

**Supplementary Information File**

**Excited State Energy Landscape of Phosphorescent Group 14 Complexes**

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## General Procedures

All reactions and measurements were performed under argon atmosphere unless otherwise noted. Gloveboxes (UniLab/MBraun – Ar 4.8, O<sub>2</sub> < 1 ppm, H<sub>2</sub>O < 0.1 ppm) were used to store and weight sensitive compounds for synthesis as well as to prepare samples that require absence of oxygen and water. The reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers (ABCR, Acros Organics, Alfa Aesar, Fischer Scientific and Sigma Aldrich). Dichloromethane was dried and distilled from CaH<sub>2</sub>, 1,4-dioxane from sodium, THF and 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran from potassium. Deuterated solvents were purchased from euriso-top and Deutero GmbH and were dried by the same procedure as above and stored over molecular sieve (3 Å). The compounds H<sub>2</sub>bpep<sup>1</sup> and M[N(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures.

All NMR Spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance DRX 400 spectrometer at 400.42 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H), 100.70 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}), 149.23 MHz (<sup>119</sup>Sn) and 83.79 MHz (<sup>207</sup>Pb). All data were evaluated with the software *MestReNova 12.0.4-22023*. All resonances are reported in ppm versus the solvent signal as internal standard (<sup>1</sup>H; (<sup>13</sup>C) NMR: THF-*d*<sub>6</sub>: δ = 1.72, 3.58; (25.31, 67.21) ppm; DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>: δ = 2.50; (29.84, 206.26) ppm)<sup>3</sup> or external standards for <sup>119</sup>NMR (SnMe<sub>4</sub>, δ = 0 ppm) and <sup>207</sup>Pb (PbMe<sub>4</sub>, δ = 0 ppm). (s) = singlet, (d) = doublet, (t) = triplet.

Electrospray ionization ESI(+) mass spectra were recorded on an *Agilent 6545 QTOF-MS* spectrometer.

Elemental analyses were performed by the central analytic service of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Mainz using an *Elementar vario EL Cube* or by the Mikroanalytisches Labor Kolbe, c/o Fraunhofer Institut UMSICHT, Oberhausen, Germany.

UV/VIS/NIR spectra were recorded on a *Jasco V-770* spectrometer using gastight 1.00 cm quartz cells with a Schott valve. Measurements in THF were carried out in special UVasol®-THF for spectroscopy from Sigma Aldrich. The extinction coefficients are given at maximum absorption and for shoulders, highlighted as sh.

Steady-state emission spectra and photoluminescent decay curves (solution and solid-state samples) were measured with a *FLS1000 spectrometer* from *Edinburgh Instruments* equipped with a cooled photomultiplier detector PMT-980 and a Lifetime HSPMT-920. A xenon arc lamp Xe2 (450 W) was used for excitation in steady-state measurements. Time-resolved luminescence experiments were conducted using the μs-xenon-flashlamp μF2 (pulse width ca. 2 μs) and a picosecond pulsed diode laser EPL-375 as excitation source. Measurements at low temperature were carried out using a liquid nitrogen cooled cryostat *Optistat DN* from *Oxford Instruments*. Absolute luminescence quantum yields  $\Phi$  were determined using the MicrostatN from Oxford Instruments combined with the Cryosphere from Edinburgh Instruments. Relative uncertainty of  $\Phi$  is estimated to be ±20%. The Arrhenius fits were performed on basis of eq. 1 (Fig. 6b and 7b; Table 2, main text).<sup>4</sup> A global fit of the data of **1<sup>Sn</sup>** did not give satisfactory results due to the large range of  $k(T)$ . Therefore,  $E_{a1}$ , dominant in the high temperature region, was obtained from a linear Arrhenius fit by including four data points between 293 and 225 K.  $E_{a1}$  was kept constant, while the remaining parameters  $k_0$ ,  $A_1$ ,  $E_{a2}$  and  $A_2$  were optimised, including the eight data points from 77 to 175 K. In case of **1<sup>Pb</sup>**, a global fit in the range 200 to 77 K gave satisfactory results. An alternative, more sophisticated approach with the assumption of excited states in thermal equilibrium during decay, following a Boltzmann distribution,<sup>5</sup> gave identical fit results within error, indicating that the fit, according to eq. 1 is sufficiently precise.

## DFT Calculations

All calculations were performed using the quantum computing suite 5.0.2.<sup>6,7</sup> Geometry optimization was performed using (un-)restricted Kohn-Sham orbitals DFT (UKS/RKS) and the B3LYP functional<sup>8–10</sup> in combination with Ahlrich's split valance triple-zeta basis set def2-TZVPP,<sup>11</sup> old-ZORA-TZVPP (Sn) and SARC-ZORA-TZVPP (Pb) with the auxiliary basis SARC/J.<sup>12–16</sup> Tight convergence criteria were chosen for DFT calculations (keywords *tightscf* and *tightopt*). All DFT calculations make use of the resolution of identity (Split-RI-J) approach for the Coulomb term in combination with the chain-of-spheres approximation for the exchange term (keyword *RIJCOSX*).<sup>17,18</sup> The zeroth order regular approximation was used to describe relativistic effects in all calculations (keyword *ZORA*).<sup>12–16,19,20</sup> To account for solvent effects, a conductor-like screening model (keyword *CPCM(thf)*) modeling thf was used in all calculations.<sup>21,22</sup> Atom-pairwise dispersion correction was performed with the Becke-Johnson damping scheme (keyword *D3BJ*).<sup>23,24</sup> A numerical frequency calculation confirmed that the optimized geometry corresponds to a minimum structure or a transition state structure, respectively. Explicit counter ions and/or solvent molecules were not taken into account, if not explicitly noted. The 2D relaxed potential energy surface scans with 121 points were performed on the CPCM-(THF)-RIJCOSX-UB3LYP-D3BJ-ZORA/def2-SVP/old-ZORA-TZVPP(Sn)/SARC-ZORA-TZVPP(Pb) level with subsequent single-point calculations at higher level (CPCM-(THF)-RIJCOSX-(U)B3LYP-D3BJ-ZORA/def2-TZVPP/old-ZORA-TZVPP(Sn)/SARC-ZORA-TZVPP(Pb)). Transition states were localised, using the *optts* keyword and assigned with a subsequent calculation of the internal reaction coordinate (keyword *IRC*). Fifty vertical spin-allowed transitions were calculated by TD-DFT. The charge transfer number analyses of the TD-DFT calculated transitions were done using TheoDRE 2.4.<sup>25</sup> All calculations were computed on the Elwetritsch supercomputer at the Technical University of Kaiserslautern (elwe.rhrk.uni-kl.de). This is a member of the AHRP (Alliance for High Performance Computing Rhineland-Palatinate).

### Crystal Structure Determination

Intensity data for crystal structure determination were collected with a STOE IPDS-2T diffractometer from STOE & CIE GmbH with an Oxford cooling using Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ). The diffraction frames were integrated using the STOE X-Area<sup>26</sup> software package and were corrected for absorption with STOE X-Red of the X-Area<sup>26</sup> software package. The structures were solved with SHELXT<sup>27</sup> and refined by the full-matrix method based on  $F^2$  using SHELXL<sup>28</sup> of the SHELX<sup>29</sup> software package and the ShelXle<sup>30</sup> graphical interface. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically while the positions of all hydrogen atoms were generated with appropriate geometric constraints and allowed to ride on their respective parent atoms with fixed isotropic thermal parameters. Crystallographic data for the structures reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. CCDC-2211126 for **1<sup>Sn</sup>** and no. CCDC-2211125 for **(1<sup>Sn</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(diox)**.

### Crystallographic Data of **1<sup>Sn</sup>**

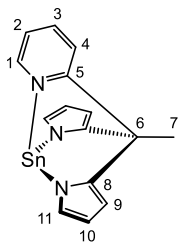
C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Sn (353.97); trigonal;  $R\bar{3}$ ;  $a = 28.972(4) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 28.972(4) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 8.1427(16) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $\alpha = 90^\circ$ ;  $\beta = 90^\circ$ ;  $\gamma = 120^\circ$ ;  $V = 5919(2) \text{ \AA}^3$ ;  $Z = 18$ ; density, calcd. =  $1.787 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T = 120(2) \text{ K}$ ,  $\mu = 1.931 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ;  $F(000) = 3132$ ; crystal size  $0.220 \times 0.180 \times 0.100 \text{ mm}^3$ ;  $\theta = 2.435$  to  $27.944 \text{ deg.}$ ;  $-37 \leq h \leq 38$ ,  $-37 \leq k \leq 38$ ,  $-10 \leq l \leq 10$ ; rfln collected = 38896; rfln unique = 6268 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0603$ ]; completeness to  $\theta = 25.242 \text{ deg.}$ : 100.0%; absorption correction: integration; max. and min. transmission 0.8301 and 0.6389; data 6268; restraints 161, parameters 455; goodness-of-fit on  $F^2 = 1.133$ ; final indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]  $R_1 = 0.0370$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.0952$ ;  $R$  indices (all data)  $R_1 = 0.0378$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.0958$ ; largest diff. peak and hole 1.565 and  $-0.495 \text{ e.\AA}^{-3}$ .

### Crystallographic Data of **(1<sup>Sn</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(diox)**

C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Sn<sub>2</sub> (796.05); monoclinic;  $I2/a$ ;  $a = 15.389(3) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 8.8015(18) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 23.005(9) \text{ \AA}$ ;  $\alpha = 90^\circ$ ;  $\beta = 101.75(3)^\circ$ ;  $\gamma = 90^\circ$ ;  $V = 3050.6(15) \text{ \AA}^3$ ;  $Z = 4$ ; density, calcd. =  $1.733 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $T = 120(2) \text{ K}$ ,  $\mu = 1.680 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ;  $F(000) = 1584$ ; crystal size  $0.800 \times 0.343 \times 0.040 \text{ mm}^3$ ;  $\theta = 2.484$  to  $27.902 \text{ deg.}$ ;  $-20 \leq h \leq 20$ ,  $-11 \leq k \leq 9$ ,  $-30 \leq l \leq 30$ ; rfln collected = 13572; rfln unique = 3638 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0177$ ]; completeness to  $\theta = 25.242 \text{ deg.}$ : 99.9%; absorption correction: integration; max. and min. transmission 0.9292 and 0.5064; data 3638; restraints 0, parameters 200; goodness-of-fit on  $F^2 = 1.110$ ; final indices [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]  $R_1 = 0.0293$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.0719$ ;  $R$  indices (all data)  $R_1 = 0.0309$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.0730$ ; largest diff. peak and hole 2.919 and  $-0.787 \text{ e.\AA}^{-3}$ .

### Synthesis of Sn(bpep) 1<sup>Sn</sup>

Sn[(N(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (556 mg, 1.27 mmol, 1.01 eq) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added to a stirred solution of H<sub>2</sub>bpep (300 mg, 1.26 mmol, 1.00 eq) in dichloromethane (5 mL). After stirring for 15 h at ambient temperature, the precipitate was separated from the solution and washed with dichloromethane (3 × 3 mL) and dried under reduced pressure. **1<sup>Sn</sup>** (330 mg, 74%) was obtained as a colourless solid.



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.38–8.36 (m, 1H, H<sup>1</sup>), 7.68 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.1, 7.4, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.8 Hz, 1H, H<sup>3</sup>), 7.60 (dt, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.1, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H<sup>4</sup>), 7.06 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.4, 5.2, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H<sup>2</sup>), 6.77 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.3, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>11</sup>), 6.01 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.1, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>9</sup>), 5.84 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.1, 2.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>10</sup>), 2.28 (s, 3H, H<sup>7</sup>) ppm.

