

Supplementary Material for
“Multi-Orbital Engineering of Single-Atom Catalysts:
Unlocking High-Efficiency Nitrate Reduction”

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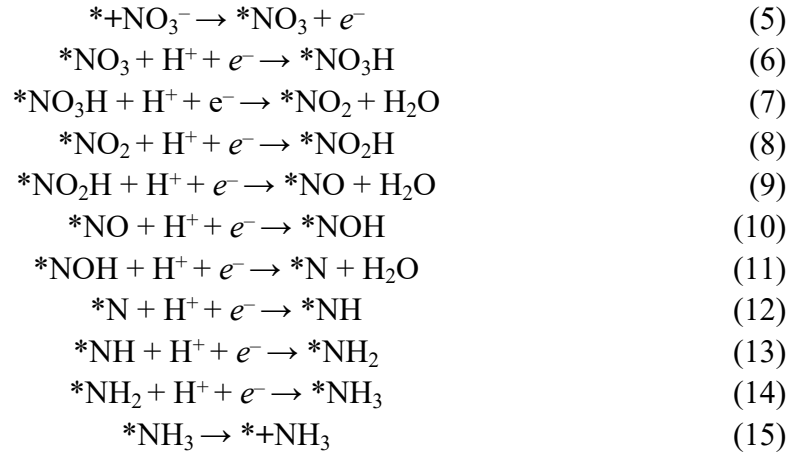
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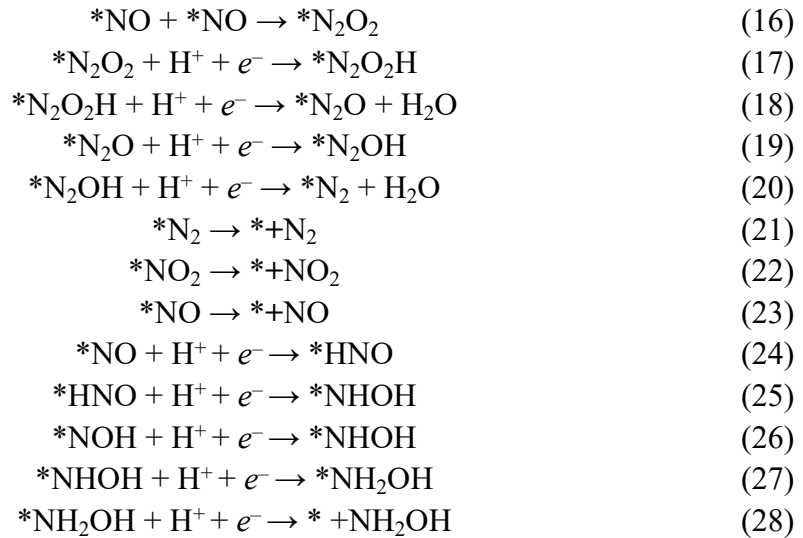
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The whole reaction process of the electrochemical reduction of NO_3^- to NH_3 can be summarized as $\text{NO}_3^- + 9\text{H}^+ + 8e^- \rightarrow \text{NH}_3 + 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Nine protons and eight electrons are transferred in the process. The basic reaction steps of the N-end pathway are described as



In addition, the production of NO, the production of NO_2 , and the formation of NO dimers may lead to the production of byproduct N_2 by a pathway that can be described as



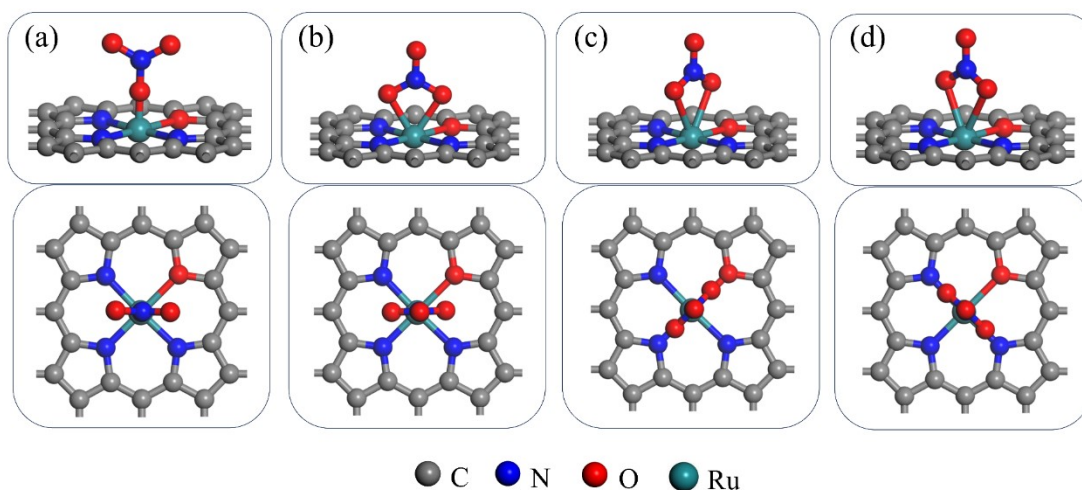


Figure S1. Four possible configurations of NO_3^- , namely, (a)1-O pattern (one oxygen atom adsorbed on TM- N_3X), (b)2-O pattern (two oxygen atoms adsorbed on TM- N_3X), (c)2-OO pattern (oxygen of NO_3^- closed to O of base), and (d)2-ON pattern (oxygen of NO_3^- closed to N of base). Ru- N_3O is taken as a representative.

