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## Supporting Information

# The local hydrogen bonding environment promotes the deprotonation of surface hydroxyl groups for continuing ammonia decomposition

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### S1. DFT+U

DFT+U and DFT calculations for NH<sub>3</sub> mediated PT, a Hubbard U = 5.4 eV correction was applied to the 3d orbitals of Ti based on Mulliken population analysis.

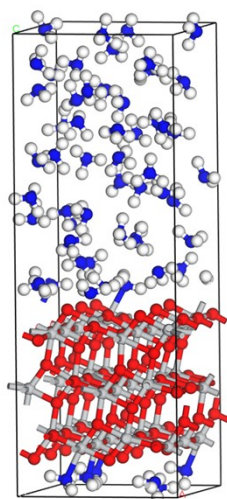
**Table S1.** DFT+U and DFT calculation results of NH<sub>3</sub> mediated PT

NH <sub>3</sub> mediated PT		O charge	H charge	OH length	H-bond	Ea
		(e)	(e)	(Å)	length (Å)	(eV)
	only NH <sub>3</sub>	-0.598	0.144	0.989	1.938	0.355
DFT+U	neighbour NH <sub>3</sub>	-0.606	0.146	0.988	1.911	0.357
	neighbour H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.614	0.153	0.994	1.863	0.284
	only NH <sub>3</sub>	-0.489	0.134	0.987	1.945	0.354
DFT	neighbour NH <sub>3</sub>	-0.505	0.139	0.984	1.971	0.401
	neighbour H <sub>2</sub> O	-0.521	0.144	0.993	1.858	0.314

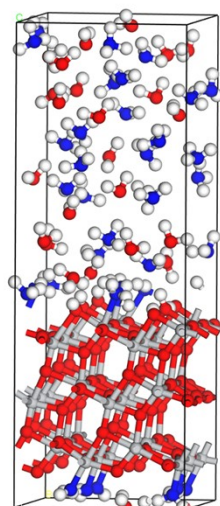
### S2. The a-TiO<sub>2</sub>(101) slab model

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non-hydroxylated a-TiO<sub>2</sub>(101) slab model including 60 NH<sub>3</sub> molecules

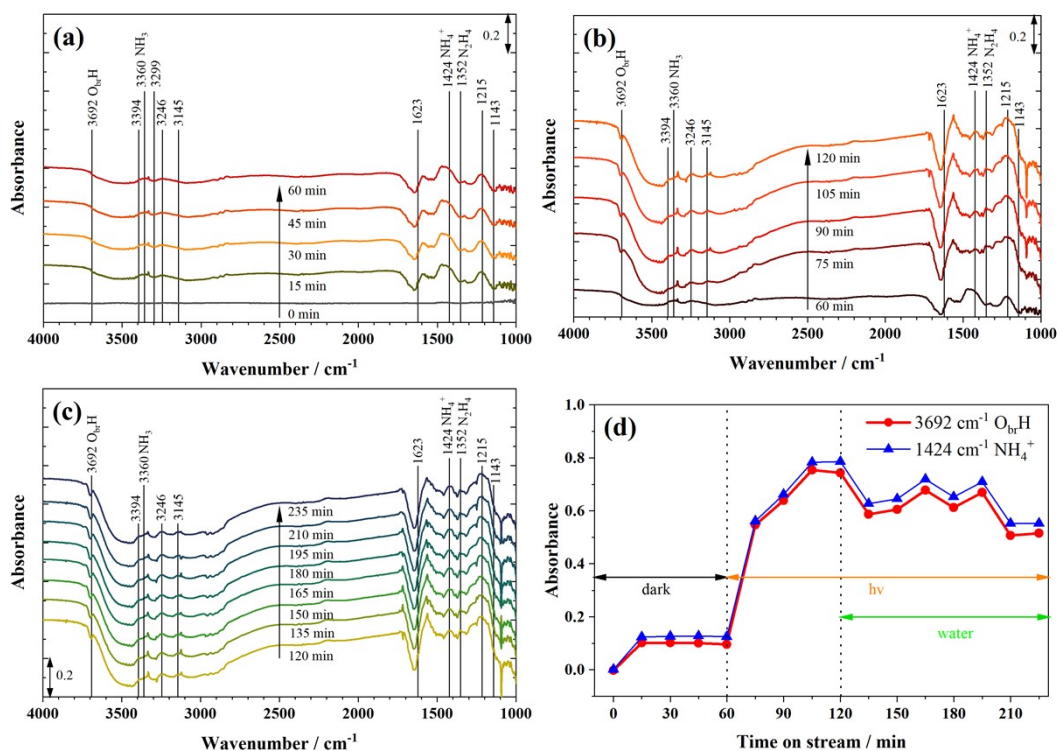


hydroxylated a-TiO<sub>2</sub>(101) slab model including 36 NH<sub>3</sub> molecules and 24 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules

FPMD simulation was performed in a long relaxation time ( $\sim 30$  ps) to obtain well relaxed configurations of ammonia and water molecules before sampling.

