

## Supplementary Information

# An Investigation into the Photochemistry of, and the Electrochemically Induced CO-loss from, [(CO)<sub>5</sub>MC(OMe)Me] (M = Cr or W) Using Low-temperature Matrix Isolation, Picosecond Infrared Spectroscopy, Cyclic Voltammetry, and Time-dependent Density Functional Theory

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**Table S1.** A comparison of Bond Lengths of  $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5=\text{C}(\text{OMe})\text{Me}$  Calculated (B3LYP/Tzvp) and Observed (X-Ray Diffraction) in Related Complexes  $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_4(\text{PPh}_3)=\text{C}(\text{OMe})\text{Me}$ <sup>a</sup> and  $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_5=\text{C}(\text{OMe})\text{Ph}$ <sup>b</sup>

Bond	Bond-Length (Å) Observed $r_o^a$	Bond-Length (Å) Calculated $r_c$	$r_o-r_c$
Cr-C(carbene)	2.04 <sup>a</sup> , 2.04 <sup>b</sup>	2.027	
Cr-C(cis-carbonyl (average))	1.86 <sup>a</sup> , 1.88 <sup>b</sup>	1.915	
Cr-C(trans-carbonyl)	1.83 <sup>a</sup> , 1.87 <sup>b</sup>	1.916	
C(carbene)-O	1.33 <sup>b</sup>	1.321	
C(carbene)-C(methyl)		1.503	

<sup>a</sup>Mills, O.S.; Redhouse, A.D. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1966**, 814, <sup>b</sup>Mills, O.S.; Redhouse, A.D., *J. Chem. Soc. (A)*, **1968**, 642.

**Table S2.** The Correction Factor for Simulated IR Spectra at the B3LYP/TZVP level for *syn* and *anti* (**1**)

Calculated	Calculated	Calculated	Observed	Correction Factor
anti	syn	Average		
2029.5	2035.7	2032.6		
2034.5	2036.5	2035.5	1945	0.955539
2047.4	2049.3	2048.35	1952	0.952962
2058.3	2064.3	2061.3	1961	0.951341
2136	2138	2137	2067	0.967244
		<b>Average Factor</b>		<b>0.956772</b>

### Anti to syn activation energy variable temperature NMR experiments

The activation energy for the *anti* to *syn* isomerisation for  $[(\text{CO})_5\text{CrC}(\text{OMe})\text{Me}]$  was determined by variable temperature <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments over the temperature range 20 to –25°C in deuterodichloromethane. The methyl protons resonate ~ 2.8 ppm while the methoxy protons are evident at ~ 4.55 ppm relative to TMS. The Me signal was used in this determination and the peak width at half height was measured at each temperature, and a new peak was evident at 2.91 ppm at temperatures lower than -5°C.

The rate constant for the isomerisation (*anti-syn*) was estimated using the method described by Gasparro and Kolodny (Gasparro, F.P. and Kolodny, N.H. *J. Chem. Ed.*, 1977,

54, 258-261). The rate data are presented in Table S3. An Arrhenius plot of these data yielded an activation energy of 57 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

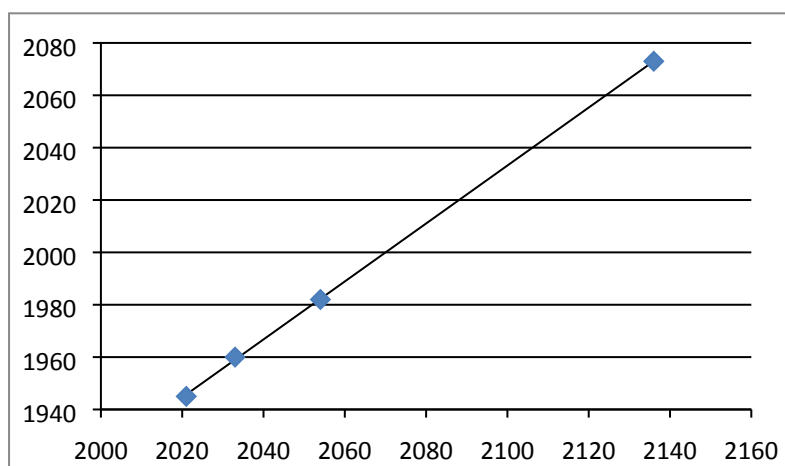
**Table S3.** The temperature and rate data for the *anti-syn* isomerisation of (1).

1/T	lnk
0.003533	1.8628
0.003731	0.4414
0.003952	-0.7981
0.004032	-1.6736

slope= -6796, which yields a value of 57 kJ/mol for the activation energy of the isomerisation process.

**Table S4.** The calibration of calculated IR bands (B3LYP/TZVP for Cr systems B3LYP/Def2TZVP for W systems) using PCM solvent correction for heptane

Tungsten system

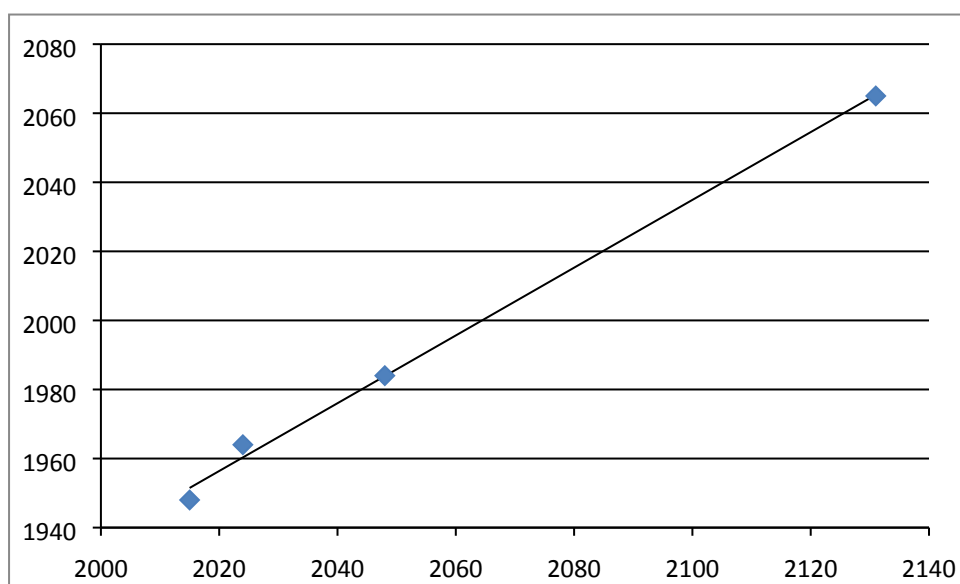


Exp	Calc
2073	2136
1982	2054
1960	2033
1945	2021

Corrected band positions for **(6)** B3LYP/Def2TZVP solvent = heptane

Calc	Corrected		Intensity
1940.5	1856	vw	193
1980.22	1900	m	1144
2020.7	1945	vs	2114
2035	1961	m	963
2116.17	2051	w	377

