

Transition Metal Small Clusters Anchored on Biphenylene for Effective Electrocatalytic Nitrogen Reduction

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Ru ₁ @BPN				
	H ₁	H ₂	H ₃	T ₁
Initial				
Final				
Relative energy/eV	0	0.26	0.50	Move to H ₁
	T ₂	B ₁	B ₂	B ₃
Initial				
Final				
Relative energy/eV	Move to H ₂	Move to H ₁	Move to H ₁	Move to H ₂

Ru ₂ @BPN				
Sites				
Relative energy/eV	0	0.28	0.10	0.37
Sites				
Relative energy/eV	0.69	0.72	0.79	1.37
Ru ₃ @BPN				
Sites				
Relative energy/eV	0	0.05	0.06	0.11
	0.56	0.65	0.84	

Ru ₄ @BPN		
Sites		
Relative energy/eV	0	0.10

Fig. S1 The optimized structures and relative energies of Ru₁₋₄ clusters anchored on BPN sheet.

	TM = V, Fe, Ni, Mo, Ru, Rh, W, Re, Ir		
TM ₁ @BP N			
	Type 1 TM=V, Fe		Type 2 TM = Ni, Mo, Ru, Rh, W, Re, Ir
TM ₂ @BP N			
	Type 1 TM = V, Fe, W	Type 2 TM=Ni, Ru, Rh, Ir	Type 3 TM = Mo, Re
TM ₃ @BP N			
	TM = V, Fe, Ni, Mo, Ru, Rh, W, Re, Ir		
TM ₄ @BP N			

Fig. S2 The most stable structures for nine TM₁₋₄ clusters anchored on BPN sheet.

Structures of N₂ on Ru₂₋₄@BPN

Ru ₂ @BPN				
Sites	Side on	End on-1	End on-2	
Relative energy/eV	/	0	0.19	
Ru ₃ @BPN				
Sites	Side on-1	Side on-2	End on-1	End on-2
Energy/eV	0	0.05	0	0.18
Ru ₄ @BPN				
Sites	Side on-1	Side on-2	Side on-3	Side on-4
Relative energy/eV	0	0.35	0.55	0.53
Ru ₄ @BPN				
Sites	End on-1	End on-2		
Relative	0	0.48		

energy/eV				
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Fig. S3 Possible stable structures of N₂ adsorption on Ru_n@BPN (n=2-4) systems.