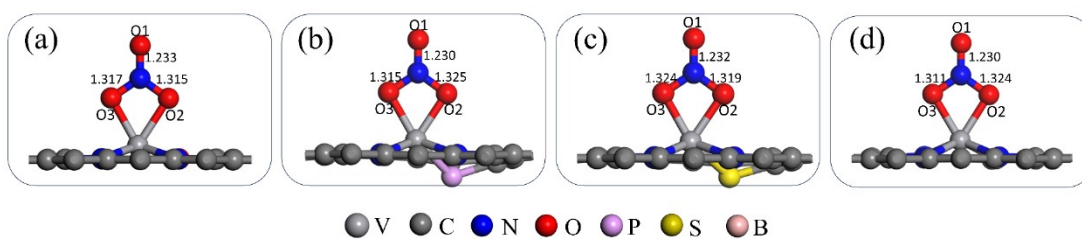
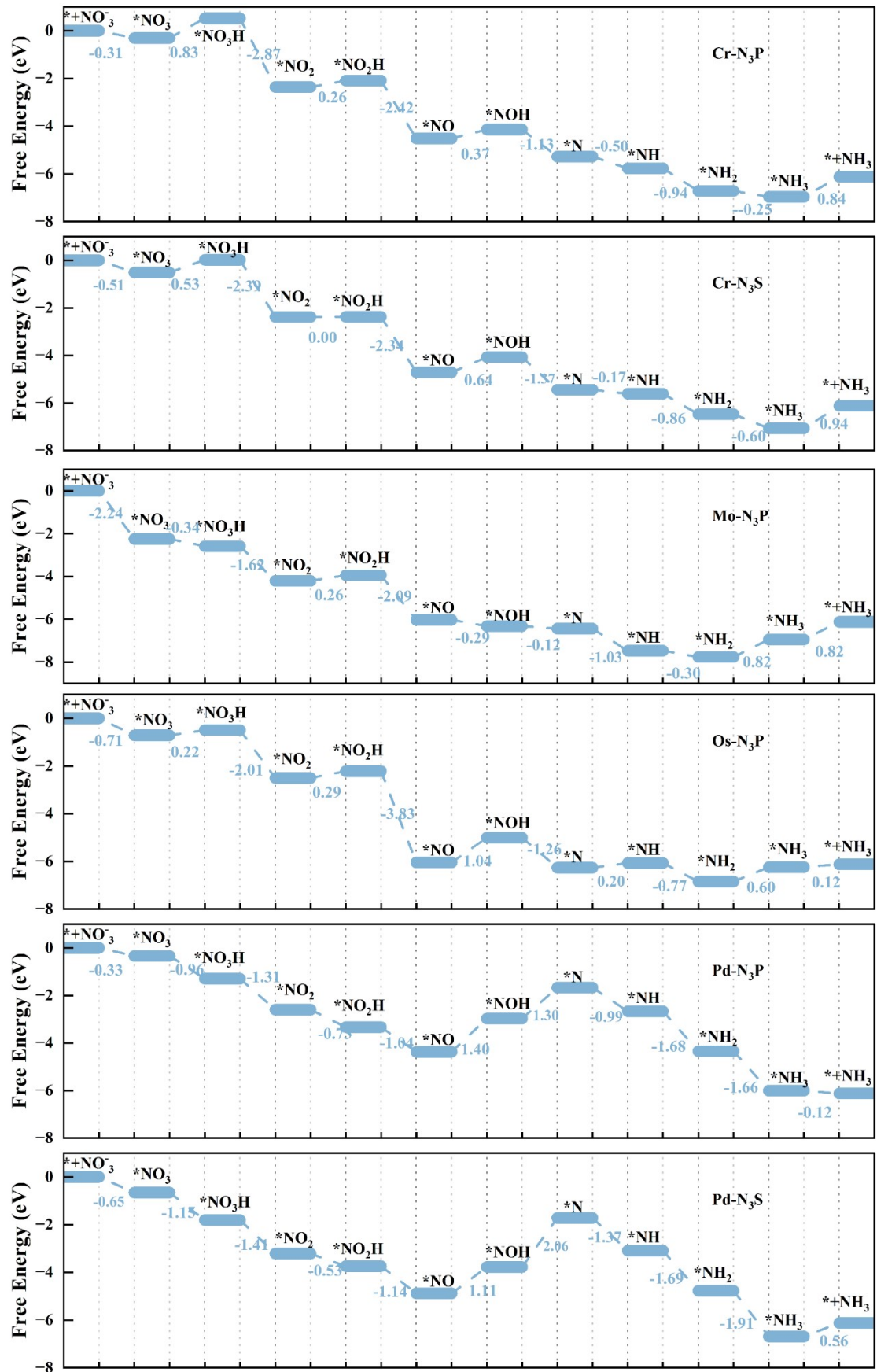
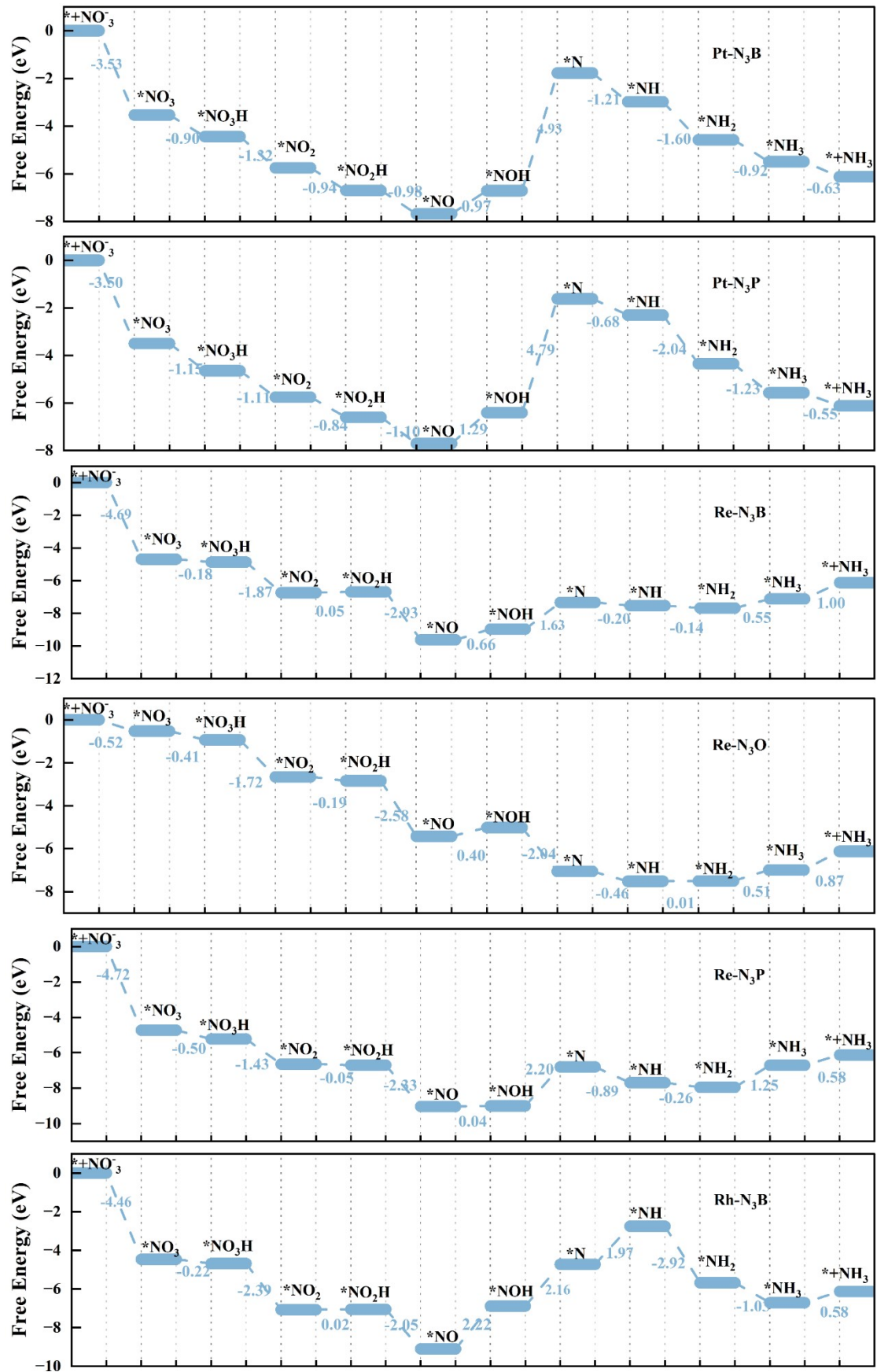
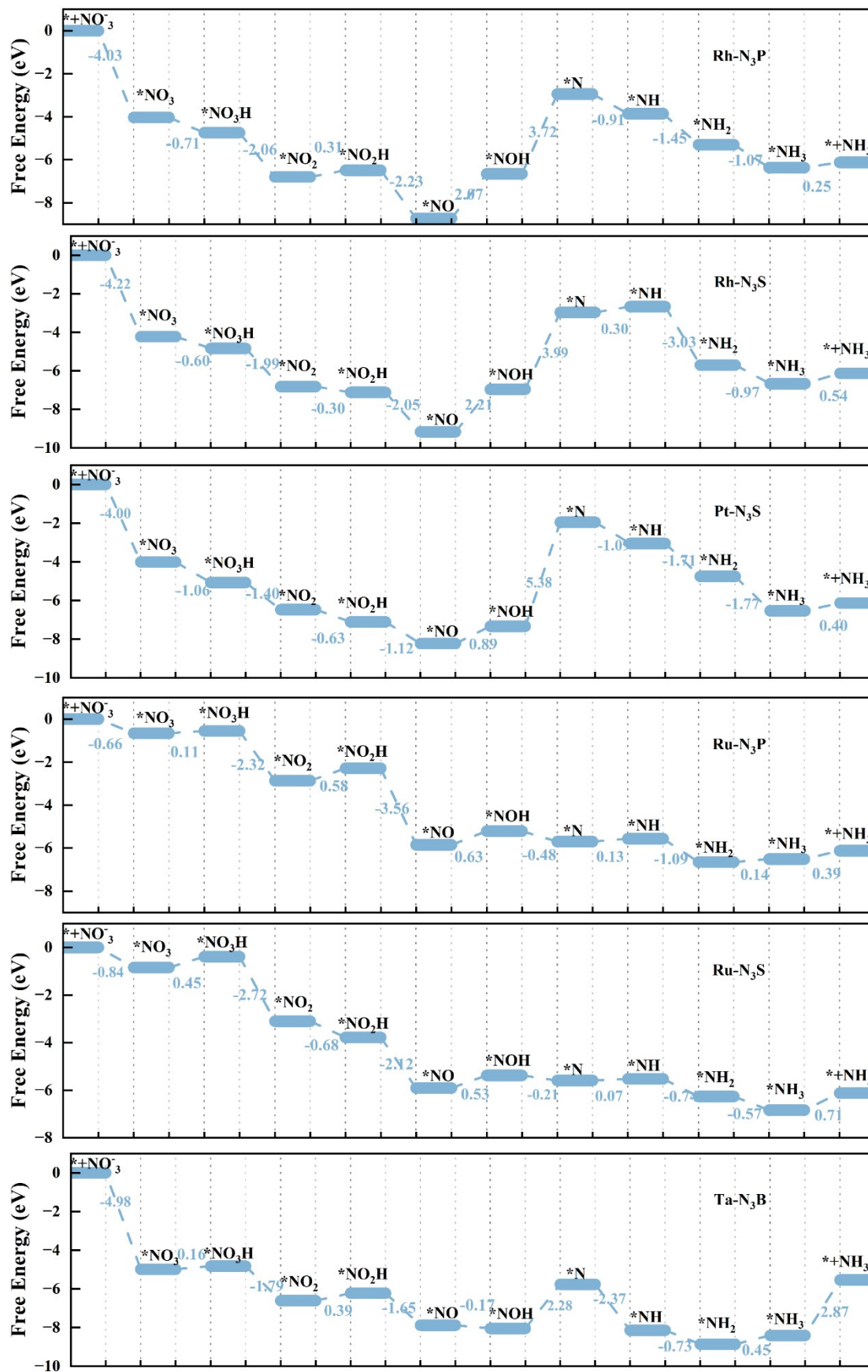
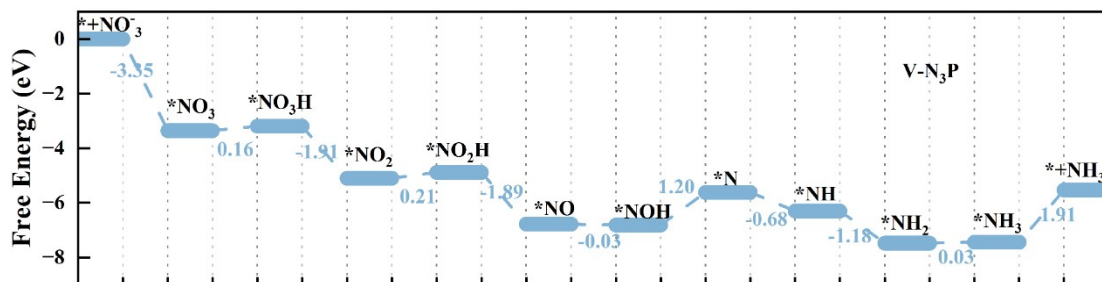