Chromium System

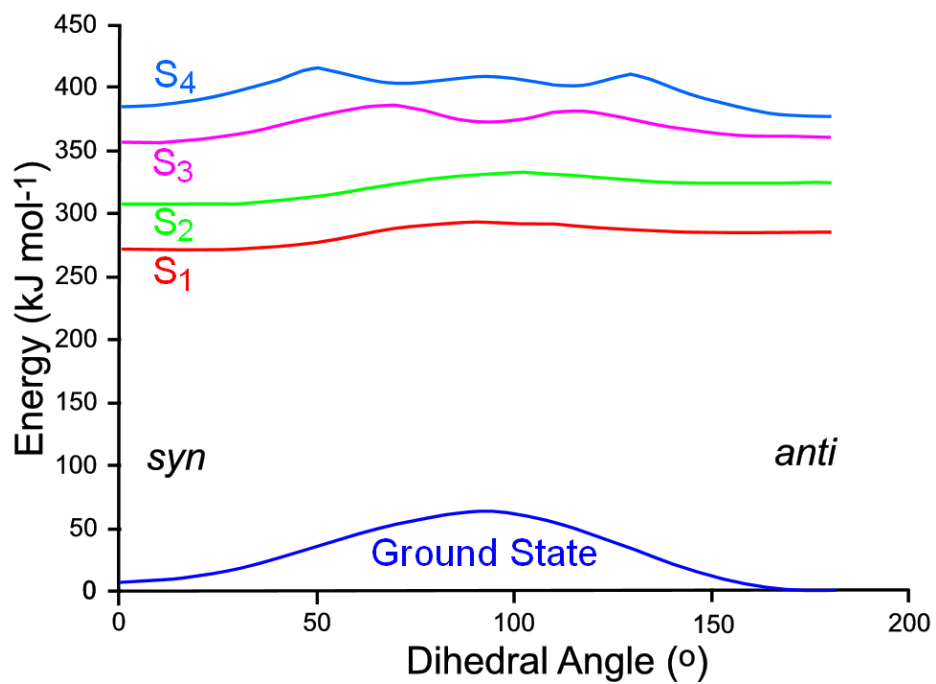


Exp	Calc	Intensity
1948	2015	4700
1964	2024	1499
1984	2048	165
2065	2131	295

The corrected band positions for **(3)** (B3LYP/TZVP Solvent = heptane)

Calc	corrected	Intensity
1980	1917	975
2000	1937	745
2016	1952	2485
2032	1968	1105
2116	2050	448

Anti-Syn Isomerisation Reaction Coordinate Plot.



**Figure S1.** Plot of the variation of ground-state and the four lowest energy singlet excited states (S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>4</sub>) with dihedral angle (see text for more details) in (**1**).

**Table S5.** Table of optimised coordinates for **(1)** at the B3LYP/TZVP level .mol format

```
21 19 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.5183 -0.0393 -0.0000 Cr 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.1713 -1.3644 -1.3430 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.8117 1.2762 -1.3559 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.8118 1.2764 1.3558 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.1713 -1.3643 1.3431 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-2.3848 -0.4720 -0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0.0553 -2.1527 -2.1402 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.9868 2.0654 -2.1687 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.9870 2.0656 2.1685 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0.0553 -2.1525 2.1405 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-3.5007 -0.7316 -0.0000 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
1.4560 0.4195 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
2.3412 -0.5619 0.0000 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
3.7775 -0.3654 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
4.0951 0.1703 0.8941 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
4.1973 -1.3668 -0.0001 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
4.0951 0.1705 -0.8941 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
2.0492 1.8010 0.0000 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
2.6839 1.9542 0.8803 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
2.6838 1.9543 -0.8803 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
1.2747 2.5603 0.0001 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
1 2 1 0 0 0 0
1 3 1 0 0 0 0
1 4 1 0 0 0 0
1 5 1 0 0 0 0
1 6 1 0 0 0 0
2 7 3 0 0 0 0
3 8 3 0 0 0 0
4 9 3 0 0 0 0
5 10 3 0 0 0 0
6 11 3 0 0 0 0
12 13 4 0 0 0 0
12 18 1 0 0 0 0
13 14 1 0 0 0 0
14 15 1 0 0 0 0
14 16 1 0 0 0 0
14 17 1 0 0 0 0
18 19 1 0 0 0 0
18 20 1 0 0 0 0
18 21 1 0 0 0 0
```

The vertical excitation energies and oscillator strengths for the twenty lowest energy singlet excited states of (1) at the TDDFT/B3LYP/TZVP level.

Excitation energies and oscillator strengths:

Excited State	1:	Singlet-A	2.7437 eV	451.90 nm	f=0.0000	<S**2>=0.000
	63 -> 64	0.70227				
Excited State	2:	Singlet-A	3.1181 eV	397.63 nm	f=0.0010	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 64	0.69870				
Excited State	3:	Singlet-A	3.6189 eV	342.60 nm	f=0.1608	<S**2>=0.000
	62 -> 64	0.67376				
Excited State	4:	Singlet-A	3.9146 eV	316.72 nm	f=0.0067	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 66	-0.28233				
	63 -> 65	0.64208				
Excited State	5:	Singlet-A	4.0175 eV	308.61 nm	f=0.0162	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 65	-0.25865				
	62 -> 67	0.10239				
	63 -> 66	0.63430				
Excited State	6:	Singlet-A	4.0391 eV	306.96 nm	f=0.0000	<S**2>=0.000
	62 -> 66	0.27183				
	63 -> 67	0.62953				
	63 -> 71	0.14841				
Excited State	7:	Singlet-A	4.1075 eV	301.85 nm	f=0.0050	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 67	-0.29244				
	62 -> 65	0.63627				
Excited State	8:	Singlet-A	4.1133 eV	301.42 nm	f=0.0001	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 65	0.65028				
	63 -> 66	0.27019				
Excited State	9:	Singlet-A	4.2466 eV	291.96 nm	f=0.0001	<S**2>=0.000
	62 -> 66	0.64358				
	63 -> 67	-0.27224				
Excited State	10:	Singlet-A	4.3275 eV	286.51 nm	f=0.0001	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 70	0.11849				
	63 -> 69	-0.12561				
	63 -> 72	0.64103				
	63 -> 78	0.13524				
Excited State	11:	Singlet-A	4.3670 eV	283.91 nm	f=0.0052	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 66	0.10287				
	62 -> 67	0.67253				
Excited State	12:	Singlet-A	4.4077 eV	281.29 nm	f=0.0002	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 67	-0.35386				
	63 -> 68	0.55579				
	63 -> 71	-0.14614				
Excited State	13:	Singlet-A	4.4710 eV	277.31 nm	f=0.0002	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 67	-0.11584				
	62 -> 70	-0.25127				
	63 -> 67	-0.14347				
	63 -> 68	0.10461				
	63 -> 71	0.59893				
Excited State	14:	Singlet-A	4.5372 eV	273.26 nm	f=0.0107	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 66	-0.41128				
	61 -> 70	0.12623				
	62 -> 68	0.51377				
	63 -> 65	-0.13991				
Excited State	15:	Singlet-A	4.5867 eV	270.31 nm	f=0.0000	<S**2>=0.000
	60 -> 64	-0.15608				
	62 -> 69	-0.14240				



	62 -> 72	0.57982				
	63 -> 76	0.11760				
	63 -> 77	0.29934				
Excited State	16:	Singlet-A	4.6426 eV	267.06 nm	f=0.0021	<S**2>=0.000
	60 -> 64	0.63068				
	61 -> 68	-0.23159				
	62 -> 72	0.14090				
Excited State	17:	Singlet-A	4.6567 eV	266.25 nm	f=0.0064	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 75	-0.11185				
	61 -> 78	0.17489				
	62 -> 71	-0.41387				
	63 -> 70	0.47823				
	63 -> 73	0.15772				
Excited State	18:	Singlet-A	4.6733 eV	265.30 nm	f=0.0003	<S**2>=0.000
	60 -> 64	0.23997				
	61 -> 68	0.61181				
	61 -> 71	-0.13361				
	63 -> 68	-0.13672				
	63 -> 77	0.12150				
Excited State	19:	Singlet-A	4.7312 eV	262.05 nm	f=0.0007	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 68	0.23301				
	61 -> 71	0.45888				
	61 -> 74	-0.12759				
	62 -> 72	0.17840				
	63 -> 68	0.12369				
	63 -> 76	-0.17370				
	63 -> 77	-0.31624				
Excited State	20:	Singlet-A	4.7559 eV	260.70 nm	f=0.0007	<S**2>=0.000
	61 -> 70	-0.29383				
	61 -> 73	-0.13347				
	63 -> 69	0.12738				
	63 -> 75	-0.32255				
	63 -> 78	0.45264				
	63 -> 79	0.12119				
	63 -> 81	0.12715				

**Table S6.** Compositions of Molecular Orbitals of (1) (gross contributions, %) and overlap populations (OP) between fragments

Molecule: [(CO)<sub>5</sub>Cr=C(OMe)Me]