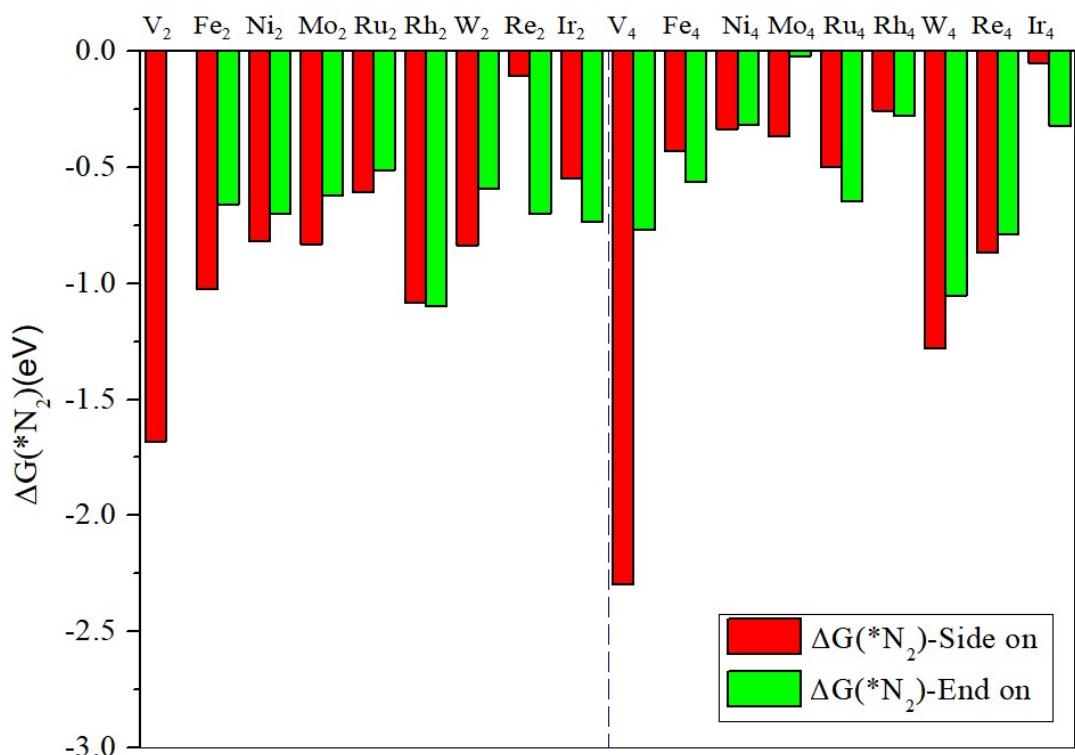


Fig. S4. The Gibbs free energy profile $\Delta G (*N_2)$ of TM₂ and TM₄ clusters anchored on BPN sheet.
Note the end-on manner of N₂ adsorption over V₂@BPN can't be obtained.

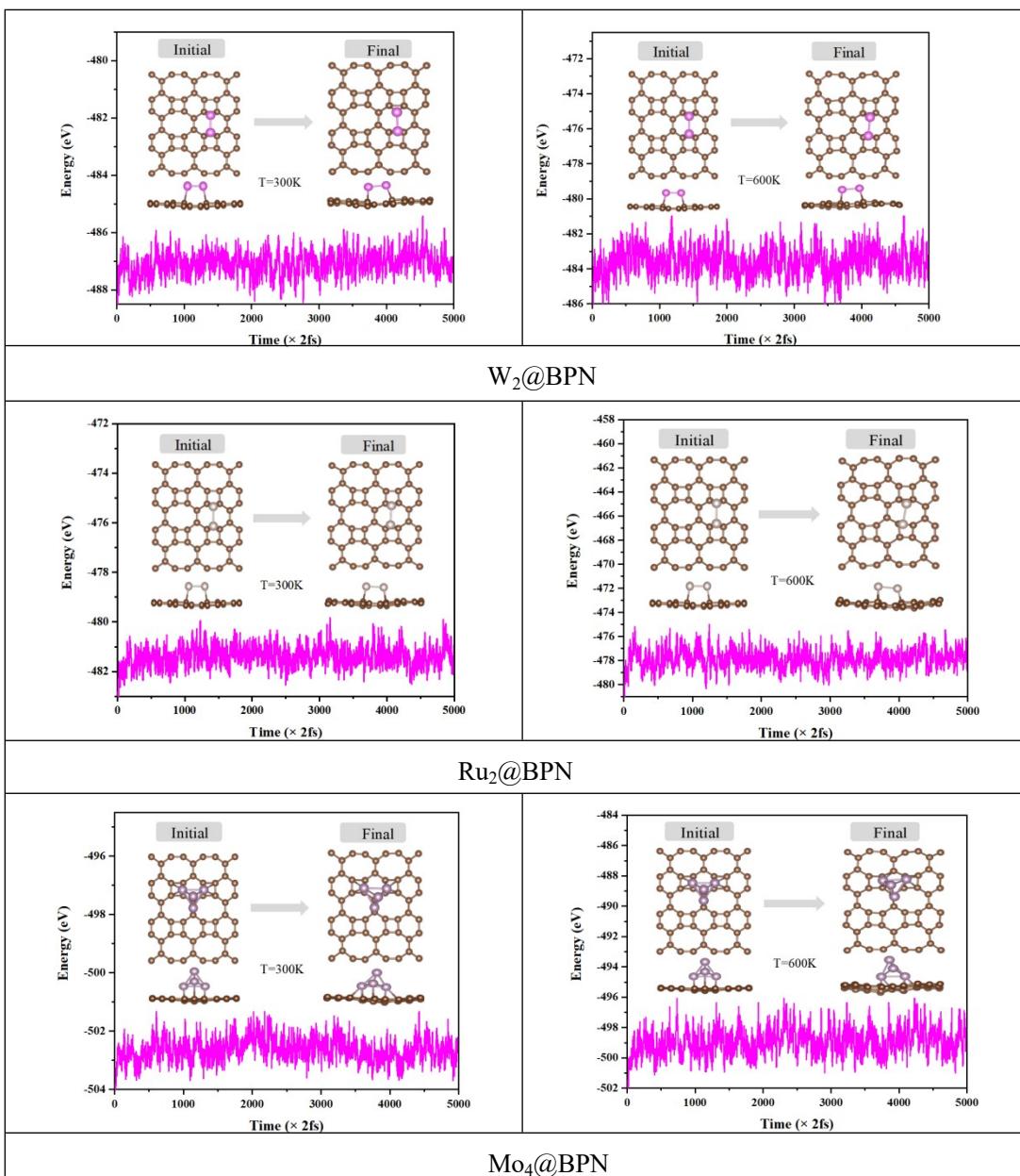


Figure S5. Variation of energy with time for AIMD simulation of W₂/Ru₂/Mo₄ clusters anchored on BPN sheet at 300 and 600 K for a period of 10 ps.