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>):  $\delta$  = 165.9 (s, C<sup>5</sup>), 147.7 (s, C<sup>1</sup>), 141.6 (s, C<sup>3</sup>), 139.0 (s, C<sup>8</sup>), 124.0 (s, C<sup>11</sup>), 122.4 (s, C<sup>2</sup>), 120.2 (s, C<sup>4</sup>), 107.2 (s, C<sup>10</sup>), 103.2 (s, C<sup>9</sup>), 46.9 (s, C<sup>6</sup>), 20.9 (s, C<sup>7</sup>) ppm.

**<sup>119</sup>Sn NMR** (THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>):  $\delta$  = -401.2 ppm.

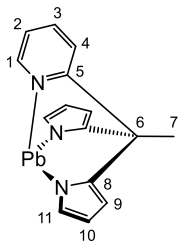
**MS** (ESI<sup>+</sup>; CH<sub>3</sub>CN): *m/z* (%) = 378.00 (7) [**1<sup>Sn</sup>**+Na<sup>+</sup>], 393.98 (64) [**1<sup>Sn</sup>**+K<sup>+</sup>], 731.02 (20) [2 **1<sup>Sn</sup>**+Na<sup>+</sup>], 746.99 (100) [2 **1<sup>Sn</sup>**+K<sup>+</sup>].

**Elemental analysis** calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Sn: C, 50.89; H, 3.70; N, 11.87. Found: C, 50.50; H, 3.67; N, 11.74.

**UV/Vis** (THF):  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 340 (534, sh), 258 (4070), 236 (4380) nm (M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>).

### Synthesis of Pb(bpep) 1<sup>Pb</sup>

Pb[(N(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (1120 mg, 2.13 mmol, 1.01 eq) in dichloromethane (8 mL) was added to a stirred solution of H<sub>2</sub>bpep (500 mg, 2.11 mmol, 1.00 eq) in dichloromethane (8 mL). A colourless precipitate was formed immediately. After stirring for 15 h at ambient temperature, the precipitate was separated from the solution and washed with dichloromethane (3 × 5 mL) and dried under reduced pressure. **1<sup>Pb</sup>** (556 mg, 63%) was obtained as a colourless solid.



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.57 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 5.2, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.7 Hz, 1H, H<sup>1</sup>), 7.83 (td, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.7 Hz, 1H, H<sup>3</sup>), 7.76 (dt, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H, H<sup>4</sup>), 7.30 (ddd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.0, 5.2, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 1H, H<sup>2</sup>), 6.86–6.83 (m, 2H, H<sup>11</sup>), 6.17 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.0, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 2H, H<sup>9</sup>), 5.96 (dd, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 3.0, 2.2 Hz, 2H, H<sup>10</sup>), 2.27 (s, 3H, H<sup>7</sup>) ppm.

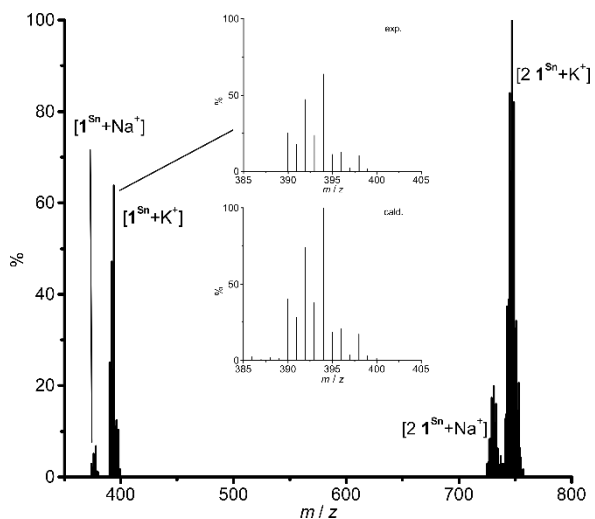
**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 165.0 (s, C<sup>5</sup>), 147.6 (s, C<sup>1</sup>), 140.1 (s, C<sup>8</sup>), 139.8 (s, C<sup>3</sup>), 124.0 (s, C<sup>11</sup>), 121.3 (s, C<sup>2</sup>), 119.2 (s, C<sup>4</sup>), 105.9 (s, C<sup>10</sup>), 102.3 (s, C<sup>9</sup>), 50.2 (s, C<sup>6</sup>), 22.0 (s, C<sup>7</sup>) ppm.

**<sup>207</sup>Pb NMR** (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  = 388.3 ppm.

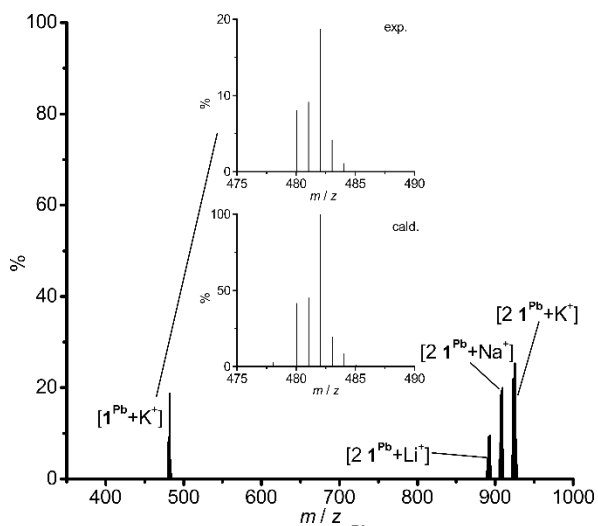
**MS** (ESI<sup>+</sup>; DMSO/CH<sub>3</sub>CN): *m/z* (%) = 482.05 (19) [**1<sup>Pb</sup>**+K<sup>+</sup>], 893.19 (10) [2 **1<sup>Pb</sup>**+Li<sup>+</sup>], 909.16 (20) [2 **1<sup>Pb</sup>**+Na<sup>+</sup>], 925.14 (25) [2 **1<sup>Pb</sup>**+K<sup>+</sup>].

**Elemental analysis** calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Pb: C, 40.72; H, 2.96; N, 9.50. Found: C, 40.15; H, 3.02; N, 9.29.

**UV/Vis** (DMSO):  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 312 (1540, sh), 278 (3010), 264 (5660) nm (M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>).



**Fig. S1** ESI<sup>+</sup> mass spectrum of **1<sup>Sn</sup>** in tetrahydrofuran with insets of the experimentally found and calculated isotope pattern for [**1<sup>Sn</sup>+K<sup>+</sup>**].



**Fig. S2** ESI<sup>+</sup> mass spectrum of **1<sup>Pb</sup>** in dimethylsulfoxide with insets of the experimentally found and calculated isotope pattern for [**1<sup>Pb</sup>+K<sup>+</sup>**].

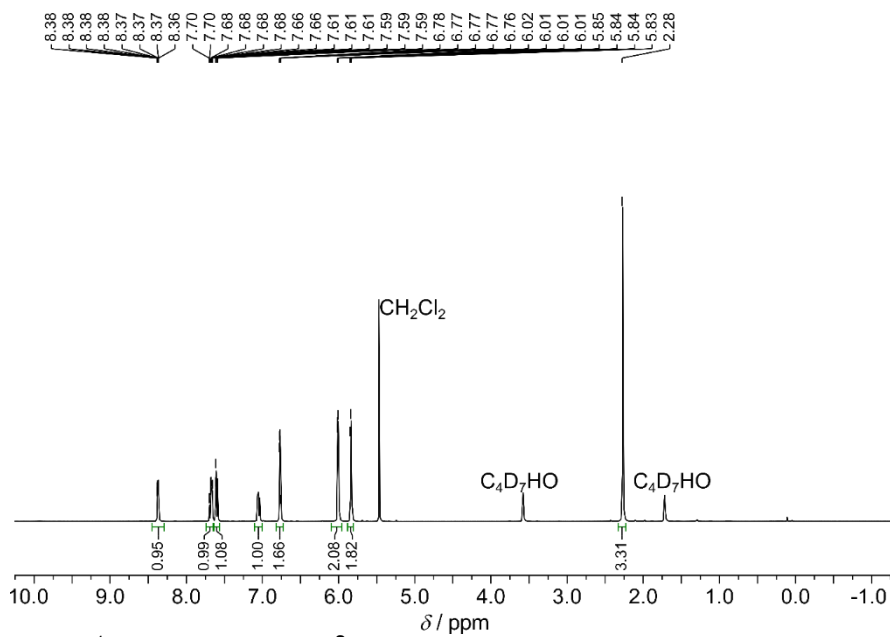


Fig. S3 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1<sup>Sn</sup>** in tetrahydrofuran-*d*<sub>8</sub>.

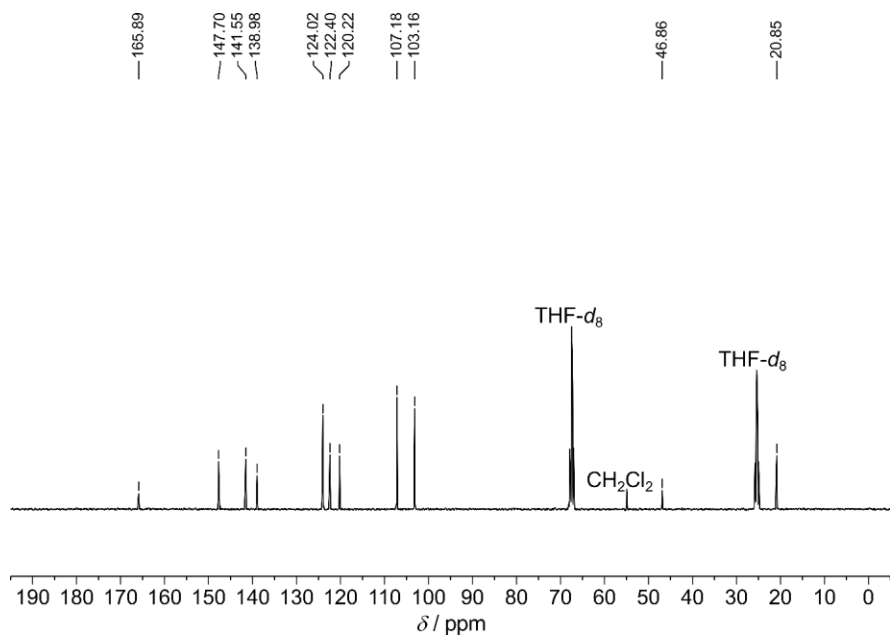


Fig. S4 <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of **1<sup>Sn</sup>** in tetrahydrofuran-*d*<sub>8</sub>.

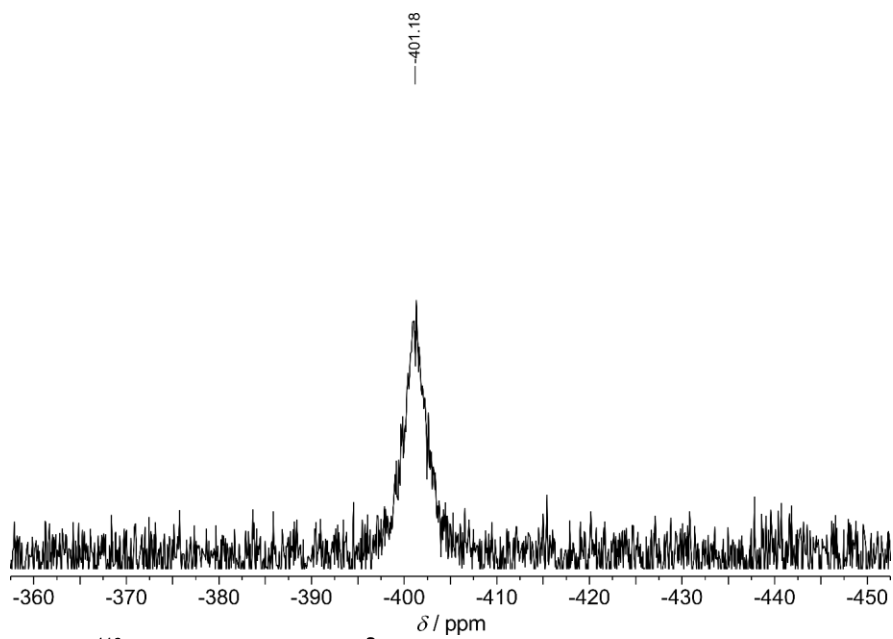


Fig. S5  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in tetrahydrofuran- $d_8$ .