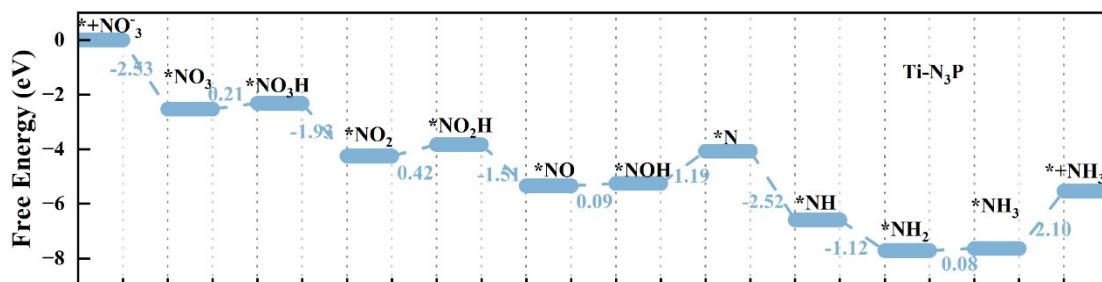
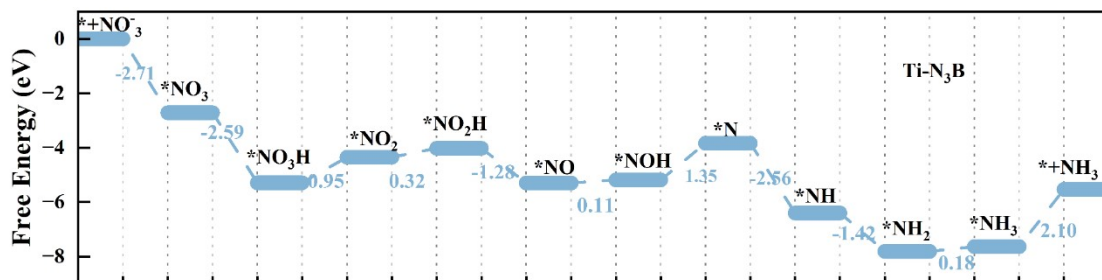
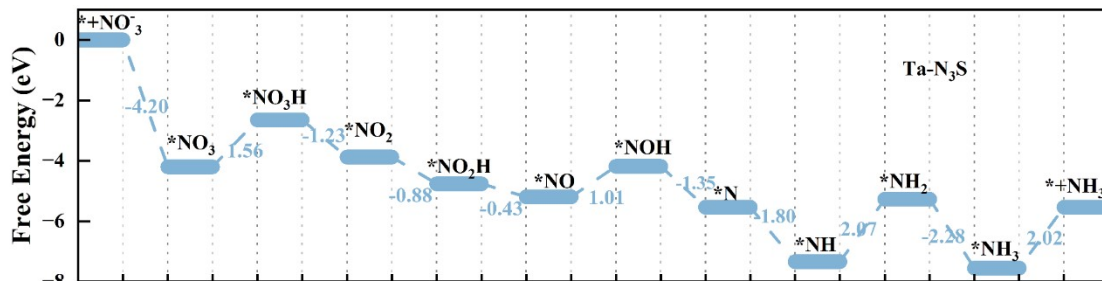
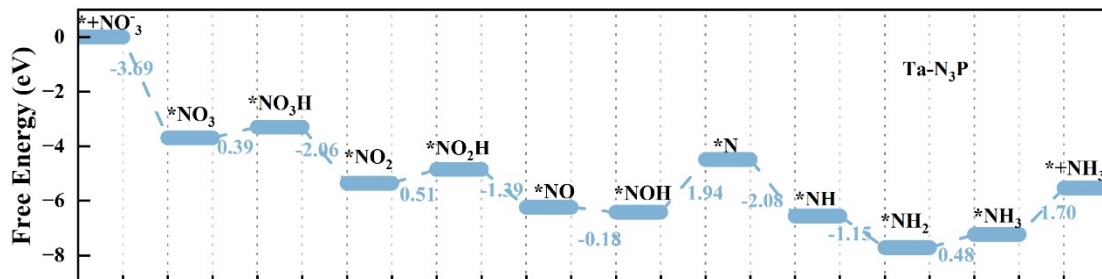
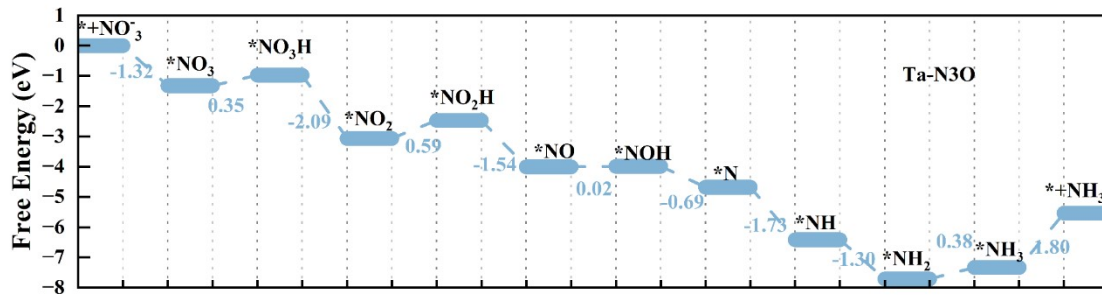


