nm  $x,y = 0.34, 0.26$ ; 290 nm  $x,y = 0.30, 0.24$ ; 291 nm  $x,y = 0.27, 0.24$ ; 293 nm  $x,y = 0.23, 0.22$ ; 296 nm  $x,y = 0.20, 0.22$  and 330 nm  $x,y = 0.18, 0.20$ .



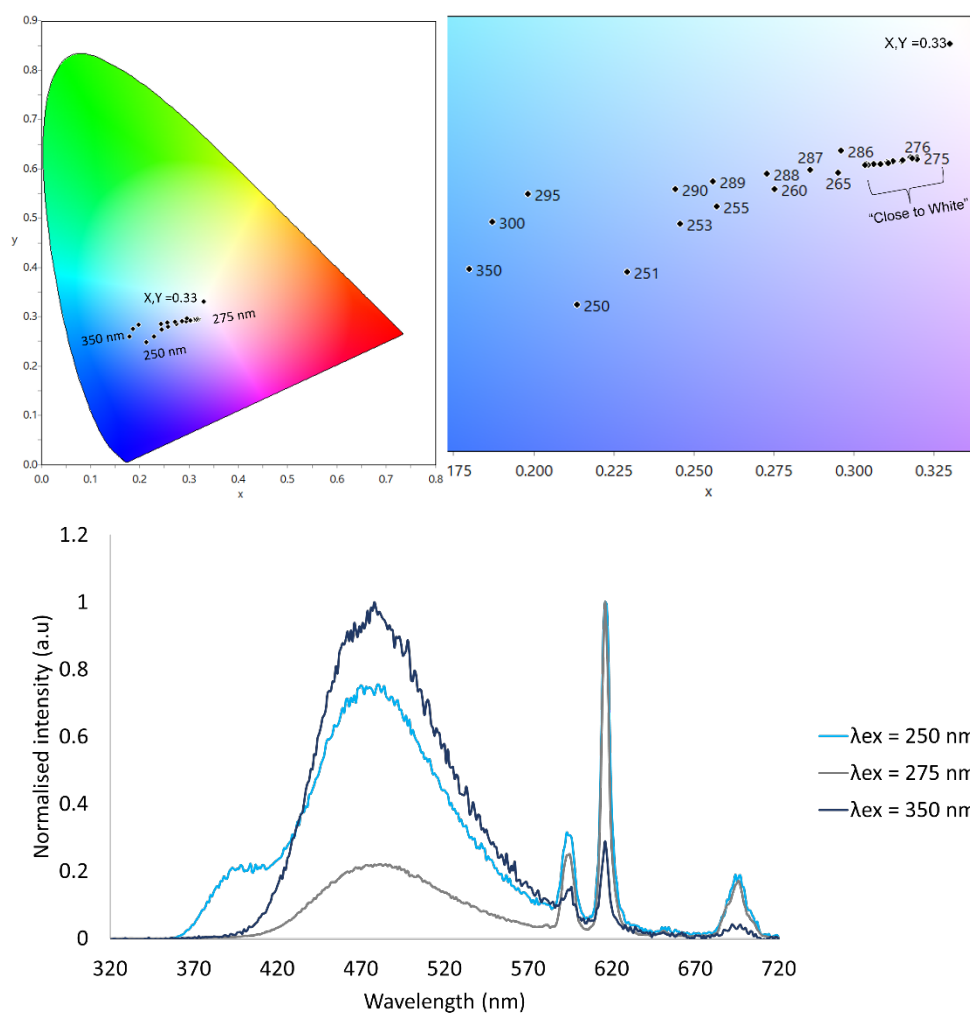
**Figure S40.** CIE chromaticity diagram with different overall colours capable of  $\text{Eu}(\text{1})_3$  in a 1 mM MeOH solution dependent on  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  and fluorescence spectra at important  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ . Calculated 1931 CIE coordinates, 230 nm  $x,y = 0.22, 0.24$ ; 240 nm  $x,y = 0.23, 0.25$ ; 250 nm  $x,y = 0.33, 0.28$ ; 251 nm  $x,y = 0.34, 0.28$ ; 252 nm  $x,y = 0.35, 0.28$ ; 253 nm  $x,y = 0.36, 0.28$ ; 254 nm  $x,y = 0.37, 0.28$ ; 255 nm  $x,y = 0.37, 0.29$ ; 256 nm  $x,y = 0.38, 0.29$ ; 257 nm  $x,y = 0.39, 0.29$ ; 258-260 nm  $x,y = 0.40, 0.9$ ; 261-264 nm  $x,y = 0.42, 0.29$ ; 265-266 nm  $x,y = 0.43, 0.29$ ; 267-275 nm  $x,y = 0.44, 0.29$ ; 277 nm  $x,y = 0.42, 0.28$ ; 280 nm  $x,y = 0.41, 0.28$ ; 285 nm  $x,y = 0.34, 0.27$ ; 290 nm  $x,y = 0.24, 0.24$  and 300 nm  $x,y = 0.18, 0.22$ .