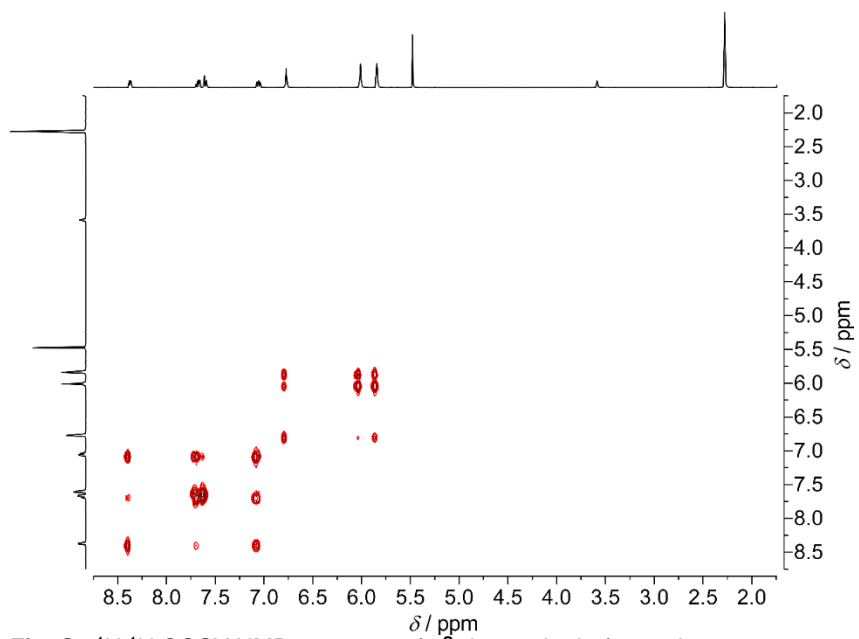
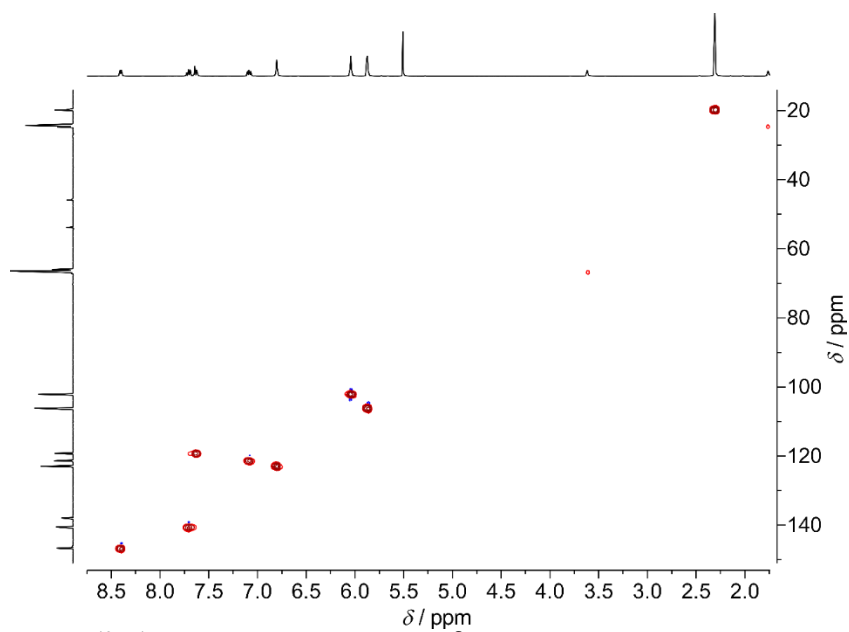
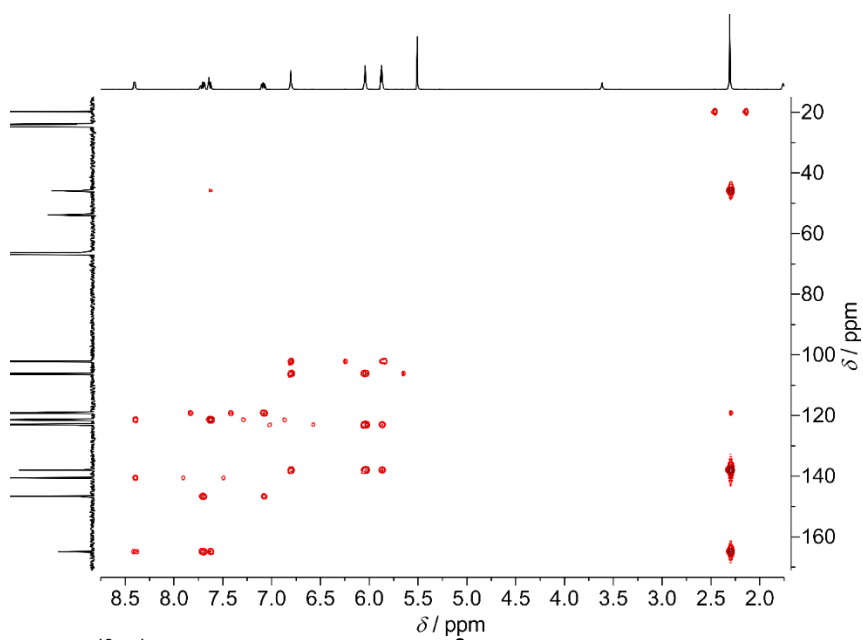


Fig. S6  $^1\text{H},^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in tetrahydrofuran- $d_8$ .

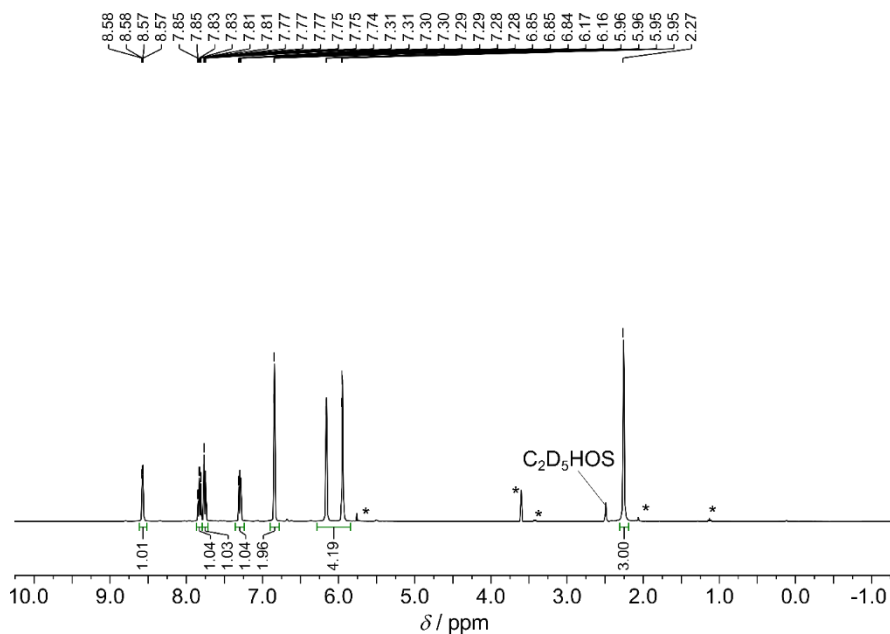


**Fig. S7**  $^{13}\text{C}, ^1\text{H}$  HSQC NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in tetrahydrofuran- $d_8$ .

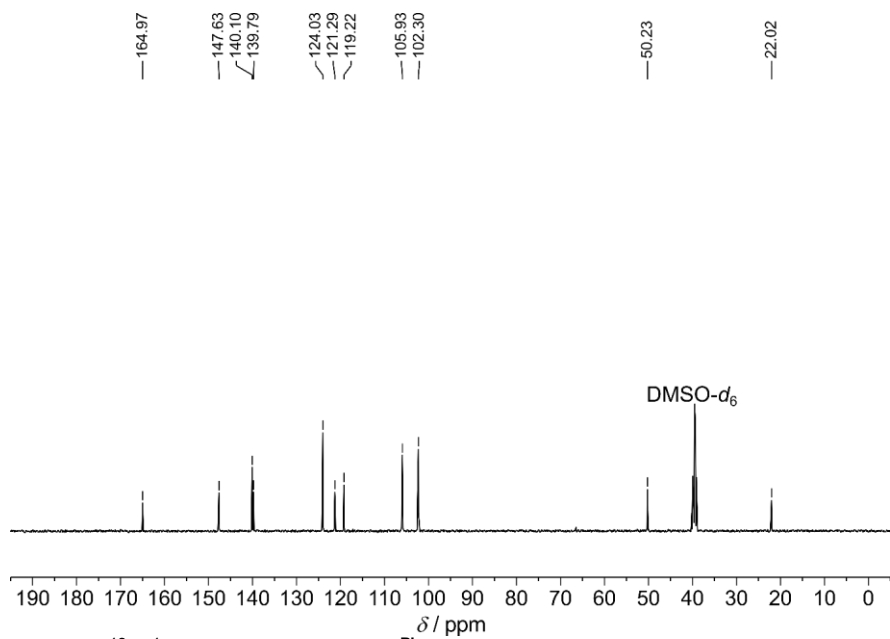


**Fig. S8**  $^{13}\text{C}, ^1\text{H}$  HMBC NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in tetrahydrofuran- $d_8$ .





**Fig. S9**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1Pb** in dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ . The asterisks denote solvent impurities.



**Fig. S10**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **1Pb** in dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ .

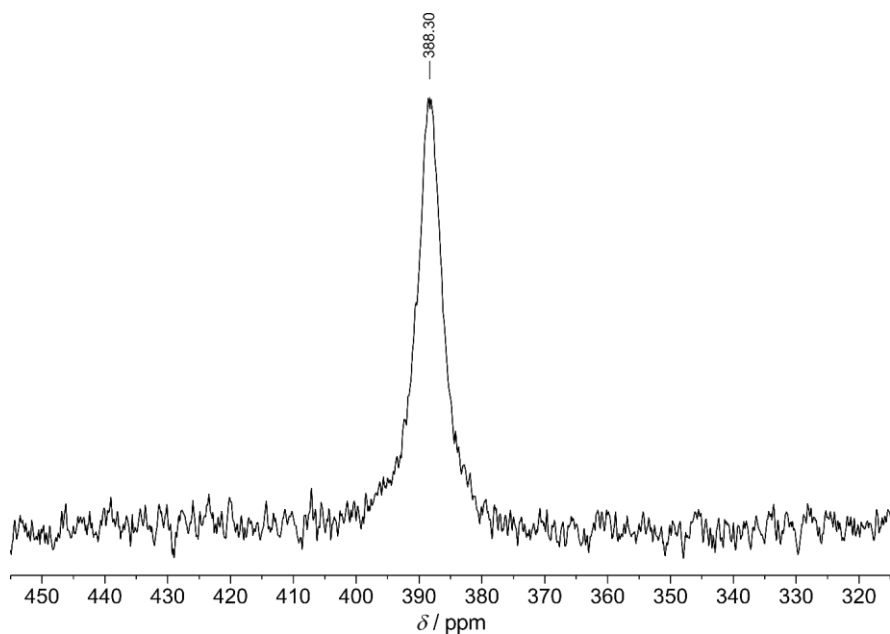


Fig. S11  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$  in dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ .