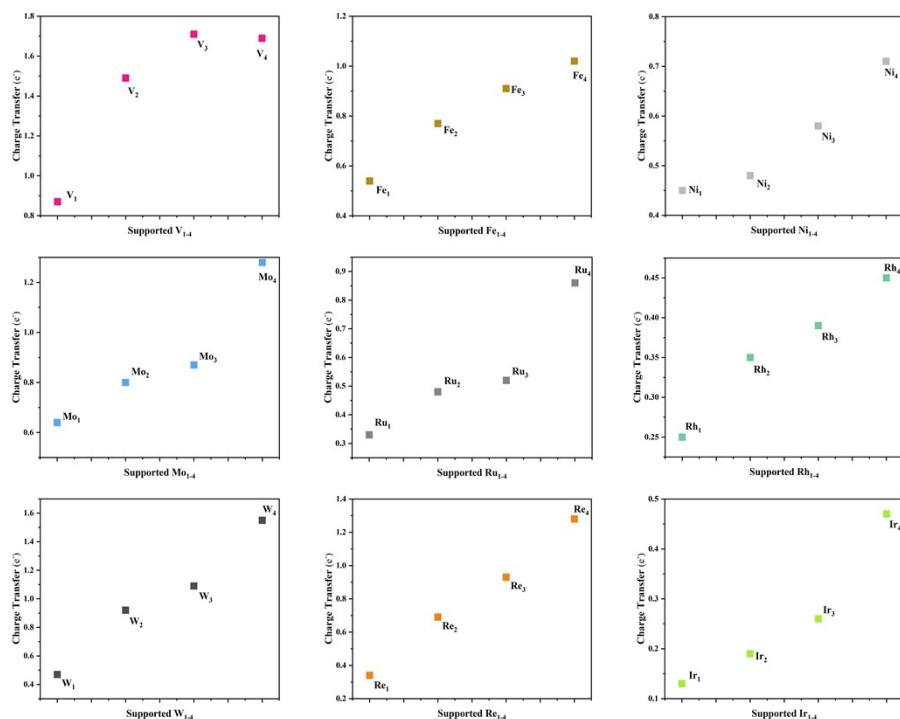


Figure S6. Bader charge transfers ($|e|$) of the TM₁₋₄@BPN with the number of TM atoms.

Table S1 Bader charge dispersion ($|e|$) of the Ru₁₋₄@BPN and Re₃- and Mo₃@BPN catalysts.

Atom	Charge of Ru ₁ @BPN	Charge of Ru ₂ @BPN	Charge of Ru ₃ @BPN	Charge of Ru ₄ @BPN	Charge of Re ₃ @BPN	Charge of Mo ₃ @BPN
1	+0.33	+0.19	+0.37	-0.20	-0.06	-0.10
2		+0.19	+0.37	+0.35	+0.47	+0.47

3			-0.22	+0.38	+0.48	+0.50
1				+0.33		
Num.						

Table S2 Total Bader charge dispersion ($|e|$) of the $\text{TM}_{1-4}@\text{BPN}$ catalysts.

Atoms	Total Charge Transfers ($ e $)			
	$\text{TM}_1@\text{BPN}$	$\text{TM}_2@\text{BPN}$	$\text{TM}_3@\text{BPN}$	$\text{TM}_4@\text{BPN}$
V	+0.87	+1.49	+1.71	+1.69
Fe	+0.54	+0.77	+0.91	+1.02
Ni	+0.45	+0.46	+0.46	+0.71
Mo	+0.64	+0.80	+0.87	+1.28
Ru	+0.33	+0.38	+0.52	+0.86
Rh	+0.25	+0.35	+0.26	+0.45
W	+0.47	+0.92	+1.09	+1.55
Re	+0.34	+0.69	+0.89	+1.28
Ir	+0.13	+0.19	+0.26	+0.47

Table S3 Bader charge dispersion ($|e|$) of the $\text{TM}_2@\text{BPN}$ catalysts.

