

Electronic Supplementary Information

*Ab Initio* Electronic Structure Analysis of Ground and Excited States of HfN<sup>0,+</sup>

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**Table S1.** The dominant molecular orbital compositions of HfN obtained at the state average CASSCF level.

Molecular orbital <sup>a</sup>	Composition
1 $\sigma$	87.4% 2s (N)
2 $\sigma$	63.8% 2p <sub>z</sub> (N) + 18.2% 5d <sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub> (Hf) + 17.3% 6s (Hf)
3 $\sigma$	72.4% 6s (Hf) + 15.2% 5d <sub>z<sup>2</sup></sub> (Hf)
1 $\pi$ <sub>y</sub>	57.4% 2p <sub>y</sub> (N) + 19.0% 5d <sub>yz</sub> (Hf)
2 $\pi$ <sub>y</sub>	18.0% 6p <sub>y</sub> Hf + 47.3% 5d <sub>yz</sub> Hf + 9.7% 2p <sub>y</sub> (N)
1 $\delta$ <sub>x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup></sub>	100% 5d <sub>x<sup>2</sup>-y<sup>2</sup></sub> (Hf)

<sup>a</sup> Contours of molecular orbitals are given in Figure 2 of the paper.

**Table S2.** Bond length ( $r_e$ , Å), excitation energy ( $T_e$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>), harmonic vibrational frequency ( $\omega_e$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>), and anharmonicity ( $\omega_e x_e$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>) of the low-lying  $\Omega = 1/2, 1/2, 3/2, 1/2, 3/2,$  and  $5/2$  spin-orbit states of HfN at MRCI [cc-pVQZ-PP (60ECP) of Hf and aug-cc-pVQZ of N].

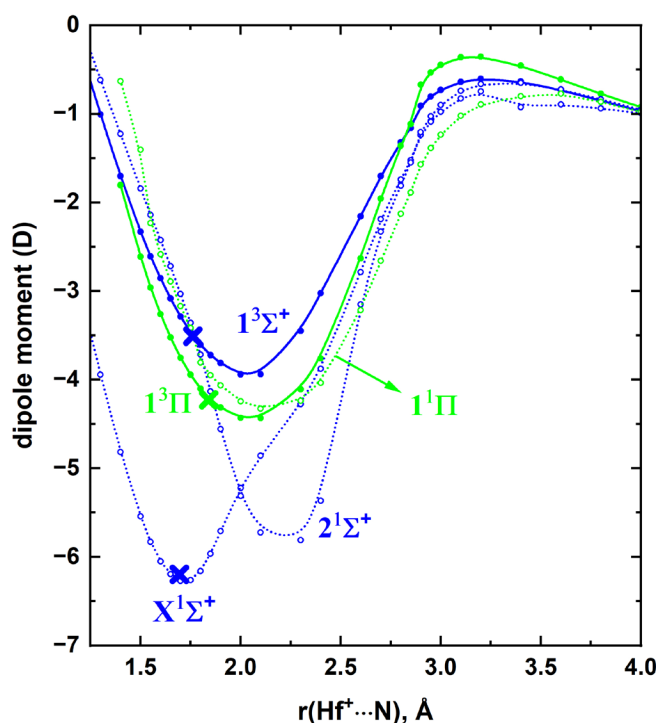
$\Omega$	$r_e$	$T_e$	$\omega_e$	$\omega_e x_e$	Composition
1/2	1.736	0	916	4.9	99.652% X <sup>2</sup> $\Sigma^+$ , 0.346% 1 <sup>2</sup> $\Pi$
1/2	1.781	6264	862	18.4	94.913% 2 <sup>2</sup> $\Sigma^+$ , 5.026% 1 <sup>2</sup> $\Pi$ , 0.061% X <sup>2</sup> $\Sigma^+$
3/2	1.866	7216	939	12.6	100% 1 <sup>2</sup> $\Pi$
1/2	1.847	8015	1095	7.9	79.096% 1 <sup>2</sup> $\Pi$ , 20.006% 2 <sup>2</sup> $\Sigma^+$ ,
3/2	1.825	13498	795	1.9	100% 1 <sup>2</sup> $\Delta$
5/2	1.825	15796	797	2.0	100% 1 <sup>2</sup> $\Delta$

**Table S3.** Dissociation energy with respect to ground state fragments ( $D_e$ , kcal/mol), bond length ( $r_e$ , Å), harmonic vibrational frequency ( $\omega_e$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>), and anharmonicity ( $\omega_e x_e$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>) of HfN(X<sup>2</sup> $\Sigma^+$ ) and HfN<sup>+</sup>(X<sup>1</sup> $\Sigma^+$ ) at the CCSD(T) with cc-pwCVTZ-PP (60ECP) of Hf and aug-cc-pVTZ of N basis set [TZ-C-CCSD(T)]. The 5s<sup>2</sup>5p<sup>6</sup> core electrons of Hf are correlated.

Species	$D_e$	$r_e$	$\omega_e$	$\omega_e x_e$
HfN(X <sup>2</sup> $\Sigma^+$ )	128.55	1.724	939	3.8
HfN <sup>+</sup> (X <sup>1</sup> $\Sigma^+$ )	111.28	1.679	990	6.7

**Table S4.** Bond length ( $r_e$ , Å), excitation energy ( $T_e$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), harmonic vibrational frequency ( $\omega_e$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), and anharmonicity ( $\omega_e x_e$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of the low-lying  $\Omega$  spin-orbit states of  $\text{HfN}^+$  at MRCI [cc-pVQZ-PP (60ECP) of Hf and aug-cc-pVQZ of N].

$\Omega$	$r_e$	$T_e$	$\omega_e$	$\omega_e x_e$	Composition
0 <sup>+</sup>	1.698	0	955	6.5	99.65% $X^1\Sigma^+$ , 0.34 % $1^3\Pi$
0 <sup>-</sup>	1.766	7939	920	7.0	97.71% $1^3\Sigma^+$ , 2.30% $1^3\Pi$
1	1.765	7950	922	6.8	98.19% $1^3\Sigma^+$ , 1.14% $1^3\Pi$ , 0.68% $1^1\Pi$
0 <sup>+</sup>	1.774	8517	928	11.7	96.70% $2^1\Sigma^+$ , 3.26 $1^3\Pi$
2	1.843	10605	839	5.0	100% $1^3\Pi$
1	1.845	10749	866	4.1	89.75% $1^3\Pi$ , 2.39% $1^3\Sigma^+$ , 7.86 $1^1\Pi$
0 <sup>-</sup>	1.843	11094	904	1.1	92.32% $1^3\Pi$ , 7.67% $1^3\Sigma^+$
0 <sup>+</sup>	1.842	11215	911	4.4	89.76% $1^3\Pi$ , 1.50% $X^1\Sigma^+$ , 8.75% $2^1\Sigma^+$
1	1.850	12171	890	1.2	90.45% $1^1\Pi$ , 6.37% $1^3\Pi$ , 3.18% $1^3\Sigma^+$



**Figure S1.** MRCI DMCs of the lowest five electronic states of  $\text{HfN}^+$  as a function of  $\text{Hf}^+\cdots\text{N}$  distance [ $r(\text{Hf}^+\cdots\text{N})$ , Å]. The CCSD(T)  $\mu$  values of  $X^1\Sigma^+$ ,  $1^3\Pi$ , and  $1^3\Sigma^+$  states calculated at the equilibrium bond distances are depicted in blue (at -6.20 D), green (at -4.23 D), and blue (at -3.51 D) cross marks, respectively.