Figure S2. Taking V- N_3X as an example, the N-O2 and N-O3 bond lengths of activated $^*\text{NO}_3$ increased significantly from 1.264 Å in the gaseous state to 1.311 ~ 1.325 Å.









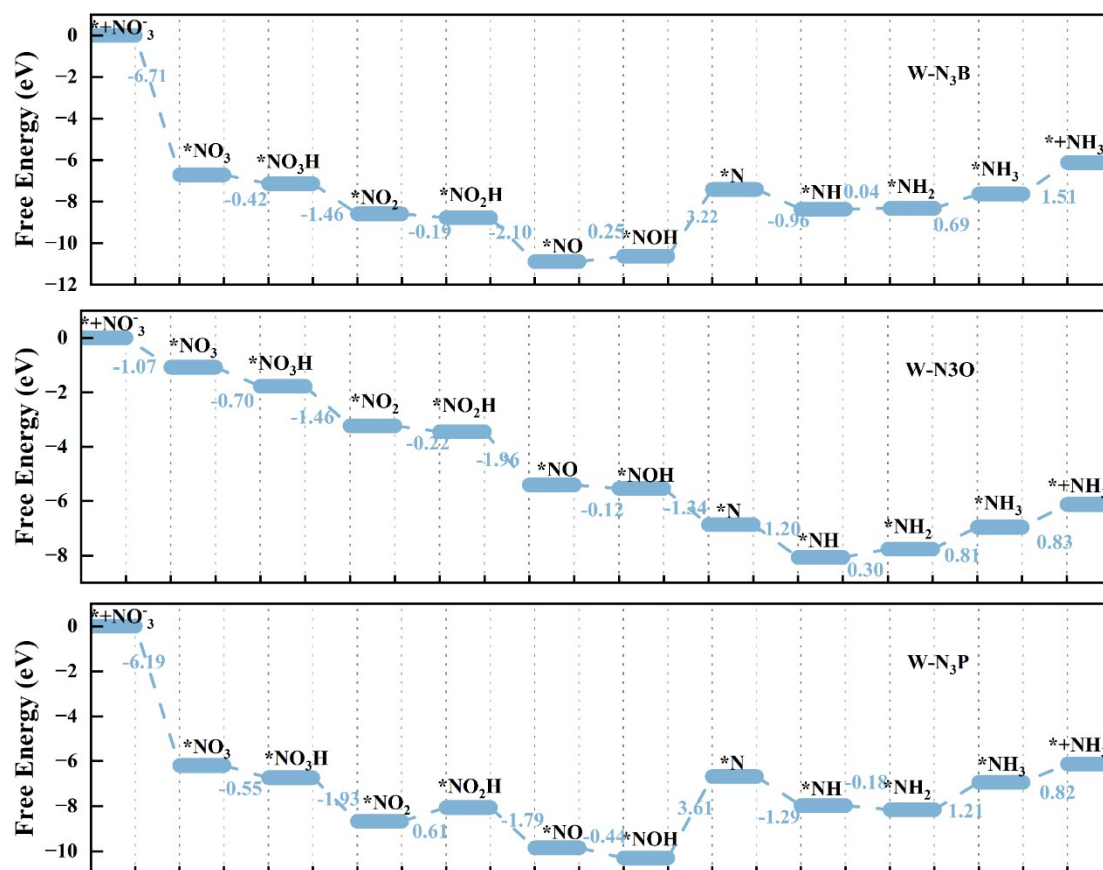


Figure S3. Gibbs Free energy diagrams of NO₃RR on Ta-N₃O, W-N₃O, Re-N₃O, Ti-N₃P, V-N₃P, Cr-N₃P, Mo-N₃P, Ru-N₃P, Rh-N₃P, Pd-N₃P, Ta-N₃P, W-N₃P, Re-N₃P, Os-N₃P, Pt-N₃P, Cr-N₃S, Ru-N₃S, Rh-N₃S, Pd-N₃S, Ta-N₃S, Pt-N₃S, Ti-N₃B, Rh-N₃B, Ta-N₃B, W-N₃B, Re-N₃B, Pt-N₃B.