335 orbitals( 335 canonical) 63 alpha + 63 beta electrons

Number of fragments: 3

Fragment 1 ( 1 atoms, 33 orbitals): Cr atom

Fragment 2 ( 10 atoms, 190 orbitals): CO Ligands

Fragment 3 ( 10 atoms, 112 orbitals): Carbene ligand

Alpha MO:	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	HOMO-22	HOMO-21	HOMO-20	HOMO-19	HOMO-18	HOMO-17	HOMO-16	HOMO-15	HOMO-14	HOMO-13
Energy (eV):	-13.19	-12.84	-12.70	-12.70	-12.61	-12.60	-12.55	-12.38	-12.21	-12.16
Symmetry:	A	AAAAAAAAA								
FRAG# 1:	21.06	2.53	3.00	3.54	2.67	2.44	2.23	0.11	0.57	0.04
s orbitals:	18.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
p orbitals:	0.82	0.00	1.53	2.31	0.99	1.99	1.25	0.00	0.19	0.00
d orbitals:	1.41	2.54	1.47	1.23	1.45	0.45	0.78	0.10	0.38	0.04
FRAG# 2:	67.06	95.47	94.23	96.33	79.06	83.51	93.98	88.19	63.47	99.55
s orbitals:	9.61	0.01	0.61	0.88	1.34	1.89	1.10	0.07	0.42	0.02
p orbitals:	57.18	94.57	92.71	94.53	76.88	80.73	91.82	86.95	62.19	98.05
d orbitals:	0.27	0.89	0.91	0.91	0.84	0.89	1.05	1.18	0.86	1.48
FRAG# 3:	11.88	1.99	2.77	0.13	18.27	14.05	3.79	11.70	35.96	0.41
s orbitals:	4.14	0.90	1.02	0.06	7.09	4.94	1.78	4.43	14.13	0.17
p orbitals:	7.66	1.07	1.73	0.07	11.04	9.06	1.94	7.20	21.67	0.24
d orbitals:	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.14	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.16	0.00
OP( 1 & 2 )	0.099	0.025	0.035	0.042	0.029	0.027	0.030	0.001	0.004	0.000
OP( 1 & 3 )	-0.046	0.000	0.000	0.001	-0.002	0.004	-0.008	0.000	0.002	0.000
OP( 2 & 3 )	0.009	0.003	0.002	-0.002	-0.006	0.013	-0.020	0.008	-0.003	0.000
Alpha MO:	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	HOMO-12	HOMO-11	HOMO-10	HOMO-9	HOMO-8	HOMO-7	HOMO-6	HOMO-5	HOMO-4	HOMO-3
Energy (eV):	-12.14	-12.08	-11.79	-11.77	-11.36	-11.05	-10.92	-10.56	-10.43	-8.22
Symmetry:	A	AAAAAAAAA								
FRAG# 1:	0.28	0.38	1.89	31.93	24.15	8.41	9.71	0.51	1.97	14.96
s orbitals:	0.02	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.10	0.00	0.98
p orbitals:	0.25	0.02	0.08	0.00	3.42	8.19	9.67	0.55	1.54	5.59
d orbitals:	0.01	0.36	1.60	31.93	20.58	0.22	0.04	0.07	0.42	8.39
FRAG# 2:	97.38	64.64	18.33	64.99	71.15	70.00	82.80	10.80	20.58	7.30
s orbitals:	0.40	0.30	1.17	22.21	23.02	23.51	29.76	3.56	8.29	2.37
p orbitals:	95.62	63.41	16.92	42.68	47.78	45.89	52.37	7.12	12.13	4.71
d orbitals:	1.36	0.93	0.24	0.10	0.35	0.60	0.66	0.13	0.16	0.23
FRAG# 3:	2.34	34.97	79.78	3.08	4.70	21.59	7.49	88.69	77.45	77.74
s orbitals:	1.10	14.49	32.33	1.22	1.59	6.86	2.63	23.66	17.09	17.39
p orbitals:	1.22	20.29	46.98	1.84	3.06	14.51	4.73	64.19	59.40	59.74
d orbitals:	0.02	0.18	0.48	0.02	0.05	0.22	0.13	0.83	0.96	0.61
OP( 1 & 2 )	0.004	0.003	0.019	0.244	0.187	0.080	0.103	0.025	0.021	-0.016
OP( 1 & 3 )	-0.001	0.001	-0.012	0.000	0.005	0.009	-0.003	-0.045	-0.004	0.113
OP( 2 & 3 )	-0.002	-0.020	-0.044	0.000	-0.006	0.013	-0.015	-0.061	-0.042	-0.026

Alpha MO:	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Energy (eV):	HOMO-2	HOMO-1	HOMO	LUMO	LUMO+1	LUMO+2	LUMO+3	LUMO+4	LUMO+5	LUMO+6
Symmetry:	A	AAAAAAAAA								
=====										
FRAG# 1:	63.98	60.23	68.89	7.39	5.91	4.99	4.51	0.10	65.55	20.93
s orbitals:	0.01	0.00	-0.02	0.00	0.04	0.09	0.00	0.00	64.25	0.78
p orbitals:	0.02	0.03	0.09	1.60	5.78	4.37	3.45	0.02	-0.10	0.85
d orbitals:	63.95	60.21	68.82	5.79	0.09	0.53	1.06	0.08	1.40	19.30
-----										
FRAG# 2:	35.78	26.60	29.96	14.07	89.07	95.57	92.39	98.20	-17.38	77.58
s orbitals:	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.93	0.70	2.92	0.49	0.04	-20.74	-1.05
p orbitals:	34.31	25.52	28.75	12.95	87.75	91.97	91.20	97.40	3.26	78.24
d orbitals:	1.46	1.08	1.18	0.20	0.63	0.68	0.69	0.75	0.11	0.39
-----										
FRAG# 3:	0.24	13.17	1.15	78.54	5.02	-0.56	3.10	1.70	51.82	1.49
s orbitals:	0.07	1.38	0.73	7.65	1.78	1.24	0.81	0.57	40.23	-0.01
p orbitals:	0.16	11.52	0.22	69.78	3.17	-1.82	2.21	1.08	11.43	1.43
d orbitals:	0.01	0.27	0.20	1.11	0.07	0.02	0.08	0.05	0.16	0.07
-----										
OP ( 1 & 2 )	0.146	0.109	0.134	-0.019	0.134	0.005	-0.009	0.000	-3.739	-0.269
OP ( 1 & 3 )	-0.002	0.042	-0.028	-0.020	-0.170	-0.057	-0.038	0.000	-1.130	0.063
OP ( 2 & 3 )	-0.001	0.008	-0.011	-0.167	-0.368	-0.015	0.002	-0.009	0.573	-0.105
=====										
Alpha MO:	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
Energy (eV):	LUMO+7	LUMO+8	LUMO+9	LUMO+10	LUMO+11	LUMO+12	LUMO+13	LUMO+14	LUMO+15	LUMO+16
Symmetry:	A	AAAAAAAAA								
=====										
FRAG# 1:	28.30	36.16	21.43	5.73	72.86	10.98	45.31	35.22	29.50	1.60
s orbitals:	0.00	1.69	9.88	0.00	62.57	0.00	0.00	2.70	24.97	0.00
p orbitals:	0.46	0.00	0.29	0.16	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.56	0.06
d orbitals:	27.84	34.46	11.26	5.56	10.27	10.98	45.31	32.30	3.97	1.55
-----										
FRAG# 2:	69.42	60.95	67.48	91.68	-10.78	88.56	50.85	20.12	1.95	2.99
s orbitals:	0.11	-0.63	-3.83	0.78	-21.12	5.68	23.60	11.58	-21.54	0.24
p orbitals:	69.04	61.47	70.94	90.39	9.74	82.01	25.36	7.69	23.26	2.69
d orbitals:	0.27	0.11	0.37	0.51	0.60	0.88	1.89	0.85	0.22	0.07
-----										
FRAG# 3:	2.29	2.89	11.09	2.59	37.92	0.46	3.84	44.65	68.55	95.40
s orbitals:	0.29	2.13	-4.64	0.57	35.62	0.22	2.84	9.22	9.47	124.63
p orbitals:	1.94	0.75	15.55	1.96	2.06	0.24	0.96	34.66	58.01	-29.82
d orbitals:	0.06	0.02	0.17	0.06	0.24	0.00	0.04	0.77	1.07	0.59
-----										
OP ( 1 & 2 )	-0.282	-0.501	-0.894	-0.073	-4.654	-0.077	-0.311	-0.713	-4.956	-0.074
OP ( 1 & 3 )	-0.038	-0.027	-0.238	0.012	-2.391	-0.001	-0.008	0.019	-0.013	0.020
OP ( 2 & 3 )	0.035	0.011	0.149	-0.080	0.769	0.004	0.023	-0.700	-0.396	-0.073