**Figure S41.** CIE chromaticity diagram with different overall colours capable of  $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_3$  in a 5 mM MeOH solution dependent on  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  and fluorescence spectra at important  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ . Calculated 1931 CIE coordinates, 230 nm  $x,y = 0.20, 0.25$ ; 240 nm  $x,y = 0.20, 0.25$ ; 250 nm  $x,y = 0.24, 0.27$ ; 260 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.27$ ; 261 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.27$ ; 261 nm  $x,y = 0.29, 0.27$ ; 262-273 nm  $x,y = 0.30, 0.27$ ; 275 nm  $x,y = 0.30, 0.26$ ; 277 nm  $x,y = 0.29, 0.26$ ; 280 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.26$ ; 285 nm  $x,y = 0.25, 0.25$ ; 290 nm  $x,y = 0.20, 0.23$  and 300 nm  $x,y = 0.18, 0.23$ .



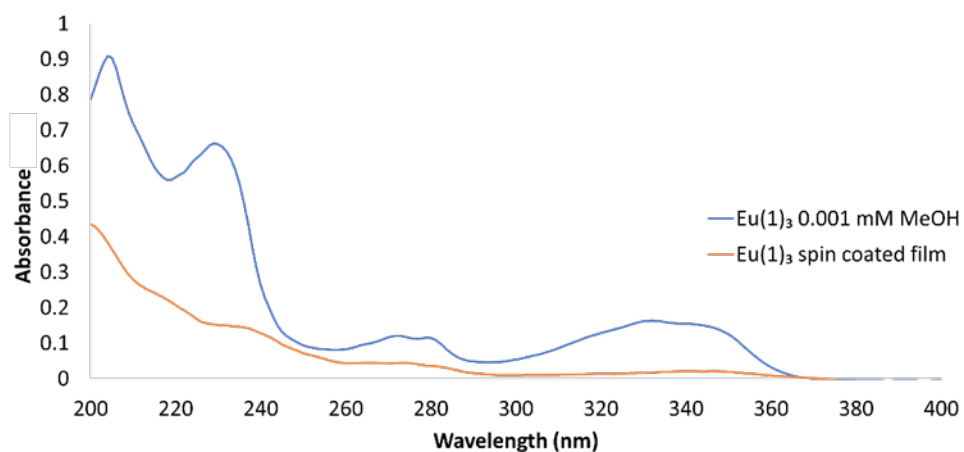
**Figure S42.** CIE chromaticity diagram with different overall colours capable of  $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_3$  in a 10 mM MeOH solution dependent on  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  and fluorescence spectra at important  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ . Calculated 1931 CIE coordinates, 230 nm  $x,y = 0.19, 0.23$ ; 240 nm  $x,y = 0.19, 0.23$ ; 250 nm  $x,y = 0.21, 0.24$ ; 255 nm  $x,y = 0.24, 0.25$ ; 260 nm  $x,y = 0.25, 0.25$ ; 265 nm  $x,y = 0.27, 0.26$ ; 270 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.26$ ; 275 nm  $x,y = 0.26, 0.26$ ; 280 nm  $x,y = 0.26, 0.28$ ; 290 nm  $x,y = 0.20, 0.24$  and 300 nm  $x,y = 0.17, 0.23$ .