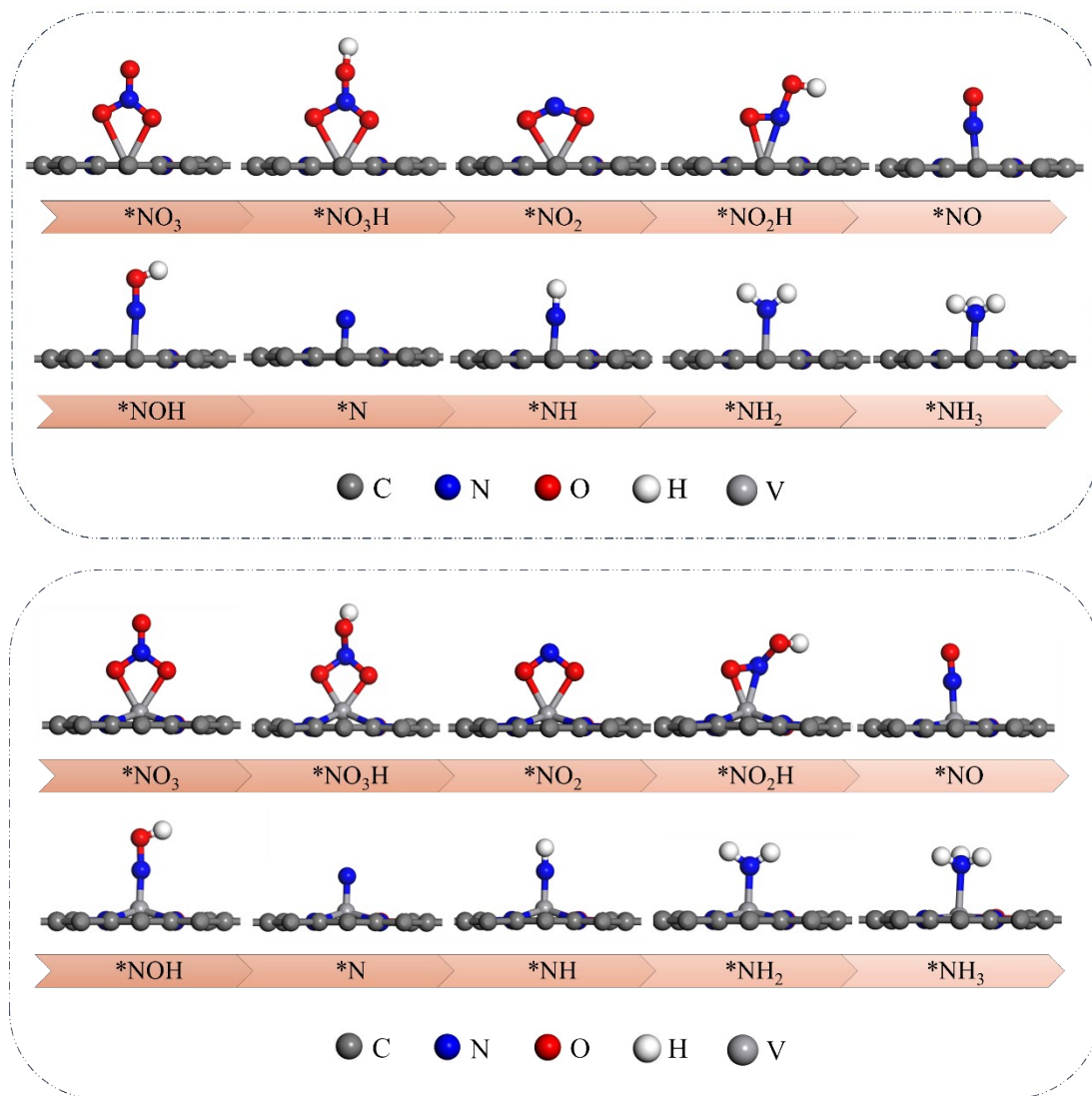


Figure S4. The changes of the adsorption configuration of V-N₃O during the entire reaction process before and after optimization, the path from $*NO_3^-$ to $*NH$.

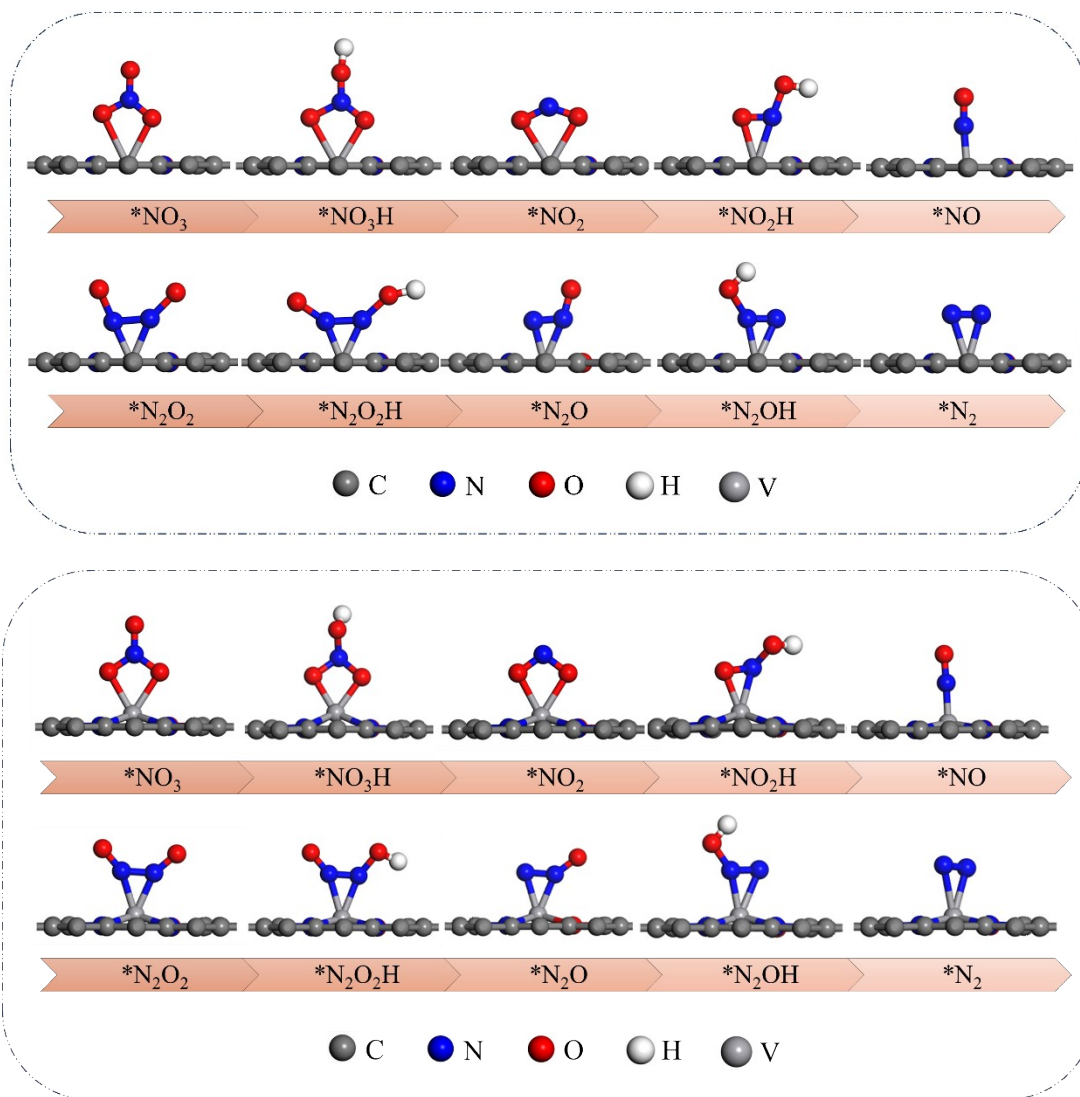


Figure S5. The changes of the adsorption configuration of V-N₃O during the entire reaction process before and after optimization, the path from *NO₃⁻ to *N₂.