**Table S7.** Optimised coordinates for **(3)** at the B3LYP/TZVP level .mol format

```
21 19 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.6536 -0.0487 -0.1779 Cr 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.1792 -1.9058 -0.3880 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 0.8243  0.5835 -1.4606 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-1.2347  1.7498  0.1355 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.4262 -0.2198  1.6495 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-2.4768 -0.5646 -0.1694 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 0.0651 -3.0212 -0.4460 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 0.2080  0.5537 -2.4772 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-1.6174  2.7996  0.3894 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-0.2642 -0.3037  2.7877 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
-3.5790 -0.8755 -0.1714 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 1.7357  0.6306 -0.4575 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 2.6554 -0.3948 -0.4547 O 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 3.0328 -0.9148  0.8263 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 2.1665 -1.3236  1.3496 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 3.7464 -1.7088  0.6203 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 3.5094 -0.1501  1.4435 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 2.0644  1.9058  0.2760 C 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 2.0074  1.7846  1.3581 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 3.0835  2.2034  0.0115 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
 1.3871  2.7093 -0.0064 H 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
1  2  1  0  0  0  0
1  4  1  0  0  0  0
1  5  1  0  0  0  0
1  6  1  0  0  0  0
2  7  3  0  0  0  0
3  8  2  0  0  0  0
  3 12  2  0  0  0  0
4  9  3  0  0  0  0
  5 10  3  0  0  0  0
  6 11  3  0  0  0  0
12 13  1  0  0  0  0
12 18  1  0  0  0  0
13 14  1  0  0  0  0
14 15  1  0  0  0  0
14 16  1  0  0  0  0
14 17  1  0  0  0  0
18 19  1  0  0  0  0
18 20  1  0  0  0  0
18 21  1  0  0  0  0
```

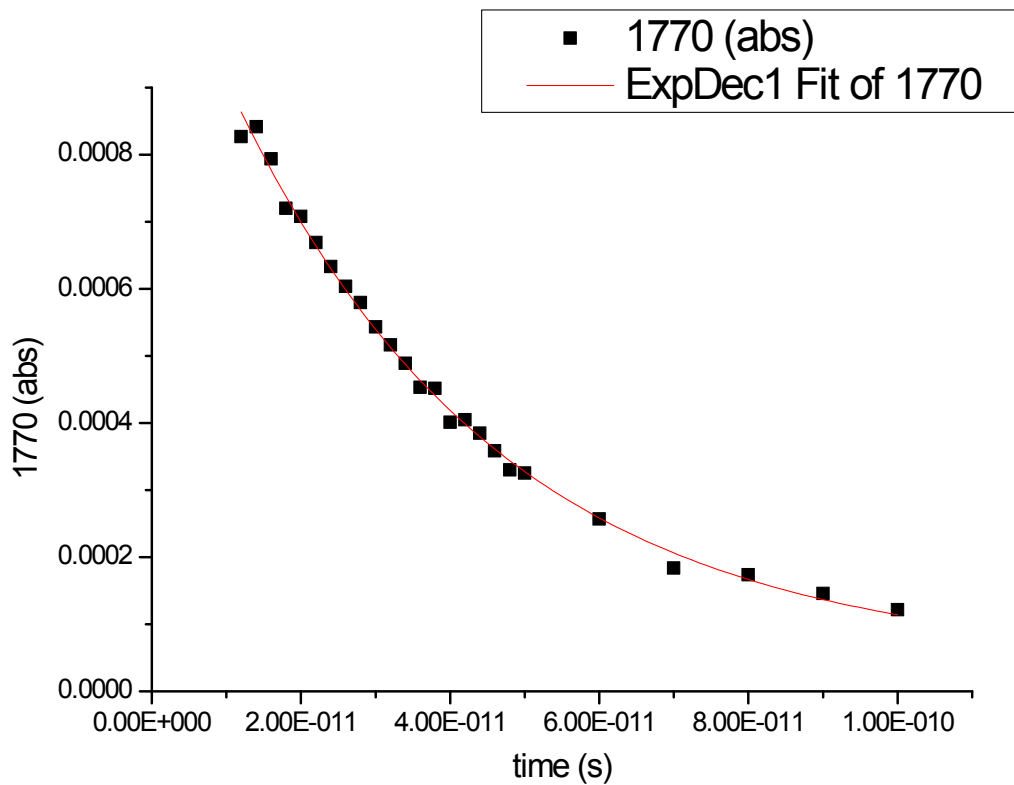
**Table S8.** Optimised coordinates for **(4)** at the B3LYP/Def2TZVP level .mol format

21	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.0450	-1.4769	1.4466	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.6881	1.4119	1.4563	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.6880	1.4119	-1.4563	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.0450	-1.4769	-1.4466	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2.4068	-0.4543	-0.0000	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-0.1480	-2.2807	2.2360	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.8613	2.2105	2.2588	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.8613	2.2105	-2.2588	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-0.1480	-2.2807	-2.2360	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		3.5267	-0.6937	-0.0000	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-1.7519	0.4318	0.0000	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-2.6224	-0.5620	0.0000	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-4.0562	-0.3824	0.0000	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-4.3800	0.1505	-0.8933	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-4.4672	-1.3874	0.0000	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-4.3800	0.1506	0.8934	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-2.3601	1.8045	0.0000	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-2.9967	1.9503	-0.8798	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-2.9967	1.9503	0.8798	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		-1.5930	2.5714	0.0000	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0.3776	-0.0248	-0.0000	W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table S9.** Optimised coordinates for **(6)** at the B3LYP/Def2TZVP level .mol format