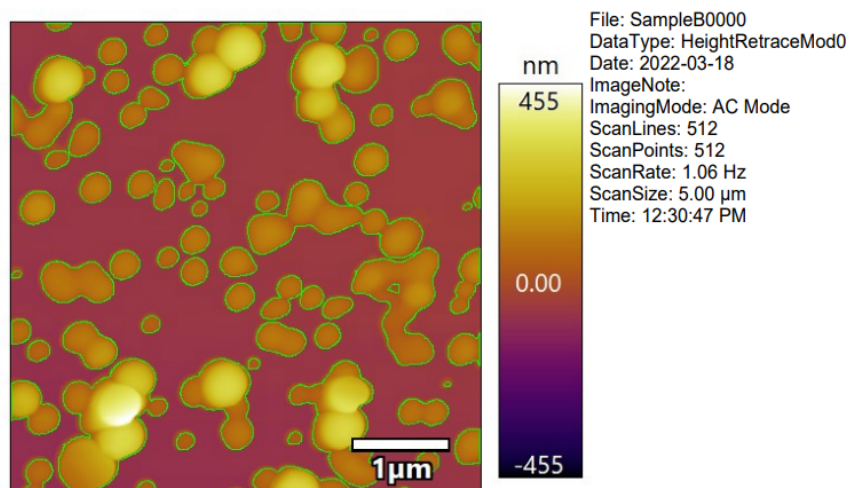
**Figure S43.** (Top) CIE chromaticity diagram with different overall colours capable of solid  $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_3$  dependent on  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ . (Bottom) shows different fluorescence profiles of solid  $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_3$  at important excitation wavelengths. Calculated 1931 CIE coordinates, 250 nm  $x,y = 0.21, 0.25$ ; 251 nm  $x,y = 0.23, 0.25$ ; 253 nm  $x,y = 0.24, 0.27$ ; 255 nm  $x,y = 0.26, 0.28$ ; 260 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.29$ ; 265 nm  $x,y = 0.39, 0.29$ ; 270 nm  $x,y = 0.31, 0.29$ ; 271-272 nm  $x,y = 0.31, 0.29$ ; 273-278 nm  $x,y = 0.32, 0.29$ ; 278-280 nm  $x,y = 0.31, 0.29$ ; 281-286 nm  $x,y = 0.30, 0.29$ ; 287 nm  $x,y = 0.29, 0.29$ ; 288 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.29$ ; 289 nm  $x,y = 0.26, 0.29$ ; 290 nm  $x,y = 0.24, 0.28$ ; 295 nm  $x,y = 0.20, 0.28$ ; 300 nm  $x,y = 0.19, 0.27$ ; 310 nm  $x,y = 0.18, 0.26$  and 350 nm  $x,y = 0.18, 0.26$ ;