### S3. Experiment

Anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> sample with loading of about 0.1 wt % Pt was prepared by photodeposition method. The TiO<sub>2</sub> powder was dispersed into an aqueous ethanol solution of the metal precursors, stirred vigorously in a beaker, and then light irradiated under a 300 W Xe lamp for 3 h. The powders were then filtered by aspiration, washed with ethanol and water, and dried at 323 K overnight. The in-situ diffuse reflectance infrared Fourier transform spectra (DRIFTS) were performed by Bruke Tensor II FTIR NEXUS spectrometer. The sample was heated at 473 K for 90 min under flowing He and photo irradiation for surface clean-up. In dark condition, ammonia (1 mL/min) carried by He gas (20 mL/min) was introduced into the reaction cell until the adsorption reached equilibrium after 60 min. Later, the Xe lamp was turned on to driven the photocatalytic decomposition reaction and the spectrum was taken. After 60 min, water vapor (0.5 ml /min) carried by He gas (20 mL/min) was introduced into the cell, and the test was finished after 120 min.

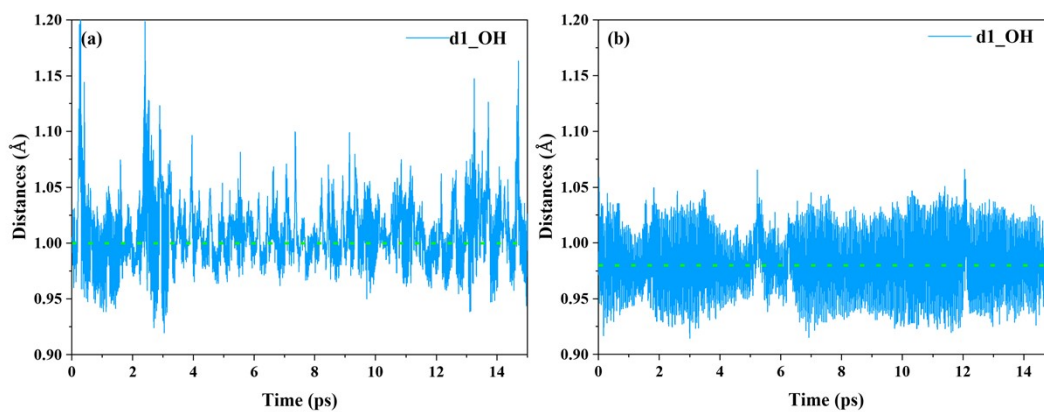


In-situ DRIFTS spectra results of the Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> sample under the flow of ammonia vapor. (a) In the dark from 0 to 60 min. (b) Under photoirradiation from 60 to 120 min. (c) Under photoirradiation with flowing water vapor from 120 to 235 min. (d) The time course of the band intensity at 3692 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1424 cm<sup>-1</sup> during these procedures.