DACs	Bader charge dispersion ($ e $) of atom 1	Bader charge dispersion ($ e $) of atom 2
$\text{V}_2@\text{BPN}$	+0.72	+0.77
$\text{Fe}_2@\text{BPN}$	+0.37	+0.39
$\text{Ni}_2@\text{BPN}$	+0.25	+0.21
$\text{Mo}_2@\text{BPN}$	+0.41	+0.53

Ru ₂ @BPN	+0.19	+0.27
Rh ₂ @BPN	+0.17	+0.18
W ₂ @BPN	+0.52	+0.37
Re ₂ @BPN	+0.34	+0.35
Ir ₂ @BPN	+0.12	+0.04

Table S4 Zero-point and entropic corrections to the free energy of the gas phase and the adsorbed species for the screened three types of catalysts (W₂/Ru₂/Mo₄@BPN).

(a) Zero-point and entropic corrections to the free energy of the gas phase and the adsorbed species on Ru₂@BPN catalysts via the enzymatic pathway.

Name	E /eV	E _{ZPE} /eV	TS/eV	G/eV
H ₂	-6.76565715	0.268608	0.4019062	-6.89895535
N ₂	-16.62627336	0.149570	0.59182775	-17.06853111
NH ₃	-19.54133424	0.909892	0.5951074	-19.22654964
Ru ₂ @BPN	-486.967	0.05684	0.2271903	-487.1373503
*N*N	-504.39840	0.263233	0.262526	-504.397693
*N*NH	-507.75419	0.580410	0.301215	-507.474995
*NH*NH	-510.81563	0.905457	0.332322	-510.242495
*NH*NH ₂	-495.90844	0.158166	0.252146	-496.00282
*NH ₂ *NH ₂	-499.72261	0.431923	0.264371	-499.555058
*NH ₂	-503.92511	0.777884	0.276249	-503.423475
*NH ₃	-507.30855	1.077951	0.399400	-506.629999

(b) Zero-point and entropic corrections to the free energy of the gas phase and the adsorbed species on W₂@BPN catalysts via the consecutive pathway.

Name	E /eV	E _{ZPE} /eV	TS/eV	G/eV
W ₂ @BPN	-492.703	0.051461	0.24060705	-492.8921461
*N*N	-510.754	0.248102	0.2927833	-510.7986813
*N*NH	-514.2436	0.551795	0.28652215	-513.9783272
*N*NH ₂	-517.69413	0.902867	0.38133385	-517.1725969
*N	-502.12865	0.139228	0.30142965	-502.2908517
*NH	-506.2148	0.431923	0.264371	-506.047248
*NH ₂	-509.80106	0.777884	0.276249	-509.299425
*NH ₃	-513.62218	1.077951	0.3994	-512.943629

(c) Zero-point and entropic corrections to the free energy of the gas phase and the adsorbed species on Mo₄@BPN catalysts via the enzymatic pathway.

Name	E /eV	E _{ZPE} /eV	TS/eV	G/eV
Mo ₄ @BPN	-508.80016	0.12636	0.430841	-509.104641
*N*N	-526.27272	0.318484	0.54814	-526.502376

*N*NH	-529.88919	0.629341	0.520026	-529.779875
*NH*NH	-533.6458	0.970263	0.477964	-533.153501
*NH*NH ₂	-537.3689	1.330429	0.479917	-536.518388
*NH ₂ *NH ₂	-540.55188	1.628086	0.589149	-539.512943
*NH ₂	-525.99895	0.801735	0.54515	-525.742365
*NH ₃	-529.77104	1.157585	0.569335	-529.18279

(d) Zero-point and entropic corrections to the free energy of the gas phase and the adsorbed species on Mo₄@BPN catalysts via the consecutive pathway.

Name	E /eV	E _{ZPE} /eV	TS/eV	G/eV
Mo ₄ @BPN	-508.80016	0.12636	0.430841	-509.104641
*N*N	-526.27272	0.318484	0.54814	-526.502376
*N*NH	-529.88919	0.629341	0.520026	-529.779875
*N*NH ₂	-533.84784	0.989463	0.488202	-533.346579
*N	-518.5529	0.236008	0.430523	-518.747415
*NH	-522.43934	0.533874	0.428223	-522.333689
*NH ₂	-525.97361	0.801735	0.54515	-525.717025
*NH ₃	-529.7828	1.157585	0.569335	-529.19455

(e) Zero-point and entropic corrections to the free energy of the gas phase and the adsorbed species on Mo₄@BPN catalysts via the enzymatic pathway using PBE+ U functional.