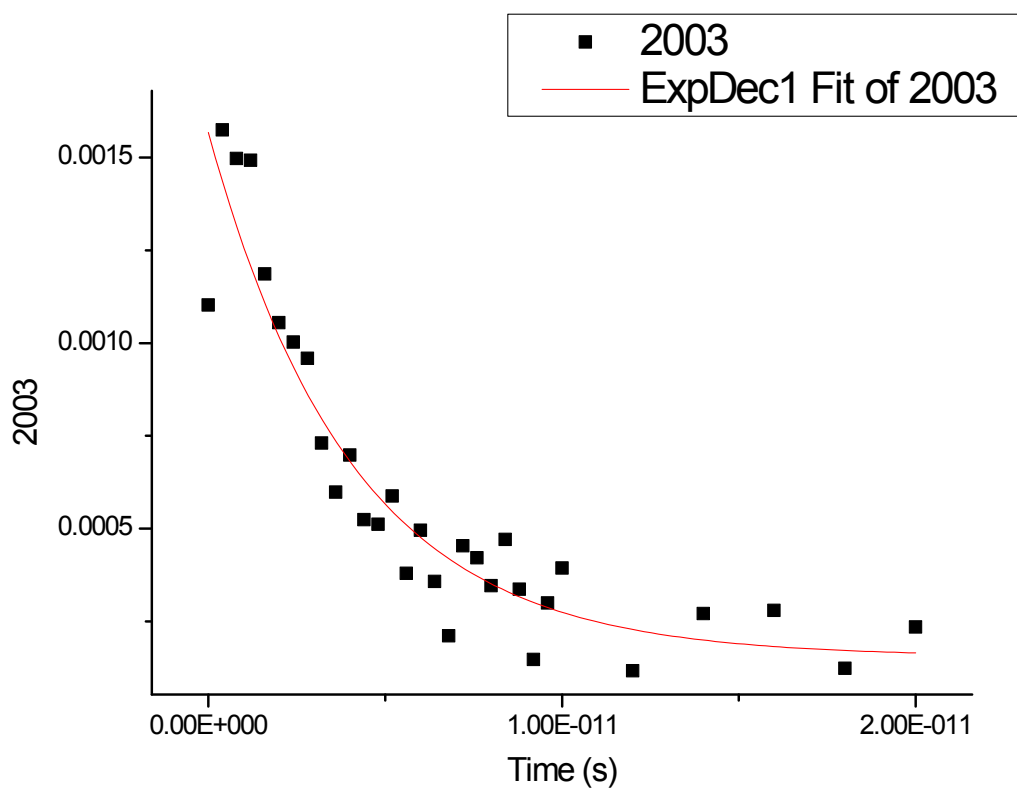
21	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1.1535	0.6037	-1.4193	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-1.0546	1.9279	0.1824	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-0.3151	-0.2214	1.8056	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-0.0231	-2.0371	-0.3633	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-2.4751	-0.5229	-0.1300	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0.6862	0.6249	-2.5208	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-1.3772	3.0027	0.4104	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-0.1700	-0.3124	2.9482	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0.2217	-3.1510	-0.4382	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-3.5881	-0.7934	-0.1631	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2.0598	0.6198	-0.3928	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2.9378	-0.4300	-0.3699	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3.2815	-0.9638	0.9125	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2.3891	-1.3220	1.4298	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3.9525	-1.7957	0.7140	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3.7935	-0.2227	1.5293	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2.3876	1.8735	0.3738	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2.3267	1.7324	1.4527	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3.4105	2.1704	0.1205	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1.7165	2.6853	0.1022	H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-0.5049	-0.0331	-0.1364	W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	6	2	0	0	0	0														
	1	11	2	0	0	0	0													
	1	21	1	0	0	0	0													
2	7	3	0	0	0	0														
	2	21	1	0	0	0	0													
3	8	3	0	0	0	0														
	3	21	1	0	0	0	0													
4	9	3	0	0	0	0														
	4	21	1	0	0	0	0													
	5	10	3	0	0	0	0													
	5	21	1	0	0	0	0													
11	12	1	0	0	0	0														
11	17	1	0	0	0	0														
12	13	1	0	0	0	0														
13	14	1	0	0	0	0														
13	15	1	0	0	0	0														
13	16	1	0	0	0	0														
17	18	1	0	0	0	0														
17	19	1	0	0	0	0														
17	20	1	0	0	0	0														

**Figure S2** Single exponential curve fit for decay of 1970  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  feature following 400 nm excitation of (1) in *n*-heptane at 298 K.



	y0	y0	A1	A1	t1	t1	Statistics	Statistics
	Value	Standard Error	Value	Standard Error	Value	Standard Error	Reduced Chi-Sqr	Adj. R-Square
1970	5.39E-04	3.43E-05	0.00377	4.71E-05	3.86E-12	1.20E-13	5.25E-09	0.99534

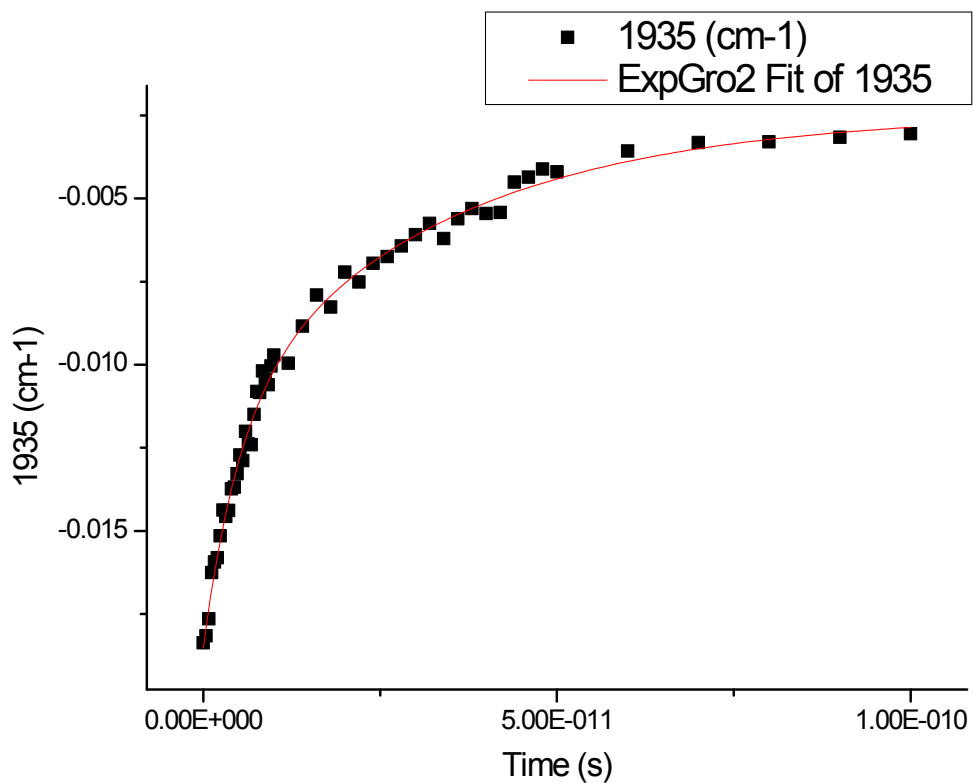
**Figure S3.** Single exponential curve fit for the decay of absorbance at 2003  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  following 400 nm excitation of (1) in *n*-heptane at 298 K.



	y0	y0	A1	A1	t1	t1	Statistics	Statistics
	Value	Standard Error	Value	Standard Error	Value	Standard Error	Reduced Chi-Sqr	Adj. R-Square
2003	1.56E-04	7.14E-05	0.00141	9.37E-05	4.05E-12	6.80E-13	2.07E-08	0.88246

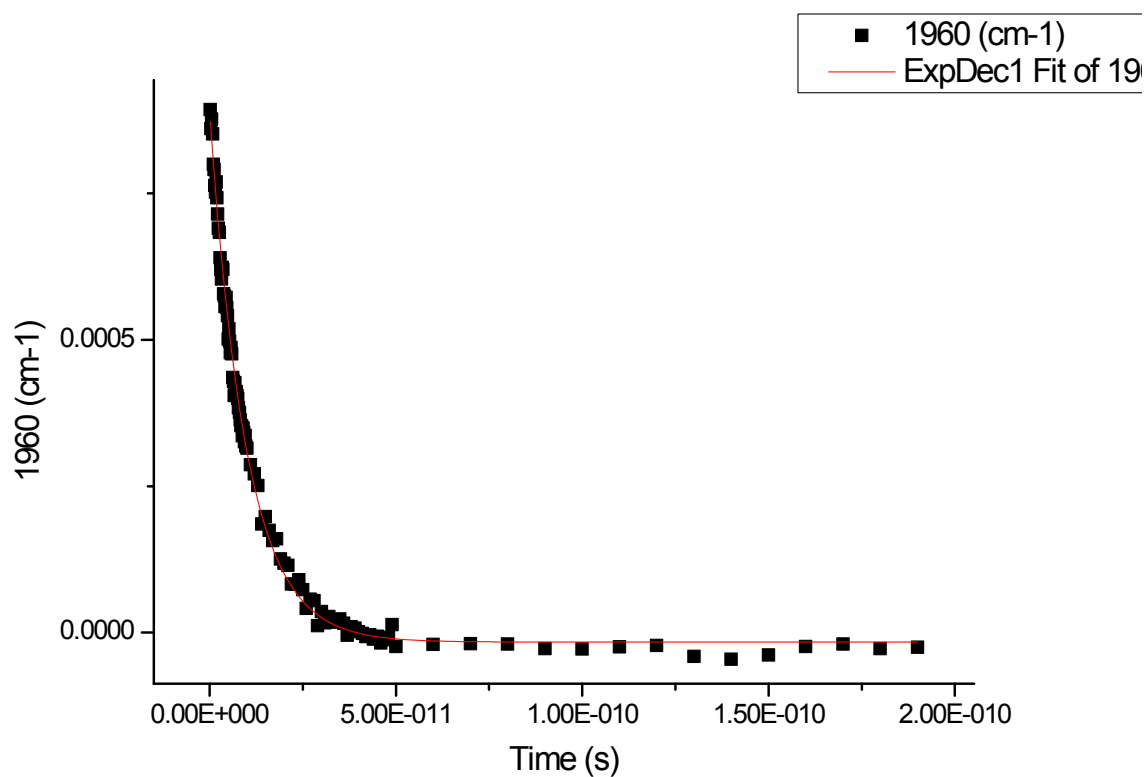


**Figure S4.** Biexponential curve fit for the recovery of parent depletion (measure at 1935  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) following 400 nm excitation of (**1**) in n-heptane at 298 K