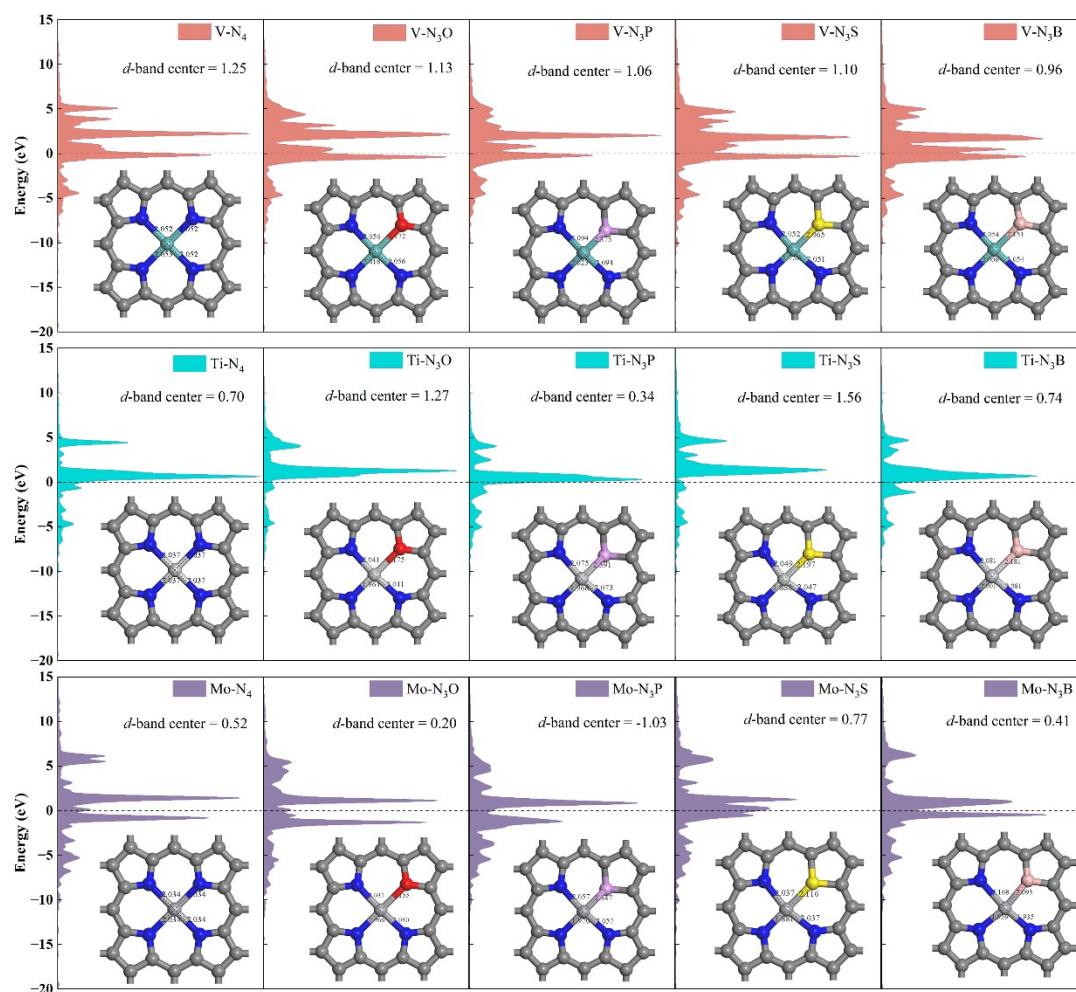


Figure S6. Changes in d -band center and bond length of V, Ti and Mo under different coordination environments.

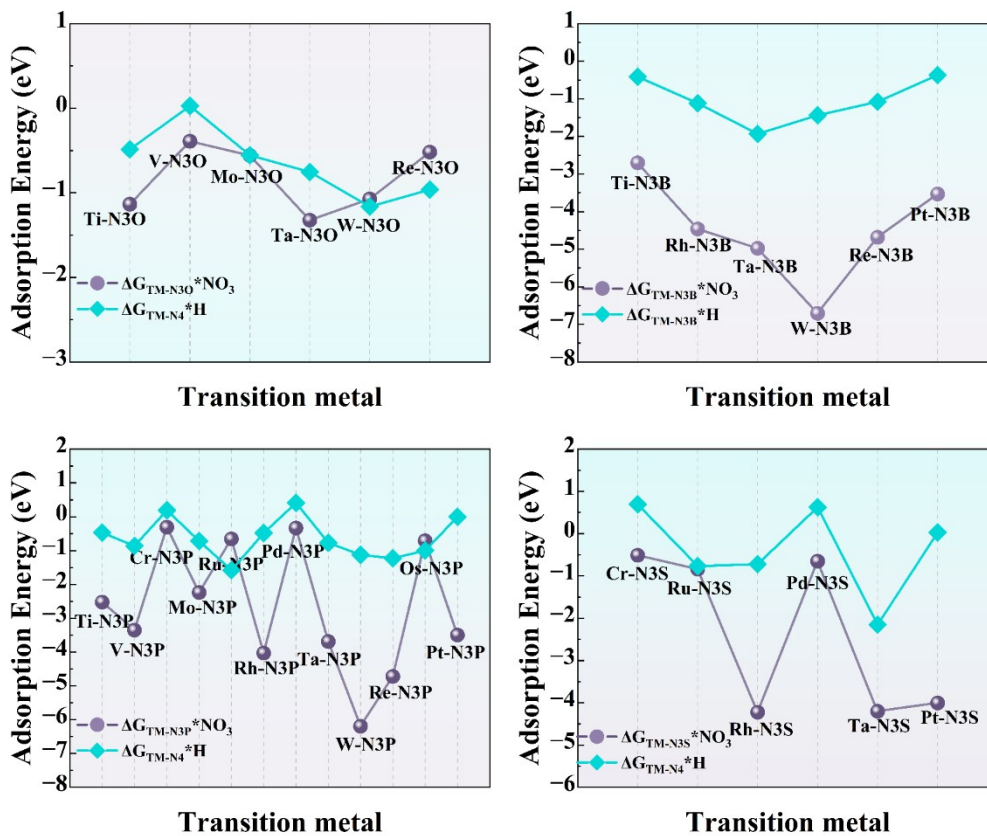


Figure S7. Adsorption energy of 30 TM-N₃X catalysts for NO₃⁻ and H⁺ adsorption in corresponding modes.

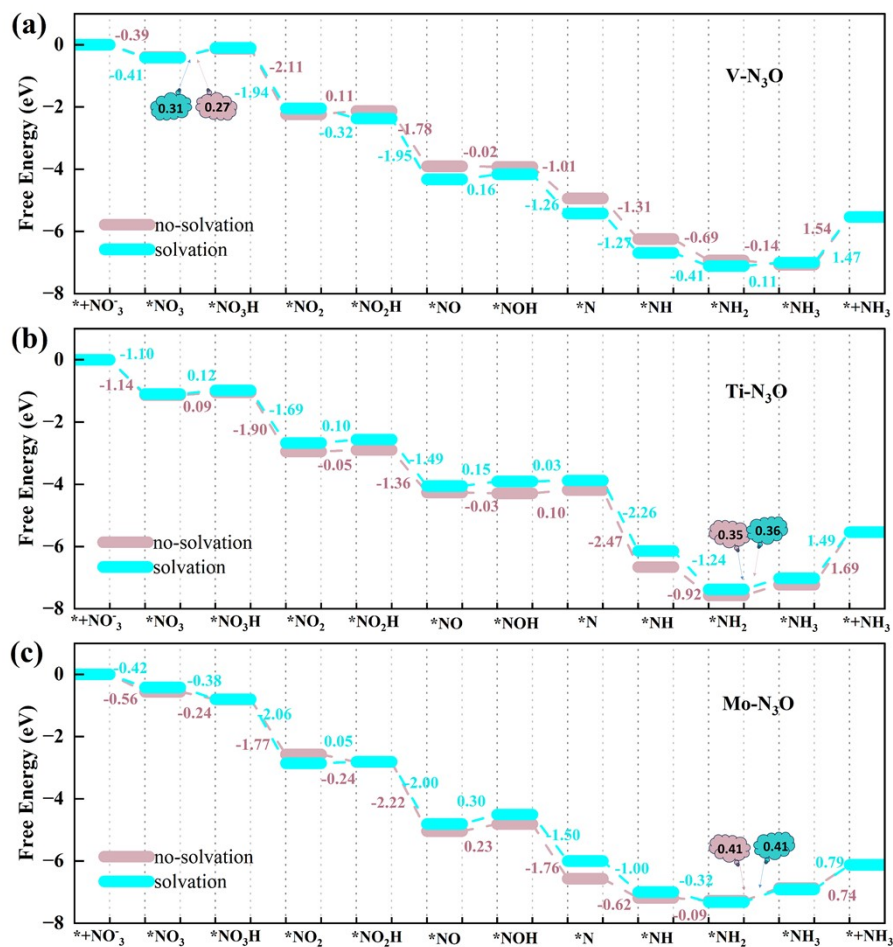


Figure S8. Free energy diagrams of NO₃RR on (a) V-N₃O, (b) Ti-N₃O, (c) Mo-N₃O.

Purple represents the result without considering the solvation effect, and blue represents the result with considering the solvation effect.

Table S1. The formation energy (E_{form}) and dissolution potential (U_{diss}) of 52 TM-N₃X catalysts.