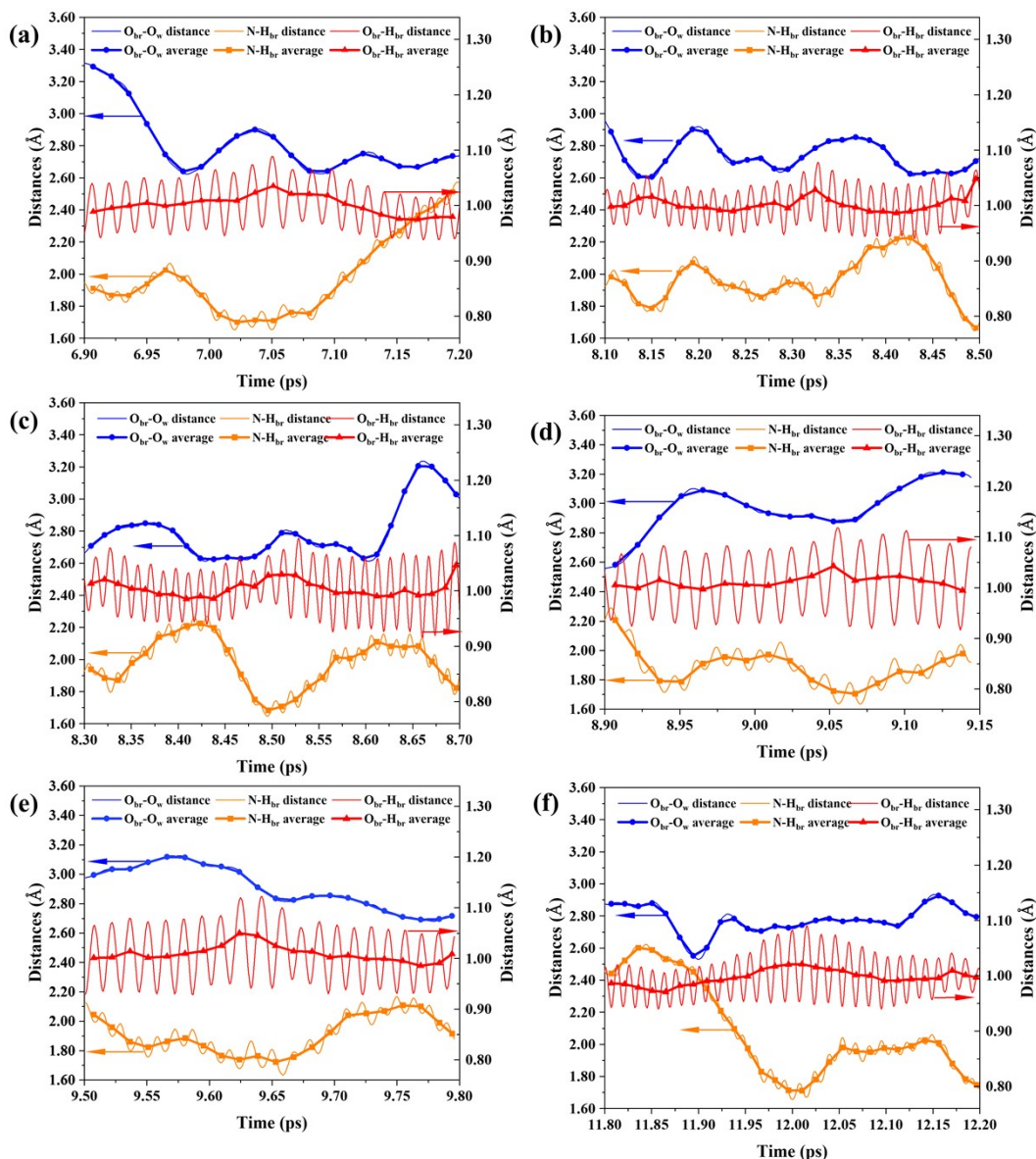
#### S4. Definition of H-bonds occupancy

$$Occupancy = N_{H-bonds} / N_{total}$$

Where  $N_{H-bonds}$  is number of frames with hydrogen bonds exist along FPMD trajectory,  $N_{total}$  is number of total frames.