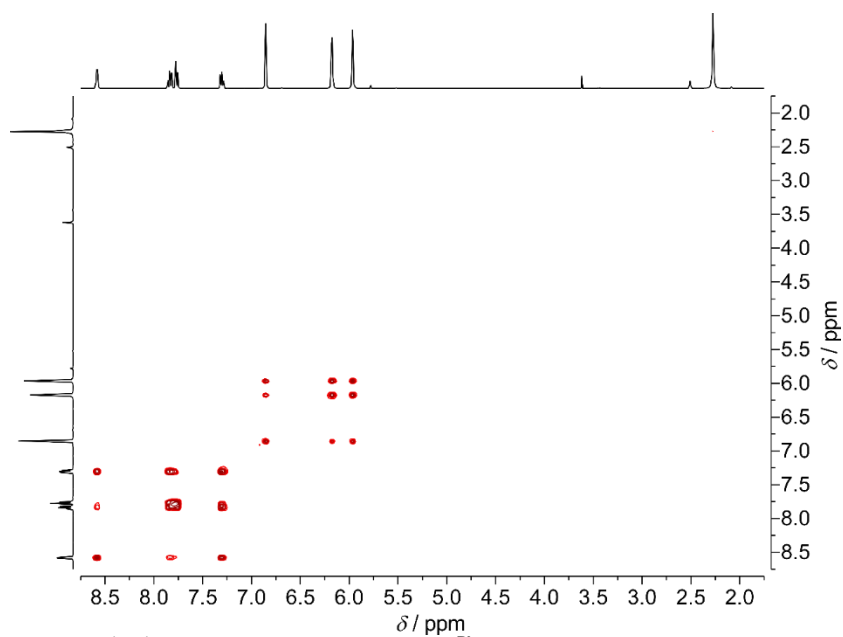
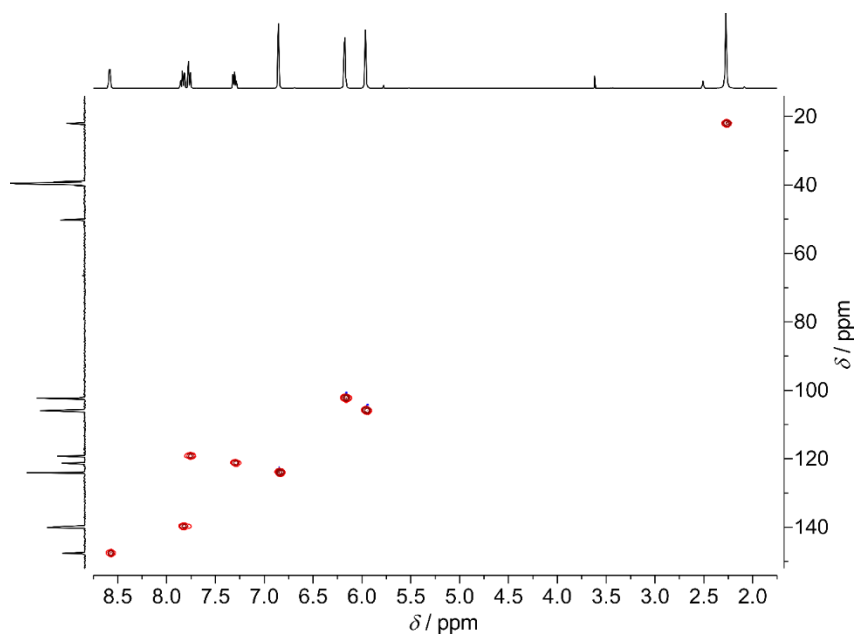
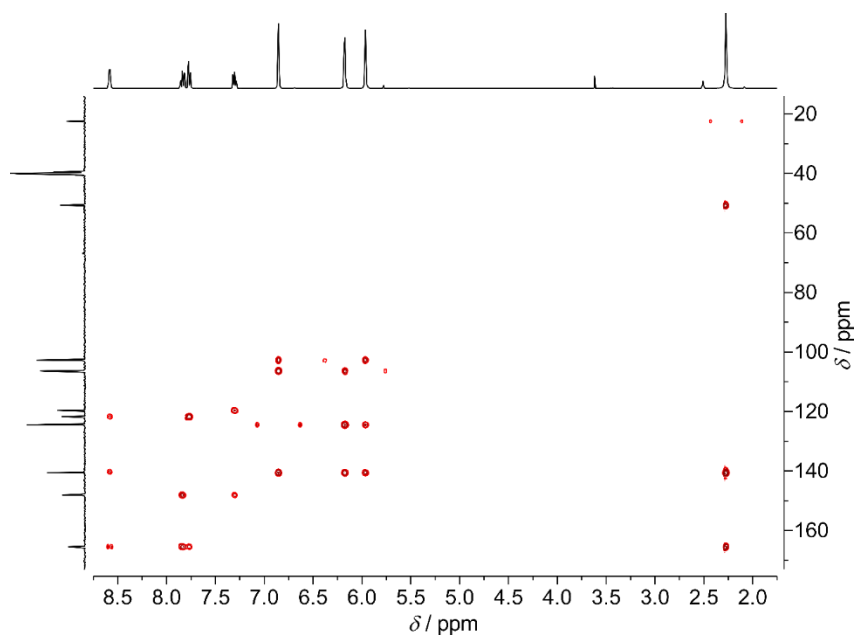


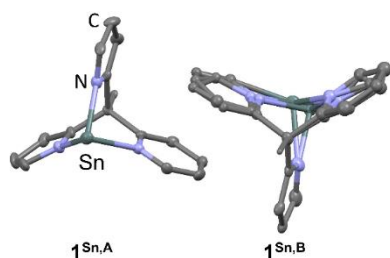
Fig. S12  $^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$  in dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ .



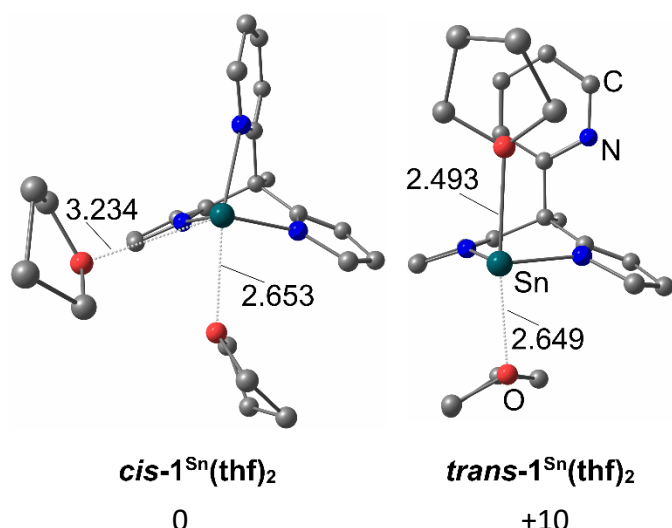
**Fig. S13**  $^{13}\text{C},^1\text{H}$  HSQC NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$  in dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ .



**Fig. S14**  $^{13}\text{C},^1\text{H}$  HMBC NMR spectrum of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$  in dimethylsulfoxide- $d_6$ .



**Fig. S15** Molecular structure of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in the solid state (trigonal space group  $R_3$ ) with two molecules  $1^{\text{Sn,A}}$  and disordered  $1^{\text{Sn,B}}$  in the asymmetric unit. H atoms omitted, thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level.



**Fig. S16** DFT optimised geometries of *cis/trans*-1<sup>Sn</sup>(thf)<sub>2</sub> with relative Gibbs free energies  $\Delta G_{298}$  at 298 K in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> and distances in Å.

**Table S1** Selected structural parameters in Å and deg. of solid state structures of 1<sup>Sn</sup> (molecule A, 1<sup>Sn,A</sup>) and (1<sup>Sn</sup>)<sub>2</sub>(diox) from XRD analyses and of DFT calculated geometry optimised structures of 1<sup>Sn</sup> and 1<sup>Sn</sup>(thf) in the <sup>1</sup>GS and <sup>3</sup>ILCT/<sup>3</sup>LMCT/<sup>3</sup>MLCT states.

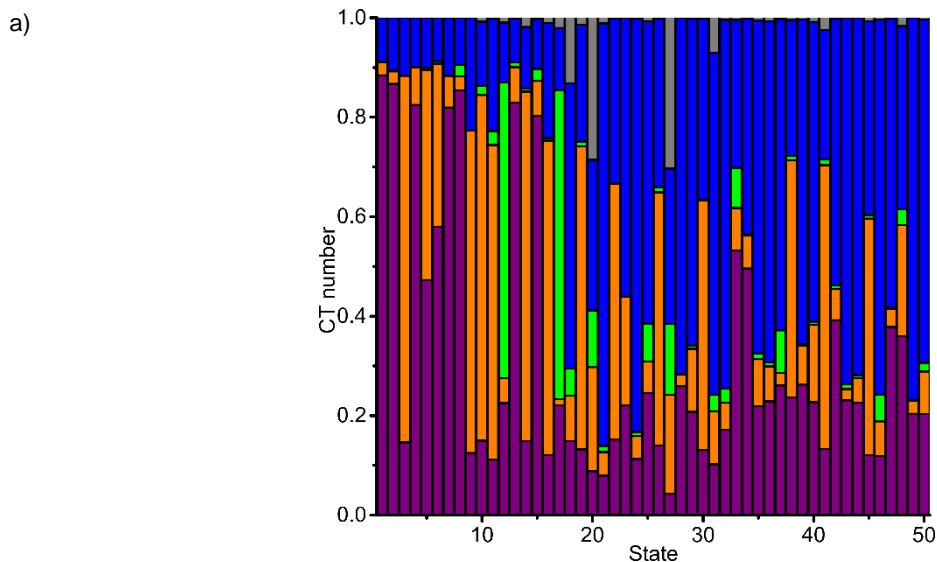
	1 <sup>Sn,A</sup> (XRD)	(1 <sup>Sn</sup> ) <sub>2</sub> (diox) (XRD)	1 <sup>1</sup> Sn (DFT)	3ILCT1 <sup>Sn</sup> (DFT)	3LMCTpy1 <sup>Sn</sup> (DFT)	3LMCTpyr1 <sup>Sn</sup> (DFT)
Sn-N <sup>py</sup>	2.317(5)	2.375(2)	2.341	2.147	3.897	2.323
Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>	2.130(5) 2.149(7)	2.125(2) 2.152(2)	2.146 2.147	2.218 2.220	2.248 2.240	3.726 2.176
Sn-O		2.547(2)				
N <sup>pyr</sup> -Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>	84.1(2)	84.08(9)	85.1	79.4	79.3	81.5
N <sup>py</sup> -Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>	80.24(18) 79.0(2)	77.93(8) 79.93(8)	80.3 80.3	83.2 83.3	54.9 80.1	81.3 56.5
O-Sn-N <sup>py</sup>		155.98(7)				
O-Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>		80.94(8) 87.07(8)				
Sn-N <sup>py</sup> -C <sup>py</sup> - C <sub>backbone</sub>	2.1	2.4	0.3	0.1	83.0	5.1
Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup> - C <sup>pyr</sup> -C <sub>backbone</sub>	5.5	3.7	0.2	5.1	13.7	78.6

	1 <sup>1</sup> Sn(thf) (DFT)	3ILCT1 <sup>Sn</sup> (thf) (DFT)	3LMCTpy1 <sup>Sn</sup> (thf) (DFT)	3LMCTpyr1 <sup>Sn</sup> (thf) (DFT)	3MLCT1 <sup>Sn</sup> (thf) (DFT)
Sn-N <sup>py</sup>	2.441	2.182	3.917	2.451	2.127
Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>	2.155 2.159	2.221 2.225	2.245 2.242	2.202 3.800	2.087 2.083
Sn-O	2.606	2.925	4.378	2.726	2.338
N <sup>pyr</sup> -Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>	85.6	80.6	79.3	80.4	88.4
N <sup>py</sup> -Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>	77.2 77.6	81.6 81.5	54.7 79.9	55.9 77.8	88.9 89.1
O-Sn-N <sup>py</sup>	149.7	148.6	121.5	158.2	177.5
O-Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup>	81.6 79.4	76.1 73.3	74.7 62.2	81.5 113.8	90.9 88.4
Sn-N <sup>py</sup> -C <sup>py</sup> - C <sub>backbone</sub>	0.5	0.7	83.2	1.5	0.2
Sn-N <sup>pyr</sup> - C <sup>pyr</sup> -C <sub>backbone</sub>	5.4	8.7	14.4	82.2	3.7
N <sup>py</sup> -Sn-O	149.7	148.6	121.5	158.2	177.5

**Table S2** Selected structural parameters in Å and deg. of DFT calculated geometry optimised structures of **1<sup>Pb</sup>** and **1<sup>Pb</sup>(thf)** in the in the <sup>1</sup>GS and <sup>3</sup>ILCT/<sup>3</sup>LMCT states.