	$E_{\text{form}}(\text{eV})$	$U_{\text{diss}}(\text{V})$
Ti-N ₃ O	-3.66	0.20
V-N ₃ O	-3.30	0.47
Cr-N ₃ O	-3.22	0.70
Nb-N ₃ O	-1.62	-0.56
Mo-N ₃ O	-0.99	0.13
Ru-N ₃ O	-0.94	0.93
Rh-N ₃ O	-2.15	1.68
Pd-N ₃ O	-2.56	2.23
Ta-N ₃ O	-1.99	0.06
W-N ₃ O	-0.41	0.24
Re-N ₃ O	-0.09	0.33
Os-N ₃ O	-0.14	0.86
Pt-N ₃ O	-2.34	2.35
Ti-N ₃ P	-4.46	0.60
V-N ₃ P	-2.45	0.04
Cr-N ₃ P	-3.48	0.83
Nb-N ₃ P	-2.63	-0.22
Mo-N ₃ P	-1.02	0.14
Ru-N ₃ P	-1.88	1.40
Rh-N ₃ P	-2.19	1.70
Pd-N ₃ P	-3.44	2.67
Ta-N ₃ P	-2.60	0.27
W-N ₃ P	-0.25	0.18
Re-N ₃ P	-0.12	0.34
Os-N ₃ P	-1.52	1.03
Pt-N ₃ P	-2.67	2.52
Ti-N ₃ S	-3.15	-0.06
V-N ₃ S	-1.85	-0.25
Cr-N ₃ S	-2.96	0.57
Nb-N ₃ S	-1.49	-0.60
Mo-N ₃ S	0.35	-0.32
Ru-N ₃ S	-1.28	1.10
Rh-N ₃ S	-1.25	1.23
Pd-N ₃ S	-2.93	2.42
Ta-N ₃ S	-1.96	0.05
W-N ₃ S	1.12	-0.27
Re-N ₃ S	0.70	0.07
Os-N ₃ S	0.20	0.81
Pt-N ₃ S	-2.07	2.21

Ti-N ₃ B	-4.52	0.63
V-N ₃ B	-2.04	-0.16
Cr-N ₃ B	-3.49	0.84
Nb-N ₃ B	-1.78	-0.51
Mo-N ₃ B	0.07	-0.22
Ru-N ₃ B	-1.73	1.32
Rh-N ₃ B	-2.45	1.83
Pd-N ₃ B	-4.24	3.07
Ta-N ₃ B	-2.73	0.31
W-N ₃ B	-0.22	0.17
Re-N ₃ B	-0.56	0.49
Os-N ₃ B	-1.24	1.00
Pt-N ₃ B	-3.64	3.00

Table S2. The adsorption energies of all 40 TM-N₃X for NO₃⁻ adsorption.

	ΔG^*NO_3		ΔG^*NO_3
Ti-N ₃ O	-1.14	Ti-N ₃ P	-2.53
V-N ₃ O	-0.39	V-N ₃ P	-3.35
Cr-N ₃ O	0.64	Cr-N ₃ P	-0.31
Mo-N ₃ O	-0.56	Mo-N ₃ P	-2.24
Ru-N ₃ O	0.76	Ru-N ₃ P	-0.66
Rh-N ₃ O	1.24	Rh-N ₃ P	-4.03
Pd-N ₃ O	1.87	Pd-N ₃ P	-0.33
Ta-N ₃ O	-1.32	Ta-N ₃ P	-3.69
W-N ₃ O	-1.07	W-N ₃ P	-6.19
Re-N ₃ O	-0.52	Re-N ₃ P	-4.72
Os-N ₃ O	0.93	Os-N ₃ P	-0.71
Pt-N ₃ O	2.02	Pt-N ₃ P	-3.50
Ti-N ₃ B	-2.71	Cr-N ₃ S	-0.51
Cr-N ₃ B	-0.73	Ru-N ₃ S	-0.84
Ru-N ₃ B	-1.59	Rh-N ₃ S	-4.22
Rh-N ₃ B	-4.46	Pd-N ₃ S	-0.65
Pd-N ₃ B	-0.37	Ta-N ₃ S	-4.20
Ta-N ₃ B	-4.98	Pt-N ₃ S	-4.00
W-N ₃ B	-6.71		
Re-N ₃ B	-4.69		
Os-N ₃ B	-1.85		
Pt-N ₃ B	-3.53		

Table S3. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 1 to 6) of TM-N₃O systems, ΔG -n representing the gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 1 to 6), corresponding to equation S5 to S10.

	ΔG -1	ΔG -2	ΔG -3	ΔG -4	ΔG -5	ΔG -6
	-1.14	0.09	-1.90	0.05	-1.36	-0.02
V-N ₃ O	-0.39	0.27	-2.11	0.11	-1.78	-0.02
Mo-N ₃ O	-0.56	-0.24	-1.77	-0.24	-2.22	0.23
Ta-N ₃ O	-1.32	0.35	-2.09	0.59	-1.54	0.02
W-N ₃ O	-1.07	-0.70	-1.46	-0.22	-1.96	-0.12
Re-N ₃ O	-0.52	-0.41	-1.72	-0.19	-2.58	0.40

Table S4. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 7 to 11) of TM-N₃O systems, ΔG -n representing the gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 7 to 11), corresponding to equation S11 to S15.

	ΔG -7	ΔG -8	ΔG -9	ΔG -10	ΔG -11
Ti-N ₃ O	0.10	1.37	-2.47	-0.92	0.35
V-N ₃ O	-1.01	1.25	-1.31	-0.69	-0.14
Mo-N ₃ O	-1.76	-0.17	-0.62	-0.09	0.41
Ta-N ₃ O	-0.69	1.56	-1.73	-1.30	0.38
W-N ₃ O	-1.34	3.70	-1.20	0.30	0.81
Re-N ₃ O	-2.04	1.93	-0.46	0.01	0.51

Table S5. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 1 to 6) of TM-N₃P systems, ΔG -n representing the gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 1 to 6), corresponding to equation S5 to S10.

	ΔG -1	ΔG -2	ΔG -3	ΔG -4	ΔG -5	ΔG -6
Ti-N ₃ P	-2.53	0.21	-1.93	0.42	-1.51	0.09
V-N ₃ P	-3.35	0.16	-1.91	0.21	-1.89	-0.03
Cr-N ₃ P	-0.31	0.83	-2.87	0.26	-2.42	0.37
Mo-N ₃ P	-2.24	-0.34	-1.62	0.26	-2.09	-0.29
Ru-N ₃ P	-0.66	0.11	-2.32	0.58	-3.56	0.63
Rh-N ₃ P	-4.03	-0.71	-2.06	0.31	-2.23	2.07
Pd-N ₃ P	-0.33	-0.96	-1.31	-0.73	-1.04	1.40
Ta-N ₃ P	-3.69	0.39	-2.06	0.51	-1.39	-0.18
W-N ₃ P	-6.19	-0.55	-1.93	0.61	-1.79	-0.44
Re-N ₃ P	-4.72	-0.50	-1.43	-0.05	-2.33	0.04
Os-N ₃ P	-0.71	0.22	-2.01	0.29	-3.83	1.04
Pt-N ₃ P	-3.50	-1.15	-1.11	-0.84	-1.10	1.29

Table S6. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 7 to 11) of TM-N₃P systems, ΔG -n representing the gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 7 to 11), corresponding to equation S11 to S15.

	ΔG -7	ΔG -8	ΔG -9	ΔG -10	ΔG -11
Ti-N ₃ P	1.19	1.37	-2.52	-1.12	0.08

V-N ₃ P	1.20	-0.68	-1.18	0.03	1.91
Cr-N ₃ P	-1.13	-1.56	-0.50	-0.94	-0.25
Mo-N ₃ P	-0.12	-0.17	-1.03	-0.30	0.82
Ru-N ₃ P	-0.48	-0.10	0.13	-1.09	0.14
Rh-N ₃ P	3.72	4.12	-0.91	-1.45	-1.07
Pd-N ₃ P	1.30	2.34	-0.99	-1.68	-1.66
Ta-N ₃ P	1.94	1.56	-2.08	-1.15	0.48
W-N ₃ P	3.61	3.70	-1.29	-0.18	1.21
Re-N ₃ P	2.20	1.93	-0.89	-0.26	1.25
Os-N ₃ P	-1.26	-0.66	0.20	-0.77	0.60
Pt-N ₃ P	4.79	-0.68	-2.04	-1.23	-0.55

Table S7. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 1 to 6) of TM-N₃S systems, ΔG -n representing the gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 1 to 6), corresponding to equation S5 to S10.