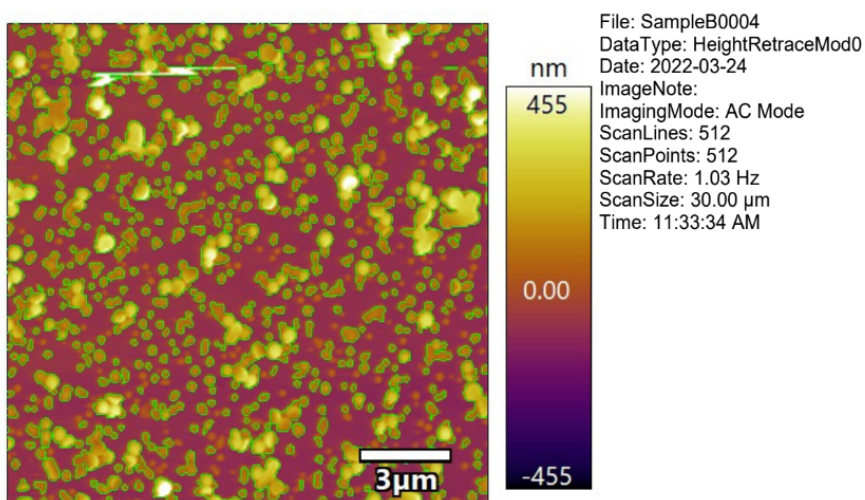
## Section 6 - Spin Coated Films



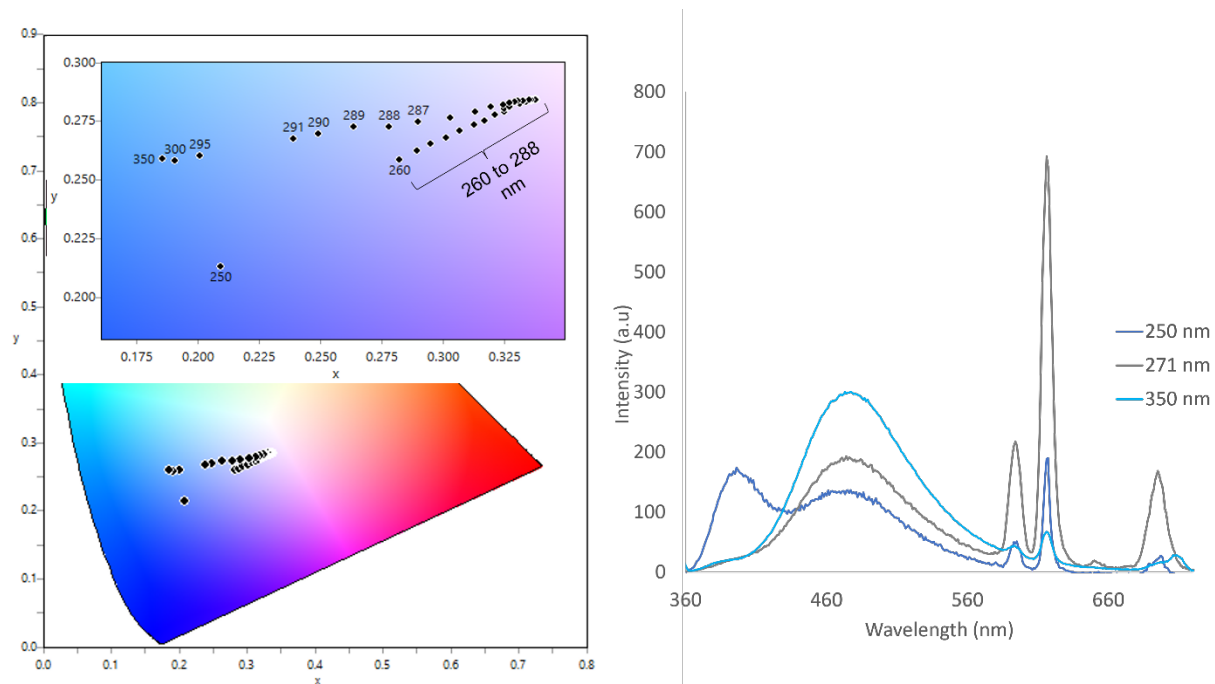
**Figure S44.** UV-visible absorption spectra of spin coated Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> film and Eu(1)<sub>3</sub> solution (0.01 mM MeOH)



**Figure S45.** AFM image of spin coated film with average particle height of 130 nm with a stdev 38 nm.



**Figure S46.** AFM image of spin coated film with average particle height of 137 nm with a stdev 44 nm.



**Figure S47.** CIE chromaticity diagram with different overall colours capable of  $\text{Eu}(\mathbf{1})_3$  in the 4000 rpm spin coated film dependent on  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  and fluorescence spectra of important  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$ . Calculated 1931 CIE coordinates, 250 nm  $x,y = 0.21, 0.21$ ; 260 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.26$ ; 261 nm  $x,y = 0.29, 0.26$ ; 262-263 nm  $x,y = 0.30, 0.27$ ; 264-265 nm  $x,y = 0.31, 0.27$ ; 266-269 nm  $x,y = 0.32, 0.28$ ; 270-272 nm  $x,y = 0.33, 0.28$ ; 273-278 nm  $x,y = 0.34, 0.28$ ; 279-283 nm  $x,y = 0.33, 0.28$ ; 284 nm  $x,y = 0.32, 0.28$ ; 285 nm  $x,y = 0.31, 0.28$ ; 286 nm  $x,y = 0.30, 0.28$ ; 287 nm  $x,y = 0.29, 0.27$ ; 288 nm  $x,y = 0.28, 0.27$ ; 289 nm  $x,y = 0.26, 0.27$ ; 290 nm  $x,y = 0.25, 0.27$ ; 295 nm  $x,y = 0.20, 0.26$  and 300-350 nm  $x,y = 0.19, 0.26$

## Section 7 - References

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