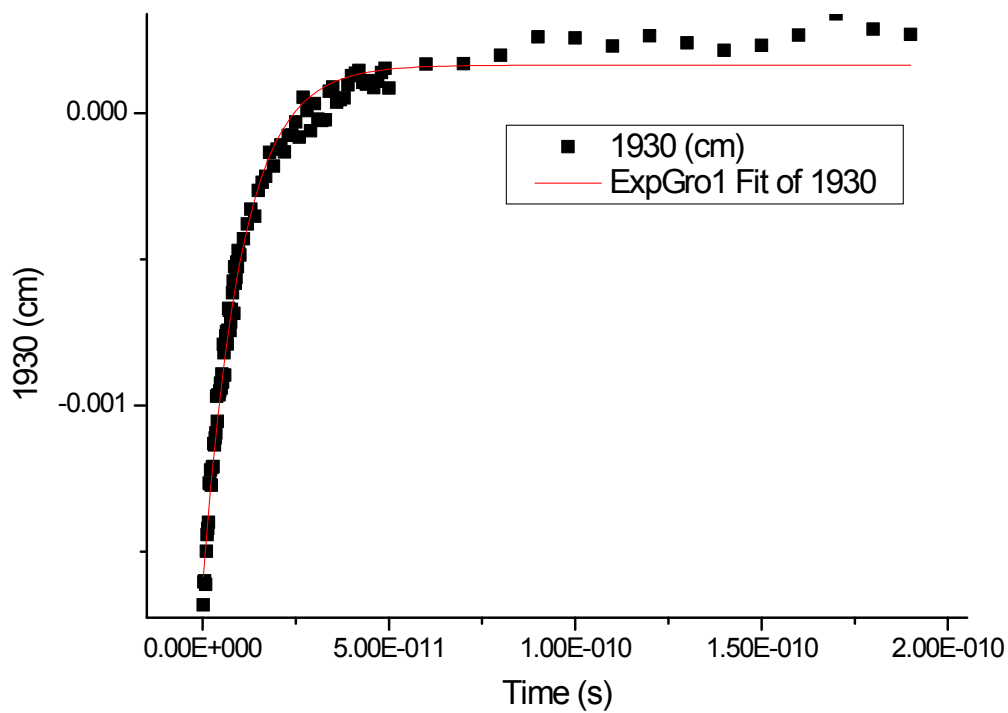
y0	y0	A1	A1	t1	t1	A2	A2	t2	t2	Statistics	Statistics
Value	St Error	Value	St Error	Value	St Error	Value	St Error	Value	St Error	Reduced Chi-Sqr	Adj. R-Square
-2.44E-03	3.89E-04	-0.00685	9.24E-04	-5.06E-12	8.03E-13	-9.23E-03	7.45E-04	-3.23E-11	5.64E-12	1.09E-07	0.99452

**Figure S5.** Decay curve fit for the excited state decay (measure at 1960  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) following 400 nm excitation of (**4**) in *n*-heptane at 298 K



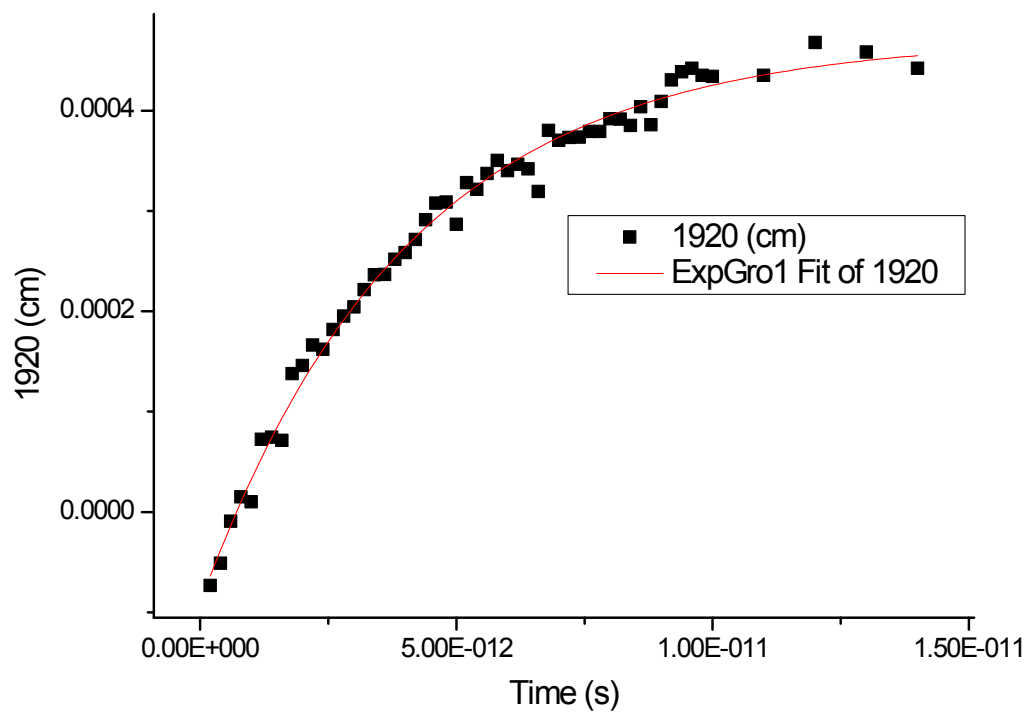
	y0	y0	A1	A1	t1	t1	A2	A2	t2	t2
	Value	StError	Value	StError	Value	StError	Value	StError	Value	StError
1960	-2.77943E-5	3.05202E-6	2.23842E-4	6.37668E-5	3.77858E-12	3.77858E-12	6.99716E-5	1.23109E-11	7.60733E-13	1.44596E-10

**Figure S6.** Grow-in of metallaketene (measure at  $1930\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) following 400 nm excitation of (4) in *n*-heptane at 298 K

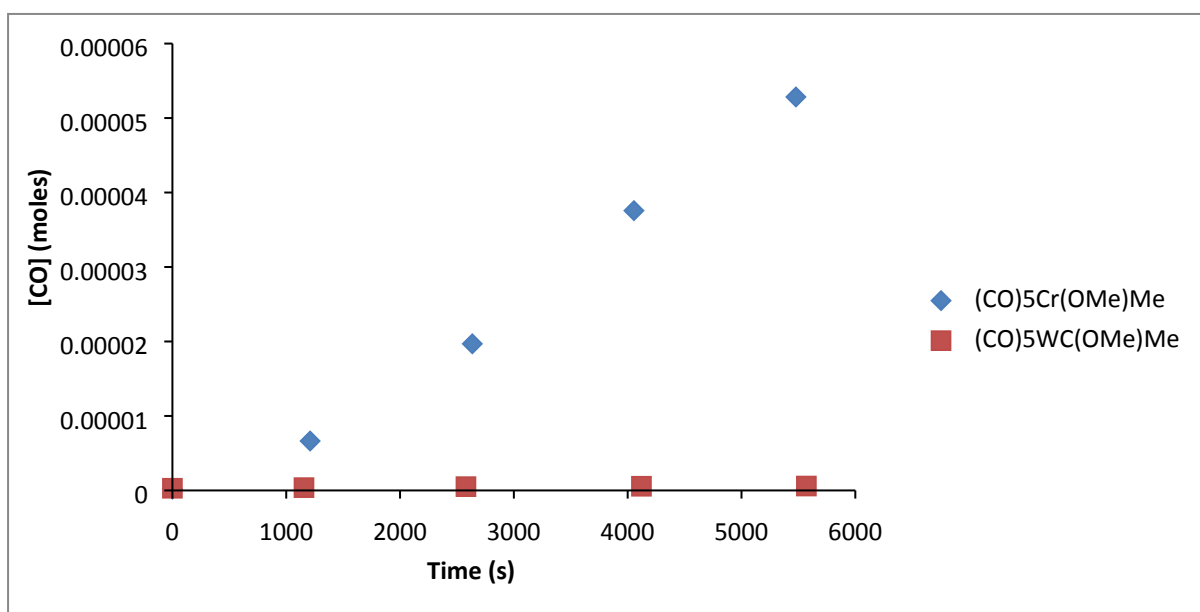


	y0	y0	A1	A1	t1	t1
1930	Value	StError	Value	StError	Value	StError
	1.63949E-4	1.09714E-5	-0.00178	2.00354E-5	-1.02787E-11	2.78631E-13