	ΔG -1	ΔG -2	ΔG -3	ΔG -4	ΔG -5	ΔG -6
Cr-N ₃ S	-0.51	0.53	-2.39	0.00	-2.34	0.64
Ru-N ₃ S	-0.84	0.45	-2.72	-0.68	-2.12	0.53
Rh-N ₃ S	-4.22	-0.60	-1.99	-0.30	-2.05	2.21
Pd-N ₃ S	-0.65	-1.15	-1.41	-0.53	-1.14	1.11
Ta-N ₃ S	-4.20	1.56	-1.23	-0.88	-0.43	1.01
Pt-N ₃ S	-4.00	-1.06	-1.40	-0.63	-1.12	0.89

Table S8. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 7 to 11) of TM-N₃S systems, ΔG -n representing the gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 7 to 11), corresponding to equation S11 to S15.

	ΔG -7	ΔG -8	ΔG -9	ΔG -10	ΔG -11
Cr-N ₃ S	-1.37	-1.56	-0.17	-0.86	-0.60
Ru-N ₃ S	-0.21	-0.10	0.07	-0.74	-0.57
Rh-N ₃ S	3.99	4.12	0.30	-3.03	-0.97
Pd-N ₃ S	2.06	2.34	-1.37	-1.69	-1.91
Ta-N ₃ S	-1.35	1.56	-1.80	2.07	-2.28
Pt-N ₃ S	5.38	5.59	-1.09	-1.71	-1.77

Table S9. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 1 to 6) of TM-N₃B systems, ΔG -n representing the gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 1 to 6), corresponding to equation S5 to S10.

	ΔG -1	ΔG -2	ΔG -3	ΔG -4	ΔG -5	ΔG -6
Cr-N ₃ B	-2.71	-2.59	0.95	0.32	-1.28	0.11
Ru-N ₃ B	-4.46	-0.22	-2.39	0.02	-2.05	2.22
Rh-N ₃ B	-4.98	0.16	-1.79	0.39	-1.65	-0.17
Pd-N ₃ B	-6.71	-0.42	-1.46	-0.19	-2.10	0.25
Ta-N ₃ B	-4.69	-0.18	-1.87	0.05	-2.93	0.66
Pt-N ₃ B	-3.53	-0.90	-1.32	-0.94	-0.98	0.97

Table S10. Gibbs free energy variation in the reaction process (step 7 to 11) of TM-N₃B systems, ΔG -n representing the Gibbs free energy change in the n-step (n = 7 to 11), corresponding to equation S11 to S15.

	ΔG -7	ΔG -8	ΔG -9	ΔG -10	ΔG -11
Cr-N ₃ B	1.35	1.37	-2.56	-1.42	0.18
Ru-N ₃ B	2.16	4.12	1.97	-2.92	-1.03
Rh-N ₃ B	2.28	1.56	-2.37	-0.73	0.45
Pd-N ₃ B	3.22	3.70	-0.96	0.04	0.69
Ta-N ₃ B	1.63	1.93	-0.20	-0.14	0.55
Pt-N ₃ B	4.93	5.59	-1.21	-1.60	-0.92

Table S11. The Mulliken population for *NOH → *N and *NO₂H → *NO.

	*NO ₂ H(N-O)	length	*NO(N-O)	length	*NOH(N-O)	length
Ti-N3O	0.29	1.46249	0.75	1.22731	0.42	1.36359
V-N3O	0.29	1.45233	0.77	1.22587	0.44	1.35335
Mo-N3O	0.3	1.45875	0.79	1.23142	0.45	1.35275
Ta-N3O	0.35	1.38593	0.71	1.23589	0.43	1.36294
W-N3O	0.31	1.46037	0.77	1.23648	0.45	1.35347
Re-N3O	0.28	1.46916	0.8	1.2295	0.46	1.34665
Ti-N3P	0.37	1.38824	0.75	1.2262	0.42	1.36473
V-N3P	0.37	1.38413	0.78	1.22677	0.44	1.35446

Cr-N3P	0.31	1.42179	0.82	1.22229	0.45	1.34995
Mo-N3P	0.35	1.40714	0.77	1.23348	0.42	1.36986
Ru-N3P	0.28	1.41268	0.83	1.21649	0.41	1.37807
Rh-N3P	0.27	1.42627	0.79	1.20855	0.35	1.35671
Pd-N3P	0.27	1.43721	0.75	1.20228	0.36	1.33946
Ta-N3P	0.35	1.39237	0.72	1.23444	0.39	1.38155
W-N3P	0.32	1.44151	0.75	1.23714	0.42	1.37093
Re-N3P	0.37	1.42014	0.8	1.22477	0.44	1.37638
Os-N3P	0.25	1.43388	0.82	1.22125	0.43	1.35236
Pt-N3P	0.26	1.44334	0.77	1.20564	0.32	1.3556
Cr-N3S	0.34	1.44943	0.82	1.223	0.46	1.34921
Ru-N3S	0.37	1.4419	0.84	1.21282	0.41	1.37674
Rh-N3S	0.31	1.4449	0.8	1.20645	0.35	1.35213
Pd-N3S	0.27	1.43102	0.74	1.20402	0.35	1.34966
Ta-N3S	0.25	1.45992	0.68	1.20031	0.38	1.32335
Pt-N3S	0.26	1.42515	0.73	1.2042	0.34	1.35291
Ti-N3B	0.37	1.3891	0.74	1.22452	0.42	1.36473
Rh-N3B	0.3	1.45488	0.78	1.21189	0.34	1.35673
Ta-N3B	0.35	1.39494	0.74	1.22955	0.42	1.36799
W-N3B	0.38	1.40266	0.79	1.2312	0.44	1.35985
Re-N3B	0.37	1.42147	0.81	1.22742	0.44	1.35477
Pt-N3B	0.27	1.44347	0.78	1.19832	0.34	1.35129

Table S12. The limiting potentials(U_L) of 30 TM-PP catalysts are listed. The U_L is defined by $U_L = -(\Delta G_{\max} / e)$.

Limiting Potentials		Limiting Potentials	
Ti-N ₃ O	-0.35	Ti-N ₃ P	-1.19
V-N ₃ O	-0.27	V-N ₃ P	-1.20
Mo-N ₃ O	-0.41	Cr-N ₃ P	-0.83
Ta-N ₃ O	-0.59	Mo-N ₃ P	-0.82
W-N ₃ O	-0.81	Ru-N ₃ P	-0.63
Re-N ₃ O	-0.51	Rh-N ₃ P	-3.72
Ti-N ₃ B	-1.35	Pd-N ₃ P	-1.40
Rh-N ₃ B	-2.22	Ta-N ₃ P	-1.94
Ta-N ₃ B	-2.28	W-N ₃ P	-3.61
W-N ₃ B	-3.22	Re-N ₃ P	-2.20
Re-N ₃ B	-1.63	Os-N ₃ P	-1.04
Pt-N ₃ B	-4.93	Pt-N ₃ P	-4.79
		Cr-N ₃ S	-0.64
		Ru-N ₃ S	-0.53
		Rh-N ₃ S	-3.99
		Pd-N ₃ S	-2.06
		Ta-N ₃ S	-2.07
		Pt-N ₃ S	-5.38