Name	E /eV	E _{ZPE} /eV	TS/eV	G/eV
Mo ₄ @BPN	-494.574	0.090803	0.522202	-495.005399
*N*N	-512.941	0.280524	0.585392	-513.245868
*N*NH	-516.784	0.578571	0.505436	-516.710865
*N*NH ₂	-520.559	0.945462	0.561028	-520.174566
*N	-505.224	0.175477	0.483677	-505.5322
*NH	-509.165	0.466069	0.439419	-509.13835
*NH ₂	-512.657	0.803384	0.532326	-512.385942
*NH ₃	-517.076	1.098221	0.611879	-516.589658

(f) Zero-point and entropic corrections to the free energy of the gas phase and the adsorbed species on the water solvation catalyst Mo₄@BPN via the enzymatic pathway.

Name	E /eV	E _{ZPE} /eV	TS/eV	G/eV
Mo ₄ @BPN	-513.3199405	0.12636	0.430841	-513.6244215
*N*N	-531.0950405	0.318484	0.54814	-531.3246965
*N*NH	-534.8721405	0.629341	0.520026	-534.7628255

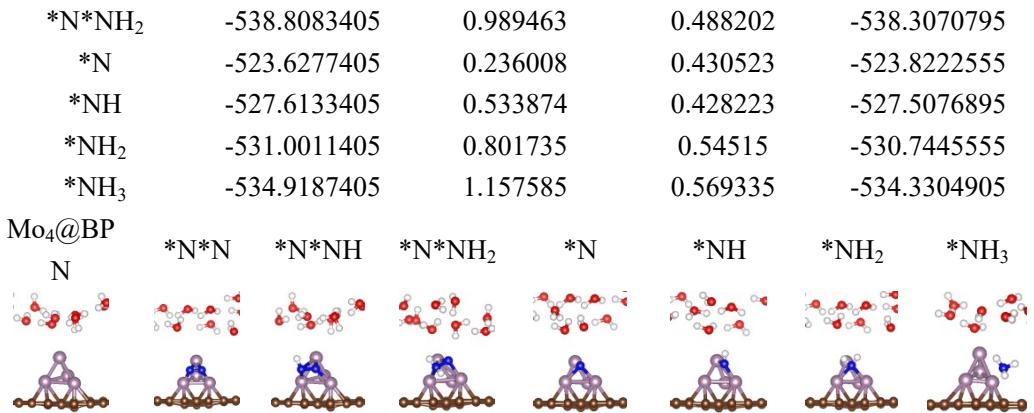


Table S5 The optimized geometry of screened catalysts W₂@BPN, Ru₂@BPN and Mo₄@BPN. W₂@BPN

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0.000000000000000	13.5749998092999995	0.000000000000000
0.000000000000000	0.000000000000000	19.9498996734999992

C	W
54	2

Direct

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0.3928786734332452	0.0497484775005090	0.4021889436769226
0.5966614428488122	0.0500111267471929	0.4068076208994376
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0.4945782673025781	0.2169762708547752	0.4036731896001925
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0.3931766933982671	0.2756255724965028	0.3948429321713395
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0.9290931213100785	0.2756458345542566	0.3950847146043651
0.7247843678645498	0.2776290140044043	0.4082094914421979
0.0596926398076315	0.3816575345608087	0.3860603910281712
0.2625607516402579	0.3816480245954263	0.3859185436716451
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Ru₂@BPN

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11.2750997542999993	0.000000000000000	0.000000000000000
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0.000000000000000	0.000000000000000	19.949899673499992

C Ru

54 2

Direct

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0.9292602284301026	0.7171507079072843	0.3934605788522733
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0.9290086175623773	0.9429380187122692	0.4019181249937793
0.7258254142832005	0.9425341618250020	0.4059953423848243
0.6606926984725138	0.4134950703142283	0.5044511751938174
0.6607731852271169	0.5816406091460089	0.5042613294577387

Mo₄@BPN

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11.2750997542999993	0.000000000000000	0.000000000000000
0.000000000000000	13.5749998092999995	0.000000000000000
0.000000000000000	0.000000000000000	19.9498996734999992

C Mo

54 4

Direct

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