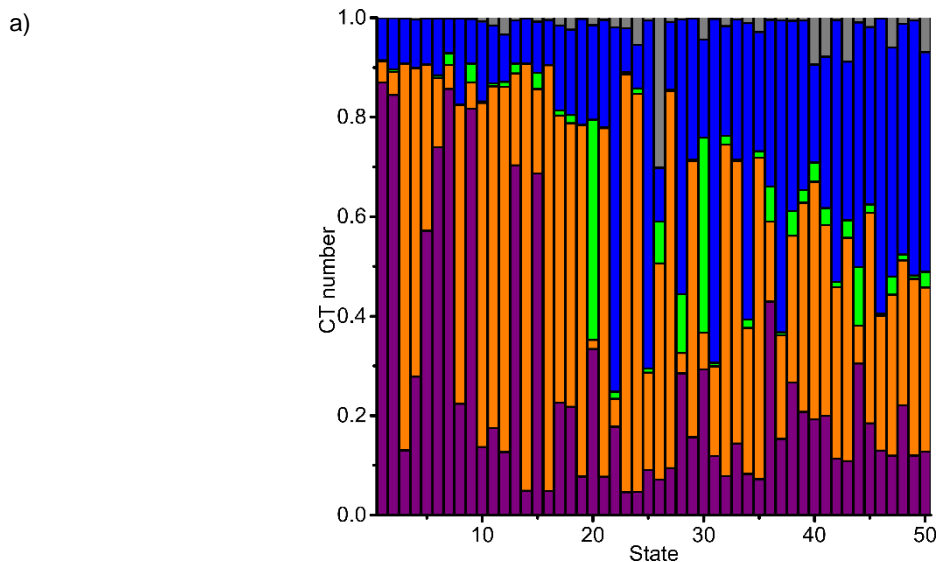
	<b>1<sup>Pb</sup></b> (DFT)	<b><sup>3</sup>ILCT1<sup>Pb</sup></b> (DFT)	<b><sup>3</sup>LMCTpy1<sup>Pb</sup></b> (DFT)	<b><sup>3</sup>LMCTpyr1<sup>Pb</sup></b> (DFT)	<b>1<sup>Pb</sup>(thf)</b> (DFT)	<b><sup>3</sup>ILCT1<sup>Pb</sup>(thf)</b> (DFT)
Pb-N <sup>py</sup>	2.455	2.256	3.908	2.459	2.577	2.301
Pb-N <sup>pyr</sup>	2.260 2.260	2.344 2.344	2.378 2.373	3.703 2.303	2.276 2.270	2.352 2.351
Pb-O					2.700	2.912
N <sup>pyr</sup> -Pb-N <sup>pyr</sup>	82.4	76.9	76.8	80.1	83.5	78.2
N <sup>py</sup> -Pb-N <sup>pyr</sup>	77.9 77.9	80.5 80.5	54.3 78.4	78.1 55.9	74.6 74.5	78.7 78.5
O-Pb-N <sup>py</sup>					146.4	146.0
O-Pb-N <sup>pyr</sup>					81.4 79.7	76.4 74.1
Pb-N <sup>py</sup> -C <sup>py</sup> - C <sub>backbone</sub>	0.2	0.9	85.2	5.0	0.7	1.5
Pb-N <sup>pyr</sup> - C <sup>pyr</sup> -C <sub>backbone</sub>	1.2	5.2	14.8	80.5	3.6	11.1



b)

1: 412 nm / 0.01292	2: 382 nm / 0.01257	3: 342 nm / 0.00132	4: 334 nm / 0.03349	5: 319 nm / 0.00275
6: 316 nm / 0.02323	7: 315 nm / 0.01820	8: 303 nm / 0.00988	9: 288 nm / 0.00426	10: 275 nm / 0.05322
11: 272 nm / 0.00111	12: 271 nm / 0.01099	13: 270 nm / 0.00447	14: 262 nm / 0.03356	15: 259 nm / 0.00050
16: 240 nm / 0.00364	17: 234 nm / 0.01379	18: 232 nm / 0.03439	19: 230 nm / 0.01920	20: 225 nm / 0.43686

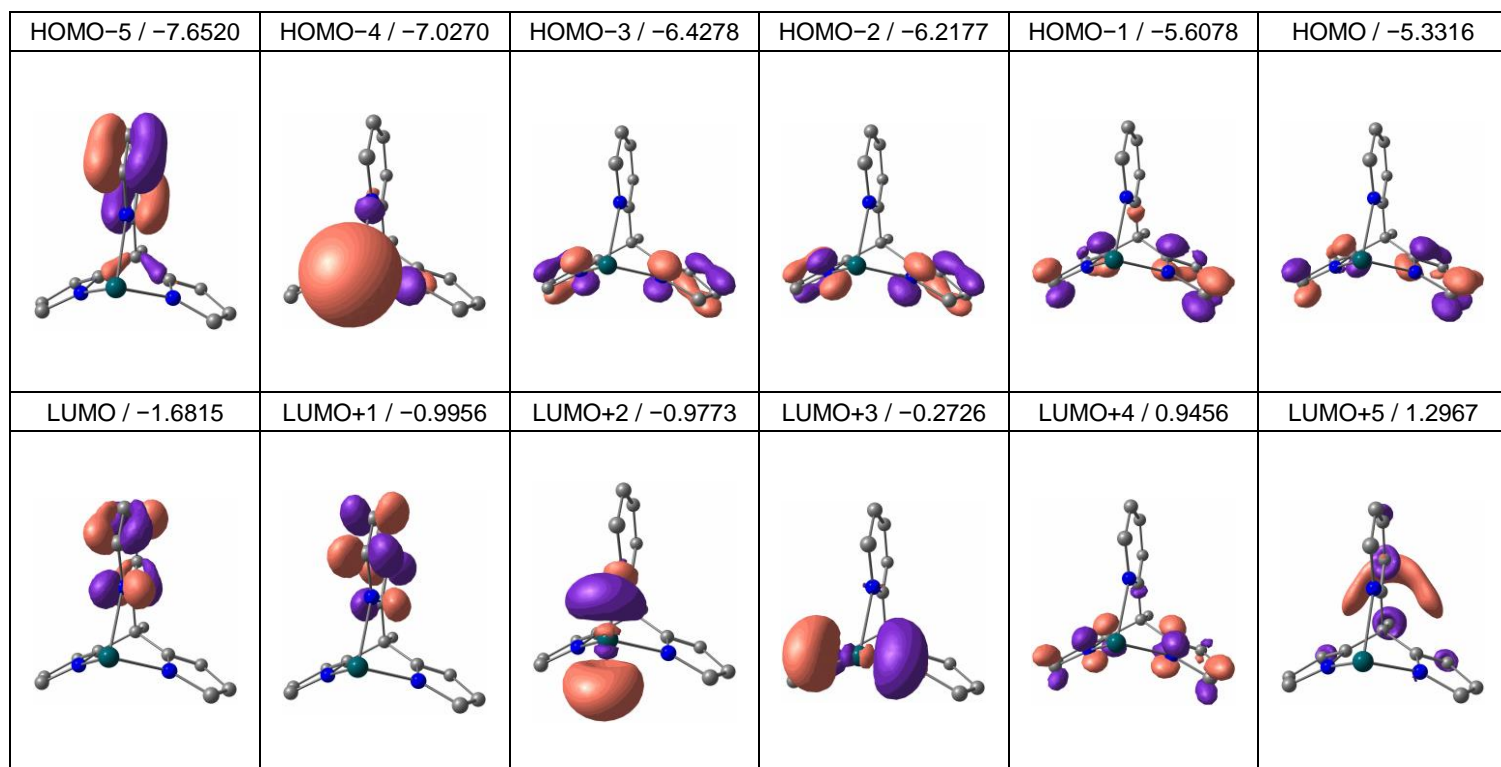
**Fig. S17** a) Charge transfer analysis of the 50 lowest spin-allowed transitions of  $1^{Sn}$  (purple: ILCT, orange: LMCT, green: MLCT; blue: LC, grey: MC) and b) difference electron densities of the 20 lowest spin-allowed transitions of  $1^{Sn}$  with the respective wavelength and oscillator strength (purple = electron loss; orange = electron gain) displayed at an isosurface value of 0.005 a.u..



b)