**Figure S7.** Grow-in of second excited state (measure at 1920 cm<sup>-1</sup>) following 400 nm excitation of (4) in *n*-heptane at 298 K



	Y0	Y0	A1	A1	t1	t1
1920	Value	StError	Value	StError	Value	StError
	4.7206E-4	7.66502E-6	-5.63225E-4	7.72674E-6	-4.01934E-12	1.69223E-13

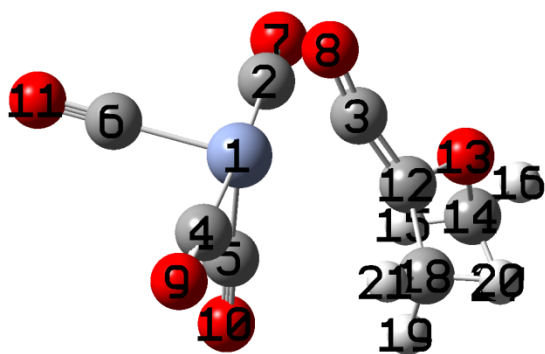


**Figure S8.** The CO yield profile for the electrochemically induced CO release over time from  $[(\text{CO})_5\text{Cr}(\text{OMe})\text{Me}]$  or  $[(\text{CO})_5\text{W}(\text{OMe})\text{Me}]$  in acetonitrile under potentiostatic conditions ( $E = +0.57 \text{ V}$  and  $+0.88 \text{ V}$  vs.  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$ , respectively). The concentration of both complexes was  $0.1 \text{ mM}$  and the solution was continuously stirred.

### Cyclic Voltammetry and Gas Chromatography

Cyclic Voltammograms (CVs) and bulk electrolysis profiles were recorded in anhydrous acetonitrile (Sigma-Aldrich) with tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate ( $\text{TBAPF}_6$ ), ( $0.1 \text{ M}$ ) as a supporting electrolyte. The concentration of the sample was  $0.001 \text{ M}$  throughout. Experiments were carried out using both a CH Instruments 600A and CH Instruments 750C electrochemical potentiostats (Pico-Amp Booster and Faraday Cage). All electrochemical experiments were performed at room temperature ( $20^\circ\text{C}$ ). A three electrode cell was employed which consisted of a glassy carbon working electrode, a Pt wire auxiliary electrode and a  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgCl}$  reference electrode. The scan rate was  $0.1 \text{ V s}^{-1}$  unless otherwise stated. The scan rate dependency of the redox processes was analysed by varying the scan rate from  $0.01 \text{ V s}^{-1}$  to  $0.05, 0.08, 0.1, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0, 10.0, 15.0$  and  $20.0 \text{ V s}^{-1}$ . Cited potentials are referenced relative to the ferrocene/ferrocenium ( $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$ ) redox couple. The electrochemical cell was deaerated with argon prior to all experiments.

For the bulk electrolysis experiments, deaeration of the solutions with argon prior to the experiment ensured that any CO detected in the headspace resulted from CO-release from the complex. The bulk electrolysis experiments were repeated using a clean glassy carbon electrode in analyte-free electrolyte solution for comparison purposes. A control experiment was also carried out where the complex was dissolved in the electrolyte and kept in the dark with no potential applied. CO-release was detected using a Shimadzu GC-2010 Plus unit (Lab Solutions version 5.57 software) with a dielectric barrier discharge ionization detector (BID) and a ShinCarbon micropacked column with  $0.53 \text{ mm}$  internal diameter.



The atom numbering used for chromium ketene complex

Distance matrix (angstroms) for chromium ketene complex		1	2	3	4	5
1	Cr	0.000000				
2	C	1.928247	0.000000			
3	C	2.056538	2.890384	0.000000		
4	C	1.915850	3.840802	2.854339	0.000000	
5	C	1.849365	2.656042	3.446972	2.612526	0.000000
6	C	1.894753	2.669382	3.725900	2.644278	2.762624
7	O	3.069962	1.143361	3.821015	4.979044	3.532763
8	O	2.528266	3.250248	1.189181	3.215294	4.246149
9	O	3.059921	4.981283	3.780880	1.145798	3.481892
10	O	3.001934	3.557938	4.474450	3.491902	1.152816
11	O	3.039979	3.559077	4.814530	3.533054	3.699424
12	C	2.499645	3.178813	1.356141	3.229100	3.136214
13	O	3.338575	3.212868	2.306920	4.481127	3.735549
14	C	3.917706	3.574000	3.514629	5.078296	3.622881
15	H	3.451377	2.976646	3.651900	4.742209	2.833795
16	H	4.770015	4.057759	4.257168	6.083424	4.548235
17	H	4.468726	4.476824	4.022671	5.275085	3.941515
18	C	3.378393	4.472445	2.510429	3.305728	3.550685
19	H	3.577818	4.631235	3.284393	3.465090	3.166161
20	H	4.367366	5.262140	3.145672	4.343735	4.568669
21	H	3.435160	4.888543	2.636386	2.795429	3.822210
6	C	0.000000				
7	O	3.545838	0.000000			
8	O	3.712721	4.114184	0.000000		
9	O	3.516846	6.116422	4.073436	0.000000	
10	O	3.702473	4.236823	5.355169	4.148960	0.000000
11	O	1.145240	4.237801	4.658374	4.203416	4.480109
12	C	4.388157	4.015846	2.533577	4.082185	3.924771
13	O	5.142904	3.688912	3.313600	5.401209	4.364179
14	C	5.609794	3.855298	4.587965	5.967571	3.884727
15	H	4.944076	3.243797	4.690948	5.678111	3.002806
16	H	6.376561	4.051099	5.218589	7.010604	4.770418
17	H	6.213447	4.865861	5.173641	6.007932	4.008758
18	C	5.188753	5.366034	3.585342	3.790380	4.075901
19	H	5.287643	5.488435	4.411588	3.886846	3.400728
20	H	6.213788	6.051185	4.145337	4.753612	5.019996
21	H	5.066972	5.897455	3.484520	3.031777	4.428545
11	O	0.000000				
12	C	5.531331	0.000000			
13	O	6.259313	1.377466	0.000000		
14	C	6.686781	2.391454	1.433142	0.000000	
15	H	5.960307	2.696364	2.087460	1.091561	0.000000
16	H	7.414994	3.267633	2.018042	1.087205	1.782199
17	H	7.306069	2.714655	2.095824	1.092147	1.785812
18	C	6.307417	1.507376	2.485162	3.032569	3.404749

19	H	6.373601	2.168310	2.907863	2.936121	3.112270
20	H	7.341810	2.123735	2.674139	3.223257	3.882166
21	H	6.127000	2.155412	3.383017	4.066402	4.325574
		16	17	18	19	20
16	H	0.000000				
17	H	1.778585	0.000000			
18	C	4.001611	2.770881	0.000000		
19	H	3.971376	2.450740	1.090296	0.000000	
20	H	4.014332	2.787632	1.094170	1.773910	0.000000
21	H	5.047586	3.844762	1.088121	1.761111	1.770349
		21				
21	H	0.000000				
Stoichiometry		C8H6CrO6				
Framework group		C1[X(C8H6CrO6)]				
Deg. of freedom		57				