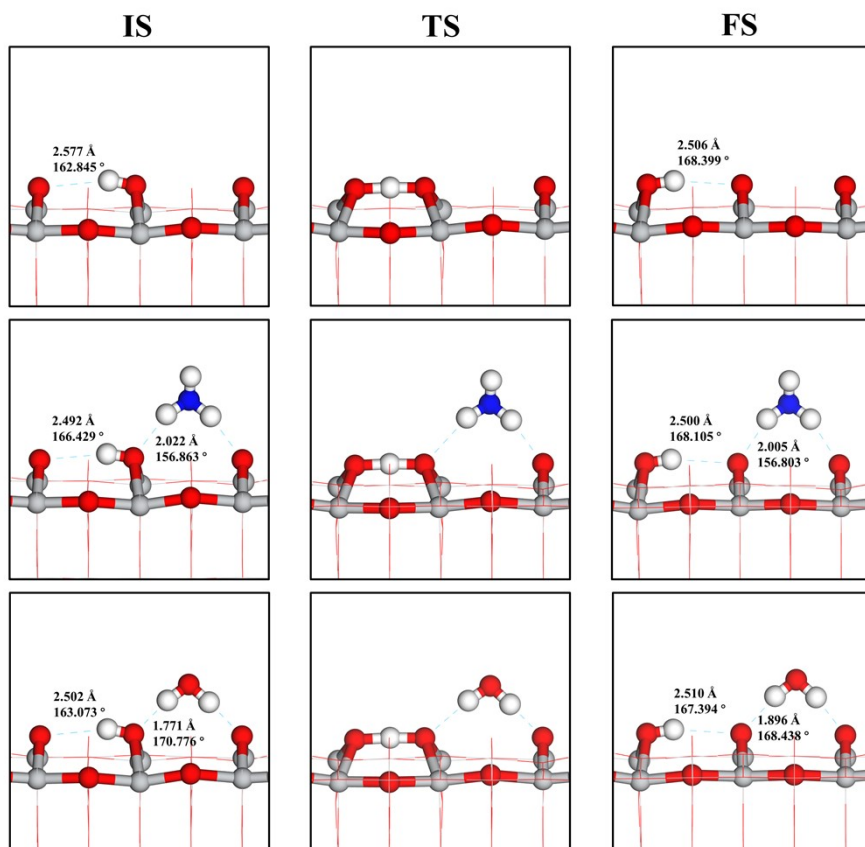
**Figure S1.** Time evolution of OH bond length of surface hydroxyl group for (a) ammonia-water mixture and (b) pure ammonia. The green dashed line is the average bond length.



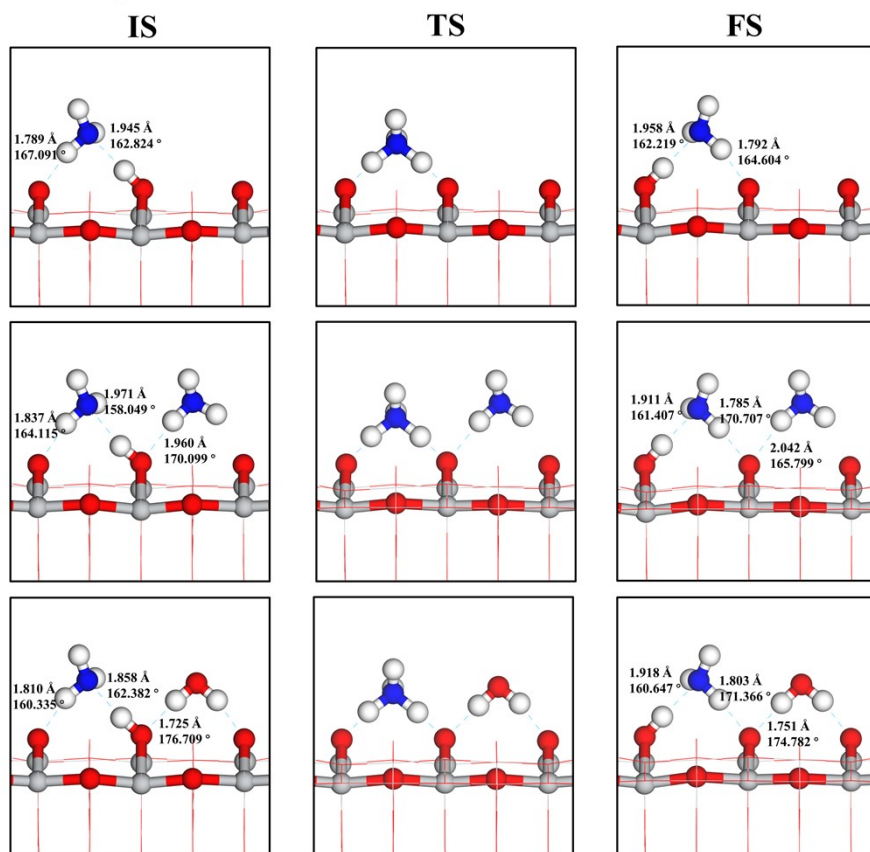
**Figure S2.** Time evolution of  $O_{br}-O_w$ ,  $N-H_{br}$ ,  $O_{br}-H_{br}$  distances, and its average distances, at about (a) 7.05 ps, (b) 8.33 ps, (c) 8.53 ps, (d) 9.05 ps, (e) 9.62 ps, (f) 12.02 ps.