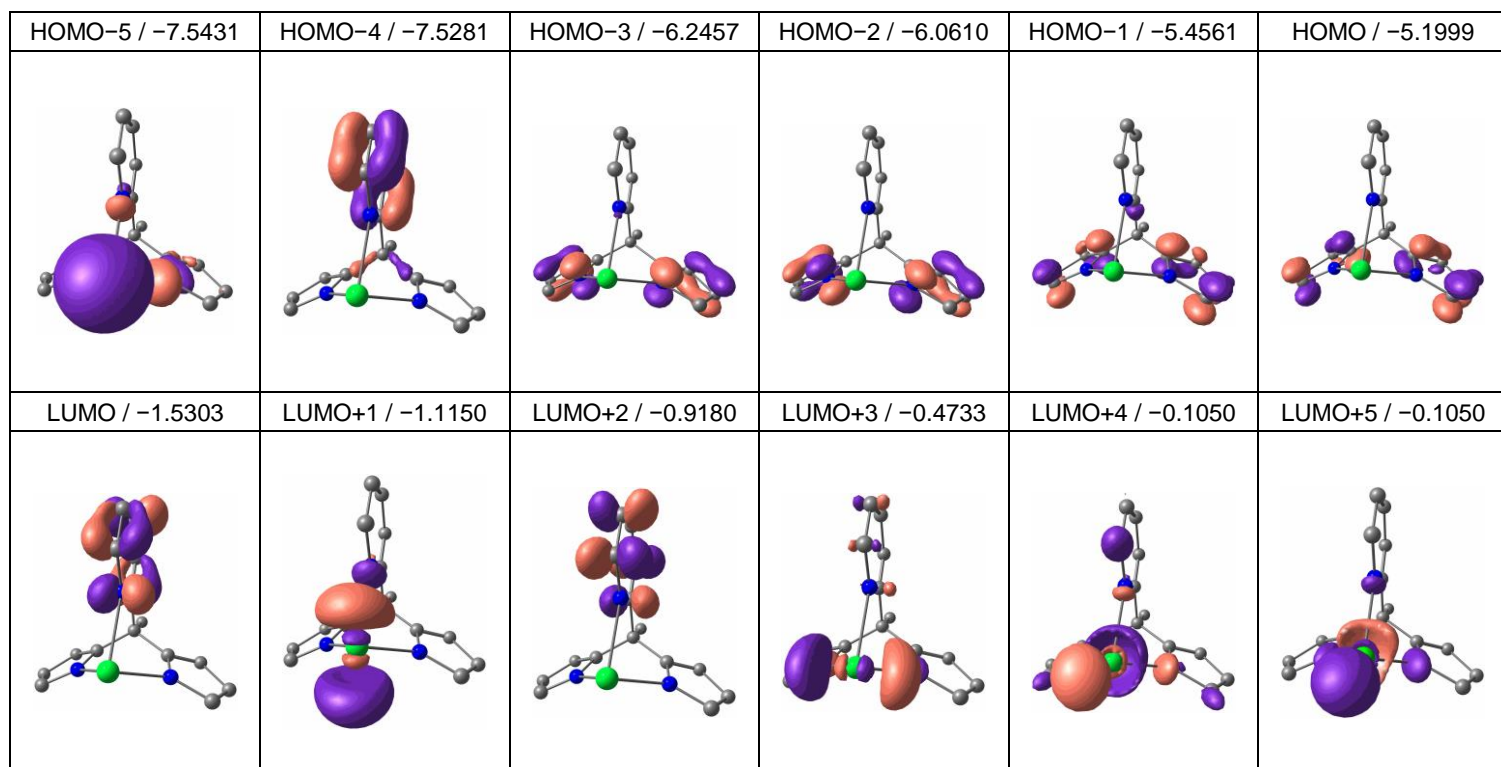
1: 409 nm / 0.01388	2: 382 nm / 0.01230	3: 367 nm / 0.00085	4: 342 nm / 0.00670	5: 338 nm / 0.02678
6: 321 nm / 0.014879	7: 318 nm / 0.01733	8: 310 nm / 0.00951	9: 305 nm / 0.00541	10: 293 nm / 0.00134
11: 292 nm / 0.05506	12: 280 nm / 0.02542	13: 275 nm / 0.01026	14: 273 nm / 0.00001*	15: 265 nm / 0.00115
16: 259 nm / 0.00138*	17: 256 nm / 0.00303	18: 246 nm / 0.016127	19: 243 nm / 0.00146	20: 237 nm / 0.00403

**Fig. S18** a) Charge transfer analysis of the 50 lowest spin-allowed transitions of  $1^{Pb}$  (purple: ILCT, orange: LMCT, green: MLCT; blue: LC, grey: MC) and b) difference electron densities of the 20 lowest spin-allowed transitions of  $1^{Pb}$  with the respective wavelength and oscillator strength (purple = electron loss; orange = electron gain) displayed at an isosurface value of 0.005 a.u. and 0.0017 a.u. highlighted with an asterisk.

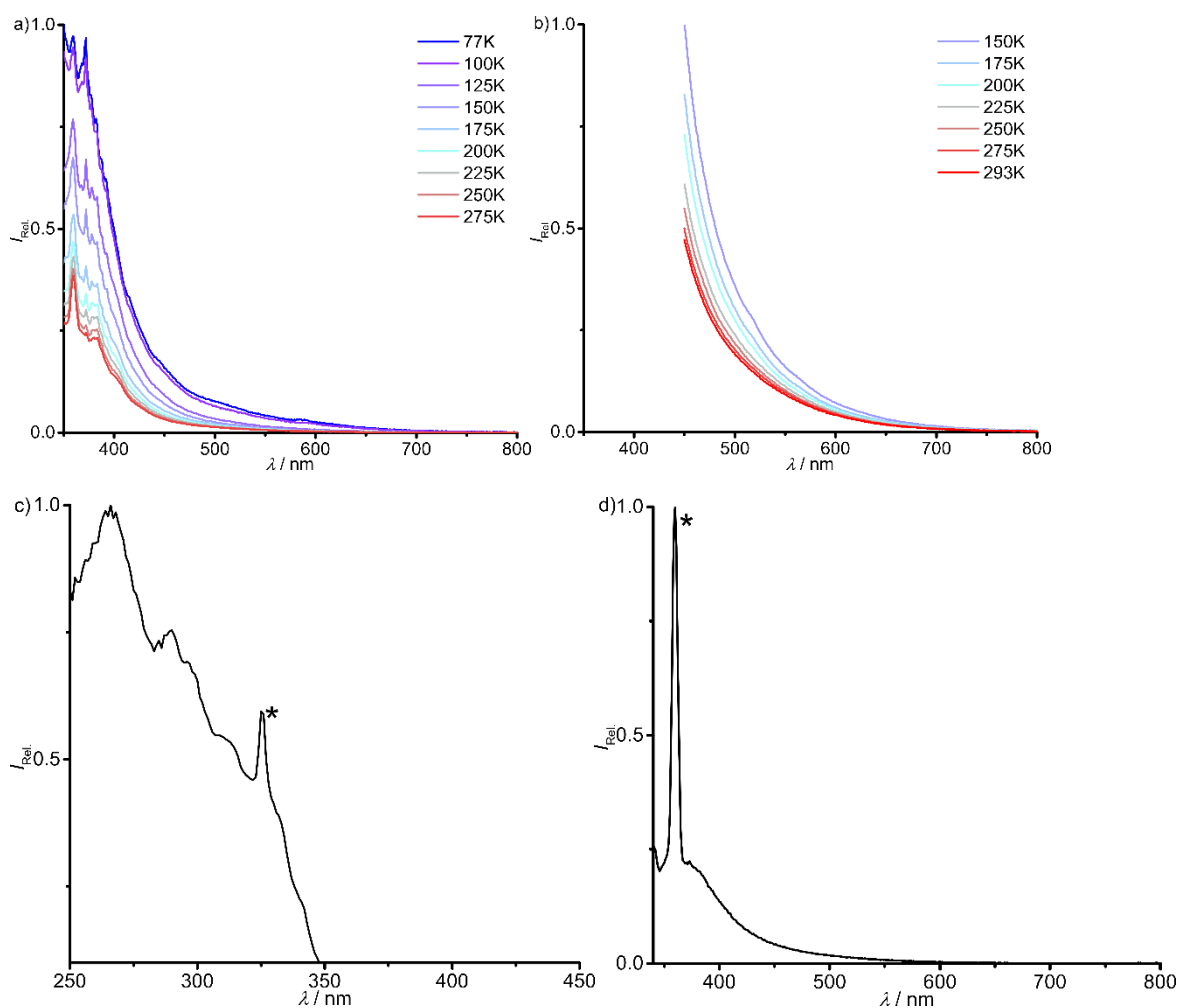


**Fig. S19** Selected molecular orbitals of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  with energies given in eV, displayed at an isosurface value of 0.06 a.u..

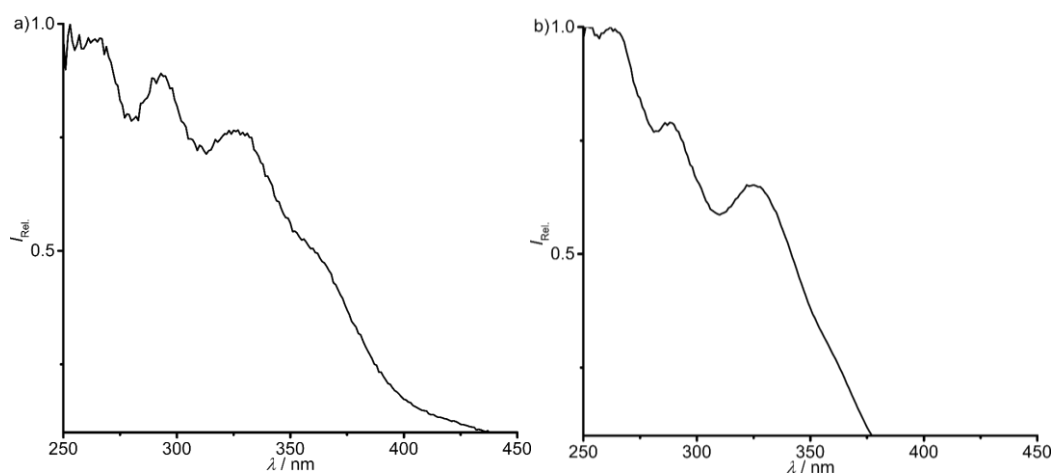




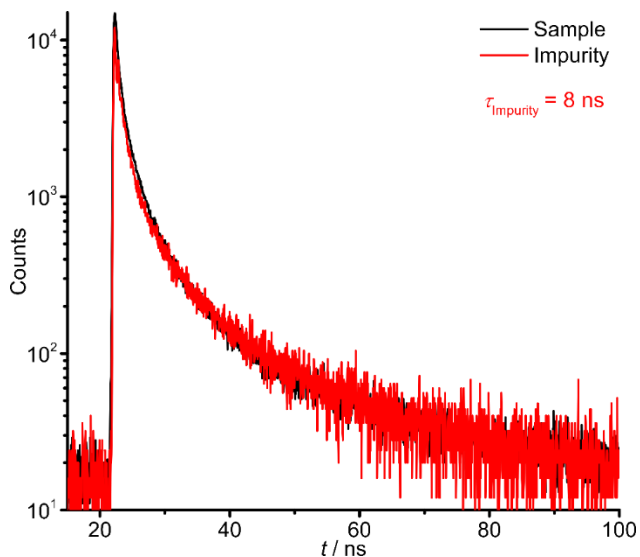
**Fig. S20** Selected molecular orbitals of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$  with energies given in eV, displayed at an isosurface value of 0.06 a.u..



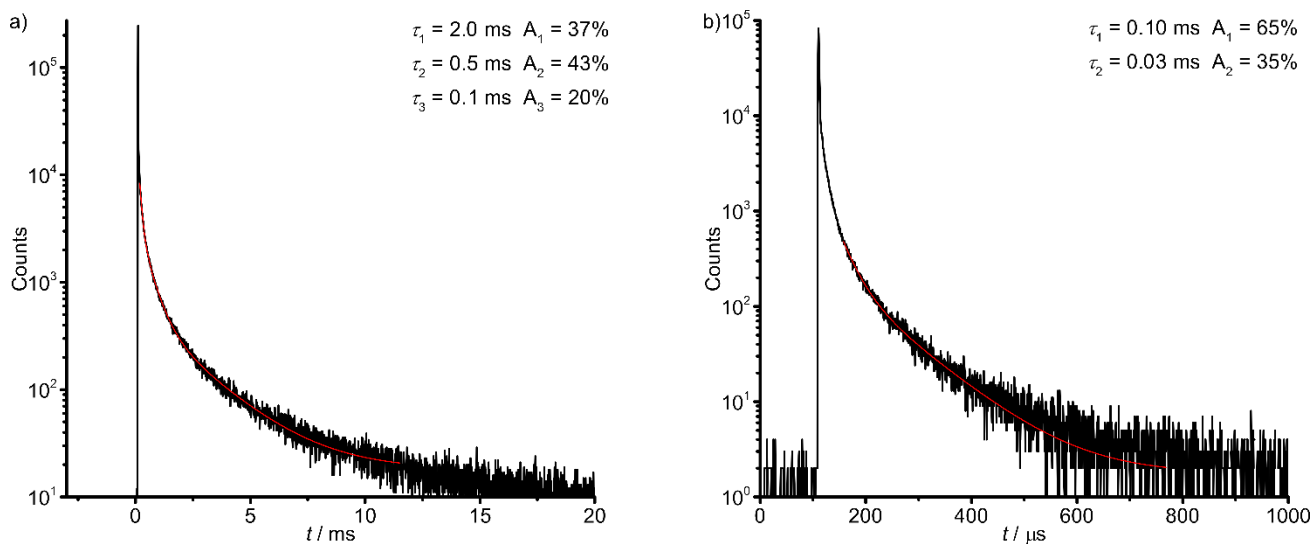
**Fig. S21** Variable-temperature emission spectra a) between 77 and 275 K, b) between 150 K and 293 K, c) excitation spectrum ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 380 \text{ nm}$ ) at 77 K of the unidentified luminescent impurity in 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran with  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 325 \text{ nm}$  and d) emission spectrum of the unidentified impurity in tetrahydrofuran with  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 325 \text{ nm}$  at 293 K in the absence of  $1^{\text{E}}$ . The asterisks denote Raman bands of the solvent.



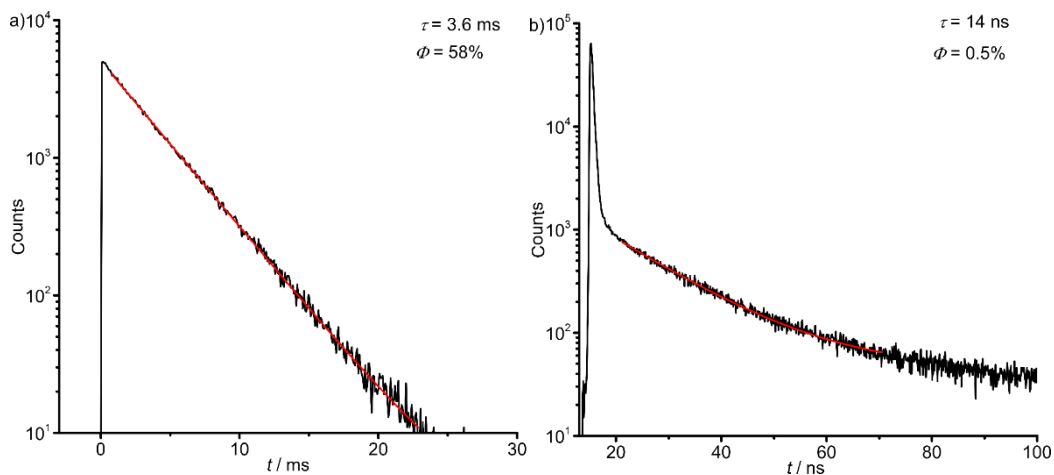
**Fig. S22** Excitation spectra of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran at a) 293 ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 580 \text{ nm}$ ) and b) 77 K ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 530 \text{ nm}$ ). The high absorbance of the sample at  $\lambda < \approx 325 \text{ nm}$  causes filter effects, yielding distorted excitation spectra.



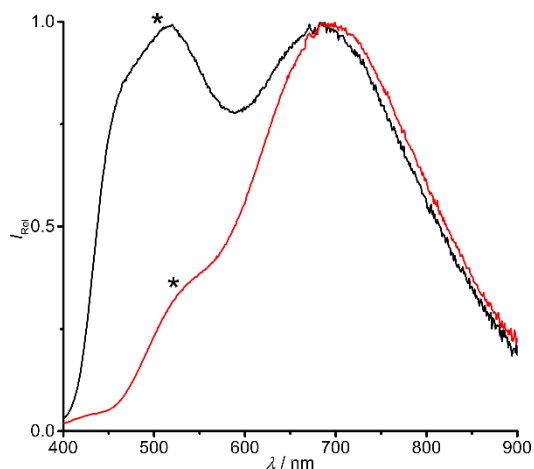
**Fig. S23** Emission decay curves of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran after excitation at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375 \text{ nm}$  with  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 575 \text{ nm}$  (black curve) and of the unidentified luminescent impurity in 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375 \text{ nm}$  with  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 400 \text{ nm}$  at 150 K (red curve) with luminescence lifetime from monoexponential fit.



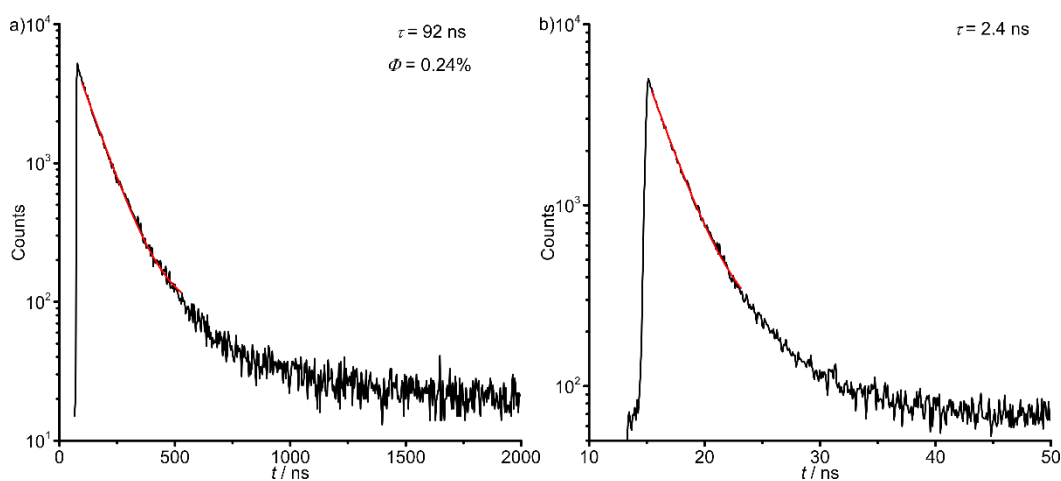
**Fig. S24** Emission decay curves of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  in 2-methyl-tetrahydrofuran at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 325 \text{ nm}$  with  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 530 \text{ nm}$  and a) 77 K and b) 100 K (black curves), respectively, with luminescence lifetimes with relative emission amplitudes, from tri and biexponential fits (red curves), respectively.



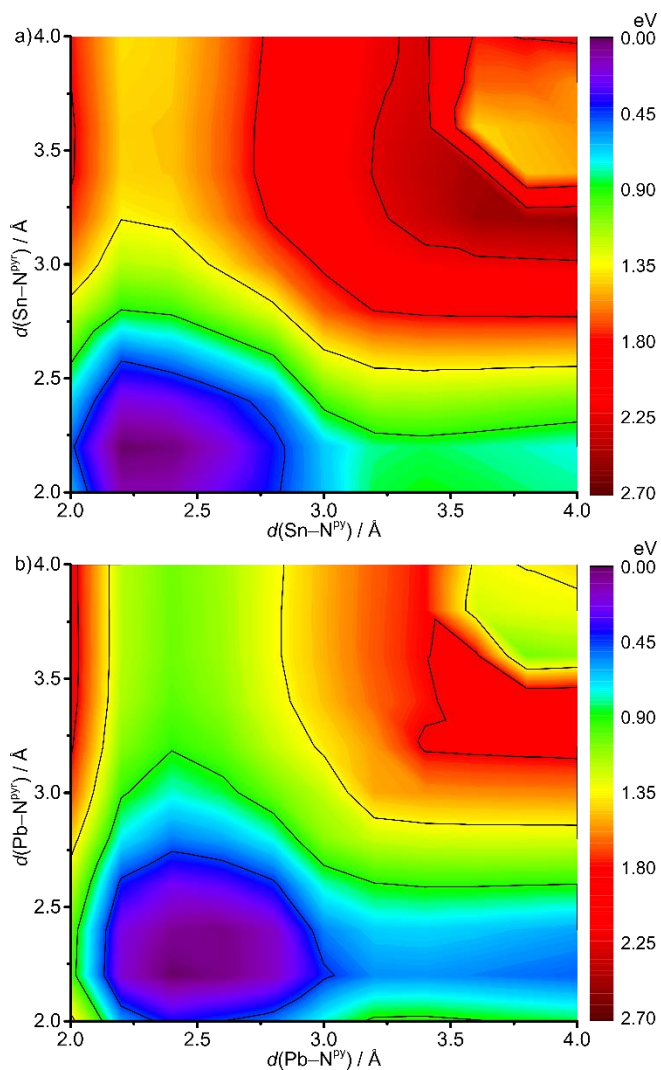
**Fig. S25** Emission decay curves of  $1^{\text{Sn}}$  at a)  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 350$  nm with  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 505$  nm and b) at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375$  nm with  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 505$  nm at 77 K and 293 K (black curves) in the solid state, respectively, with luminescence lifetimes from monoexponential fits (red curves) and luminescence quantum yields.



**Fig. S26** Normalised emission spectra of a solid sample of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$  with an unidentified minor impurity (oxidation or solvolysis product of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$ ), denoted with an asterisk, before (red curve) and after contact to air (black curve) at 77 K with  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375$  nm.



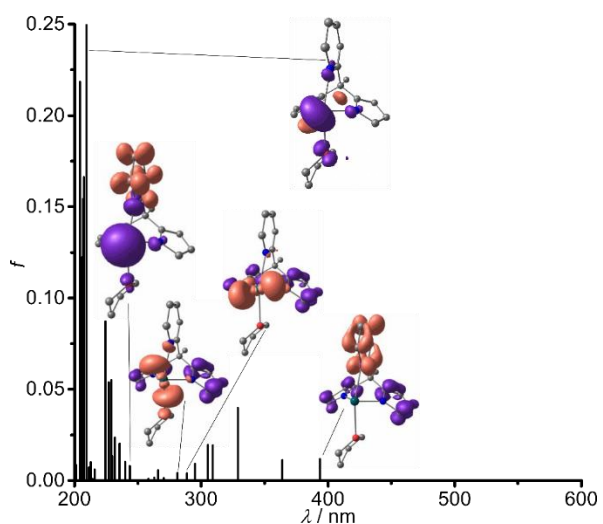
**Fig. S27** Emission decay curves of  $1^{\text{Pb}}$  at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 375$  nm with  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 700$  nm at a) 77 K and b) 200 (black curves), respectively, with luminescence lifetimes from monoexponential fits (red curves) and luminescence quantum yield at 77 K.



**Fig. S28** Contour plot of the  $^{11}\text{E}$  potential energy surfaces, according to single-point energies of a 2D relaxed potential energy surface scan as projection along the  $\text{E}-\text{N}^{\text{py}}$  and  $\text{E}-\text{N}^{\text{pyr}}$  stretching modes on the triplet hypersurface  $^3\text{1E}$  of a)  $^1\text{Sn}$  and b)  $^1\text{Pb}$  (CPCM-(THF)-RIJCOSX-B3LYP-D3BJ-ZORA/def2-TZVPP/old-ZORA-TZVPP(Sn)/SARC-ZORA-TZVPP(Pb)).

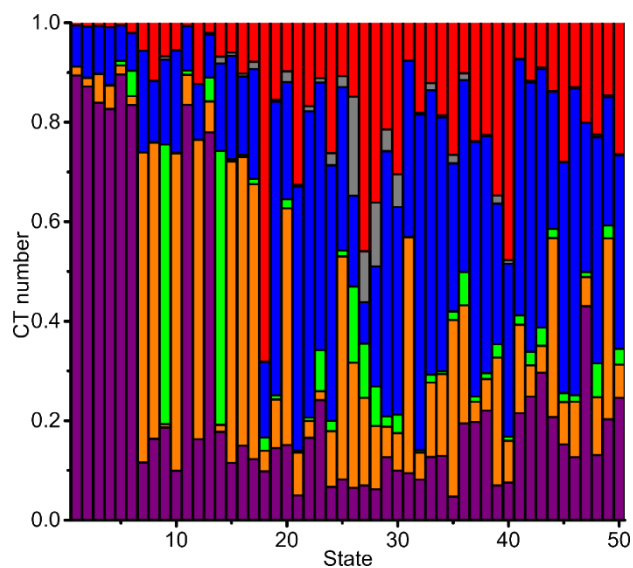
**Table S3** Relative Gibbs free energies  $\Delta G_{298}$  at 298 K of triplet states,  $^1\text{GS}$  and transition states (TS) in eV, calculated by DFT for  $^1\text{Sn}$  and  $^1\text{Pb}$ .