As the  $O_{br}-O_w$  distances reduces, the  $O_{br}-H_{br}$  bond lengths increases, and the  $O_{br}-O_w$  distances reduction are not strictly always reduced (there may be some fluctuations, but the overall effects are on a downward trend over longer time interval). Generally, when the  $O_{br}-O_w$  distances are less than 3.0 Å, the increase in the  $O_{br}-H_{br}$  bond lengths is more pronounced due to the reduction of the  $O_{br}-O_w$  distances.

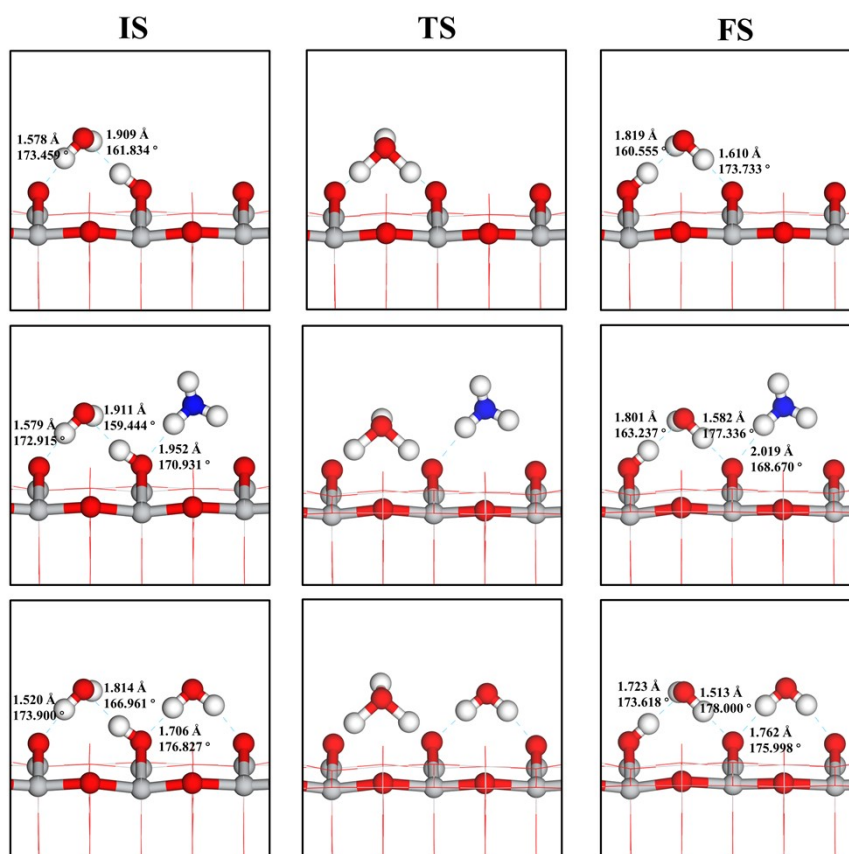
(a) direct PT



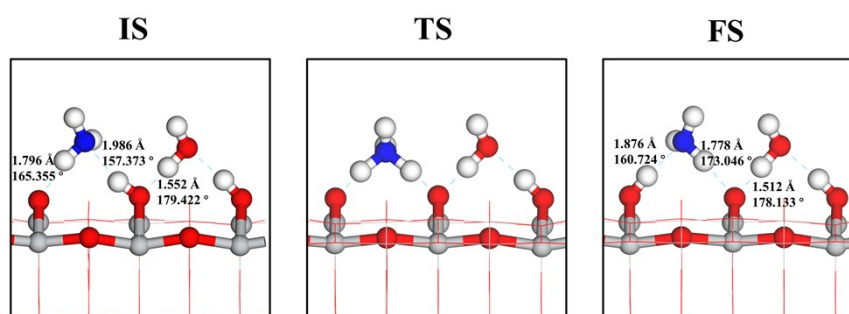
(b) NH<sub>3</sub> mediated PT



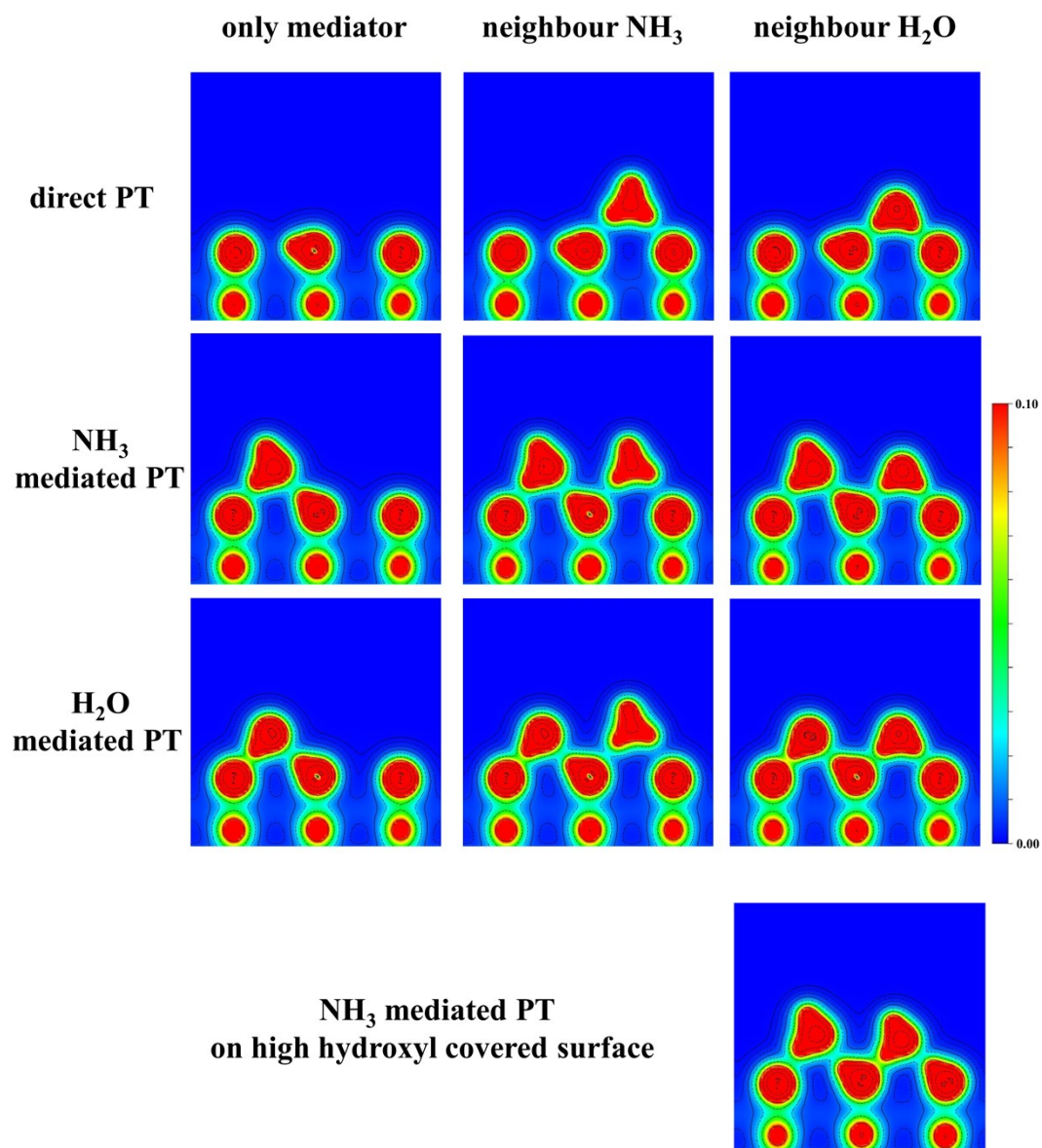
(c) H<sub>2</sub>O mediated PT



(d) NH<sub>3</sub> mediated PT on high hydroxyl covered surface



**Figure S3.** Initial state (IS), transitional state (TS) and final state (FS) adsorption configuration of (a) direct PT, (b) NH<sub>3</sub>-mediated PT and (c) H<sub>2</sub>O-mediated PT with existence of neighbouring H<sub>2</sub>O molecule; (d) NH<sub>3</sub>-mediated PT with existence of neighbouring H<sub>2</sub>O molecule on high hydroxyl covered surface. The bond length values and bond angle values of H-bonds associated with O<sub>b</sub>H deprotonation are marked out.



**Figure S4.** Electron density contour map of initial state configuration.

As shown in Figure S4, there is an electron sharing density of local H-bonds involving O<sub>br</sub>H groups in NH<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O mediated PT. While the H-bonds of O<sub>br</sub>H groups in direct PT have a lower electron sharing density.

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H	2.35076700E+00	9.88055500E+00	1.85596930E+01	&END SUBSYS			
H	6.81646100E+00	1.13726210E+01	1.67004860E+01	&END FORCE_EVAL			
H	7.75668400E+00	8.39066000E-01	1.58281280E+01				