	$^1\text{Sn}$	$^1\text{Pb}$
$^3\text{ILCT}$	0	0
$^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{py}}$	-0.16	-0.38
$^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{pyr}}$	+0.10	-0.11
$^1\text{GS}$	-2.31	-2.33
$\text{TS}(^3\text{ILCT} \rightarrow ^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{py}})$	+0.25	+0.06
$\text{TS}(^3\text{ILCT} \rightarrow ^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{pyr}})$	+0.36	-
$\text{TS}(^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{py}} \rightarrow ^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{pyr}})$	-	+0.48

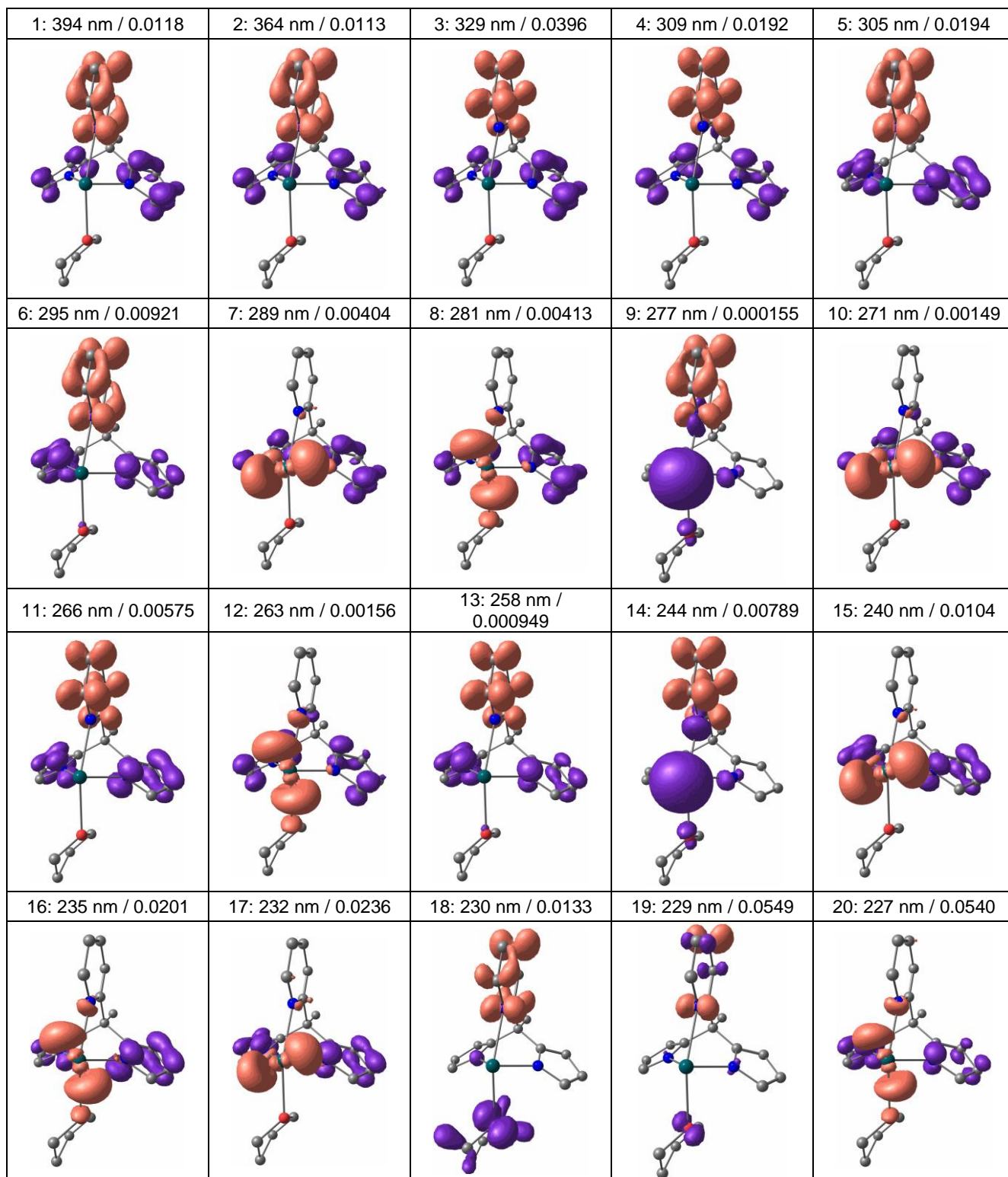


**Fig. S29** TD-DFT calculated oscillator strengths on **1<sup>Sn</sup>(thf)** and difference electron densities of selected characteristic spin-allowed transitions (isosurface value 0.005 a.u., purple = electron loss, orange = electron gain, CPCM-(THF)-RIJCOSX-B3LYP-D3BJ-ZORA/def2-TZVPP/old-ZORA-TZVPP(Sn)).

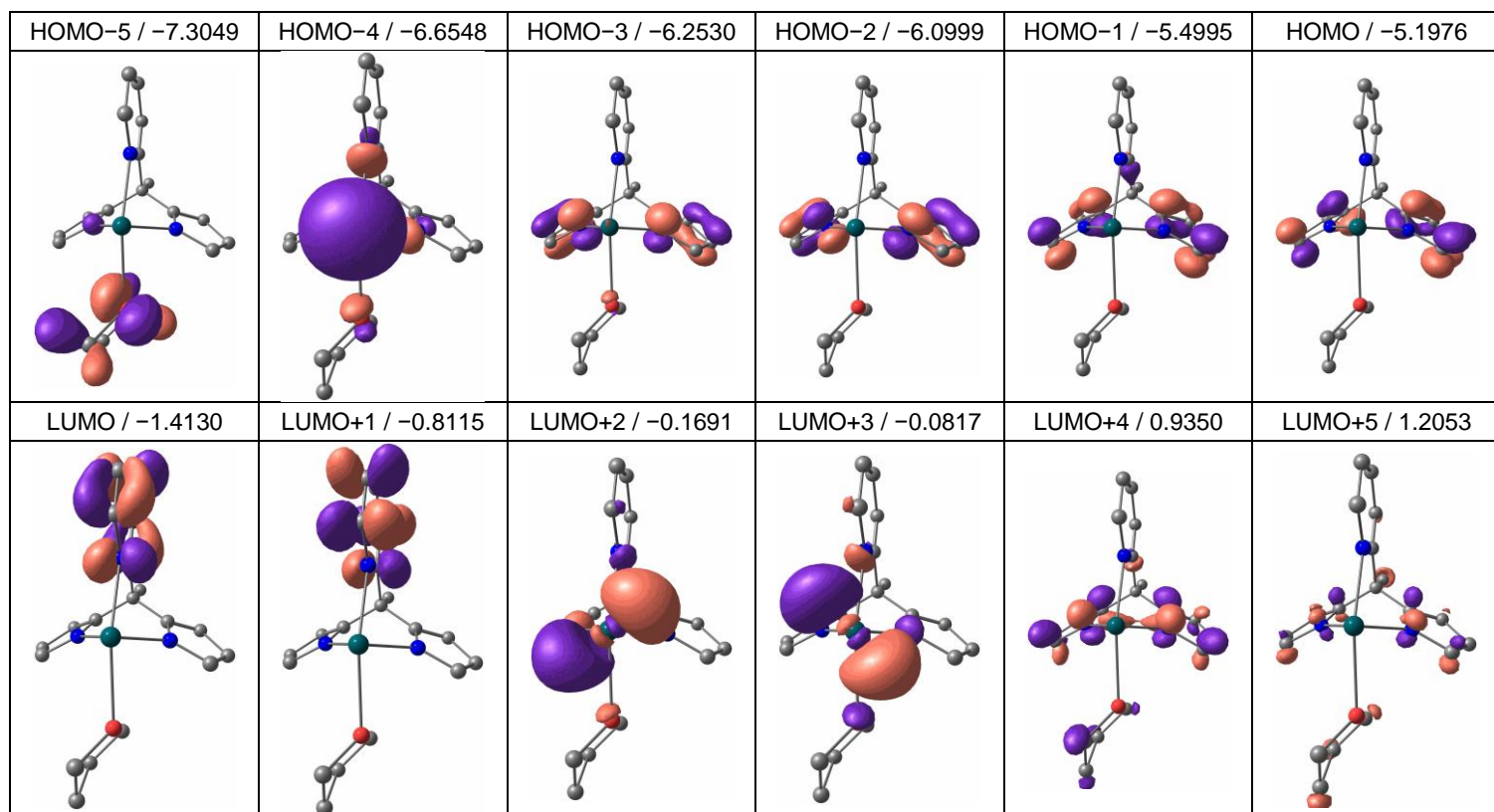
a)



b)



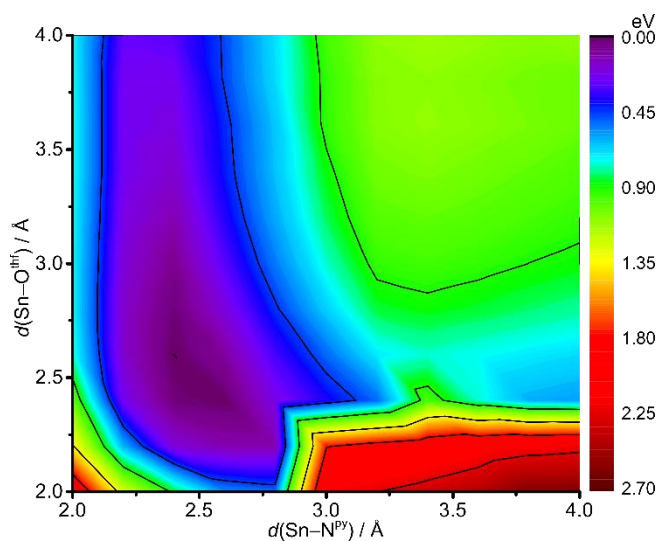
**Fig. S30** a) Charge transfer analysis of the 50 lowest spin-allowed transitions of  $1^{\text{Sn}}(\text{thf})$  (green: MLCT, purple: ILCT, orange: LMCT, blue: IL, grey: MC) and b) difference electron densities of the 20 lowest spin-allowed transitions of  $1^{\text{Sn}}(\text{thf})$  with the respective wavelength and oscillator strength (purple = electron loss; orange = electron gain) displayed at an isosurface value of 0.005 a.u..



**Fig. S31** Selected molecular orbitals of  $1^{\text{Sn}}(\text{thf})$  with energies given in eV, displayed at an isosurface value of 0.07 a.u..

**Table S4** Relative Gibbs free energies  $\Delta G_{298}$  at 298 K of triplet states,  $^1\text{GS}$  and transition states (TS) in eV, calculated by DFT for  $1^{\text{Sn}}(\text{thf})$ .

$^3\text{ILCT}$	0
$^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{py}}$	-0.09
$^3\text{MLCT}$	+0.85
$^3\text{LMCT}_{\text{pyr}}$	+0.12
$^1\text{GS}$	-2.43



**Fig. S32** Contour plot of the  $1^{\text{Sn}}(\text{thf})$  potential energy surface, according to single-point energies of a 2D relaxed potential energy surface scan as projection along the Sn-N<sup>py</sup> and Sn-O<sup>thf</sup> stretching modes on the triplet hypersurface  $^31^{\text{Sn}}$  of  $1^{\text{Sn}}(\text{thf})$  (CPCM-(THF)-RIJCOSX-B3LYP-D3BJ-ZORA/def2-TZVPP/old-ZORA-TZVPP(Sn)).



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