Atomic Coordinates of [(CO)<sub>5</sub>CrC(OMe)Me]  
 Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	24	0	-0.653611	-0.048675	-0.177874
2	6	0	-0.179165	-1.905798	-0.387950
3	6	0	0.824288	0.583529	-1.460636
4	6	0	-1.234676	1.749836	0.135498
5	6	0	-0.426152	-0.219813	1.649453
6	6	0	-2.476760	-0.564569	-0.169403
7	8	0	0.065126	-3.021246	-0.446027
8	8	0	0.207968	0.553726	-2.477205
9	8	0	-1.617378	2.799574	0.389354
10	8	0	-0.264174	-0.303719	2.787745
11	8	0	-3.578972	-0.875533	-0.171396
12	6	0	1.735652	0.630635	-0.457482
13	8	0	2.655413	-0.394764	-0.454750
14	6	0	3.032846	-0.914779	0.826275
15	1	0	2.166548	-1.323622	1.349612
16	1	0	3.746405	-1.708760	0.620259
17	1	0	3.509361	-0.150096	1.443509
18	6	0	2.064379	1.905818	0.276022
19	1	0	2.007391	1.784565	1.358055
20	1	0	3.083536	2.203382	0.011481
21	1	0	1.387106	2.709291	-0.006365





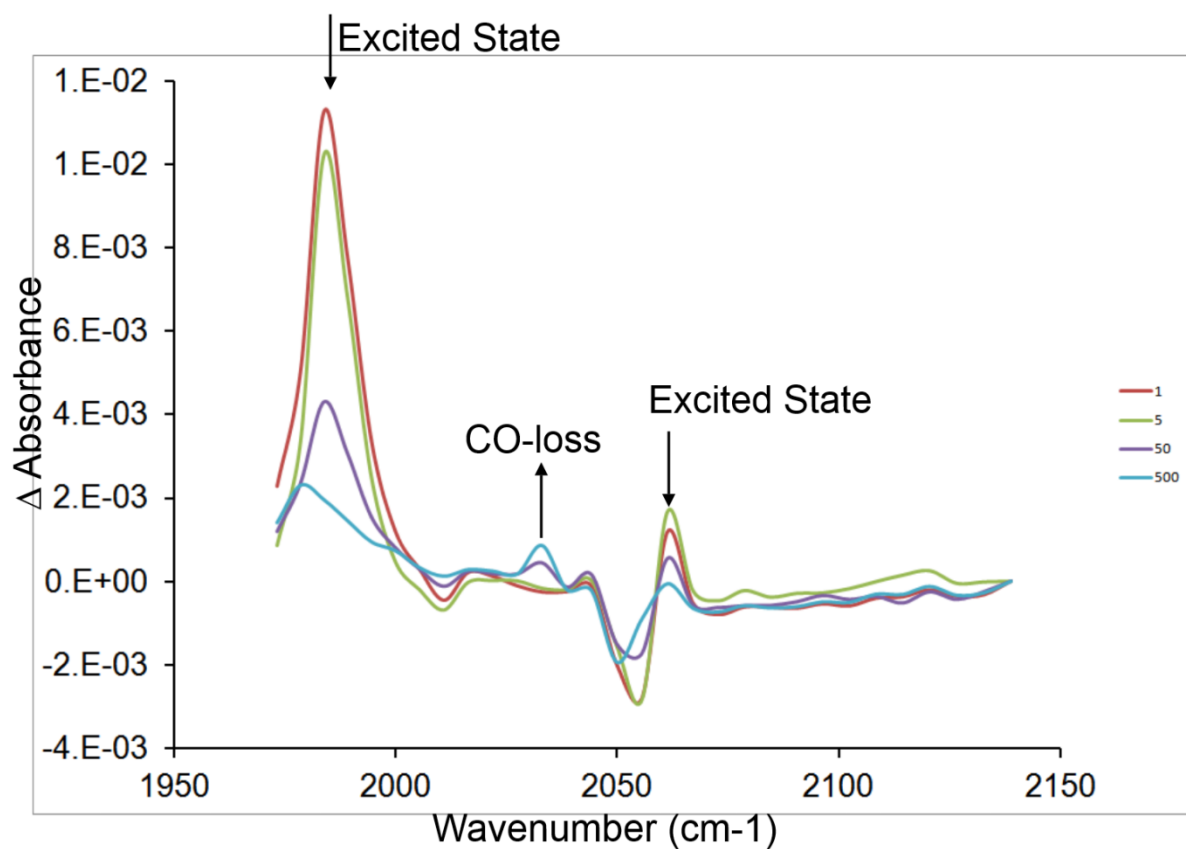
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21 W 2.658867 3.473309 4.037720 3.533986 4.867995
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17 C 2.775909 0.000000
18 H 2.445348 1.089776 0.000000
19 H 2.803247 1.094878 1.772347 0.000000
20 H 3.847956 1.087719 1.761850 1.770629 0.000000
21 W 4.613716 3.501662 3.695995 4.500192 3.518719
    21
21 W 0.000000
Stoichiometry C8H6O6W
Framework group C1[X(C8H6O6W)]
Deg. of freedom 57
Full point group C1 NOp 1
Largest Abelian subgroup C1 NOp 1
Largest concise Abelian subgroup C1 NOp 1

```

Standard orientation:

Center Number	Atomic Number	Atomic Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
			X	Y	Z
1	6	0	1.153515	0.603738	-1.419288
2	6	0	-1.054601	1.927912	0.182405
3	6	0	-0.315115	-0.221420	1.805604
4	6	0	-0.023065	-2.037083	-0.363349
5	6	0	-2.475131	-0.522881	-0.130031
6	8	0	0.686187	0.624948	-2.520830
7	8	0	-1.377228	3.002678	0.410419
8	8	0	-0.169964	-0.312412	2.948233
9	8	0	0.221696	-3.150996	-0.438247
10	8	0	-3.588112	-0.793413	-0.163059
11	6	0	2.059818	0.619777	-0.392794
12	8	0	2.937803	-0.429964	-0.369919
13	6	0	3.281549	-0.963816	0.912487
14	1	0	2.389075	-1.321968	1.429847
15	1	0	3.952458	-1.795704	0.713960
16	1	0	3.793497	-0.222697	1.529312
17	6	0	2.387574	1.873467	0.373825
18	1	0	2.326728	1.732412	1.452719
19	1	0	3.410527	2.170379	0.120512
20	1	0	1.716522	2.685297	0.102247
21	74	0	-0.504853	-0.033143	-0.136412



**Figure S9.** The ps-TRIR spectra obtained following photolysis of (1) at 400 nm using a pulse energy of 8  $\mu$ J, the spectra were recorded at 1, 5, 50, and 500 ps after the excitation pulse, showing the formation of the CO-loss species. This process was not observed following 0.8  $\mu$ J pulse photolysis at the same excitation wavelength.

The contribution of two fragments ( $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_4$ , Fr 1;  $\text{C}_4\text{O}_2\text{H}_6$ , Fr2) to the valence orbitals of (3)

LUMO+6[#70, -0.147 eV]= Fr 1: 97.6%L+5

LUMO+5[#69, -0.312 eV]= Fr 1: 66.0%L+2 15.1%L+4 3.5%L+6 1.6%L+1 1.2%L+7

Fr 2: 2.5%L+1 S(0.038 -0.044 -0.040 -0.118 -0.028 ) OP(-0.01 -0.01 0.00 -0.01 0.00 )

2.1%H-0 S(-0.052 0.044 -0.024 0.184 -0.009 ) OP(-0.02 -0.01 0.00 -0.01 0.00 )

1.5%L+2 S(-0.002 -0.075 -0.148 -0.063 -0.097 ) OP(0.00 0.01 -0.01 0.00 0.00 )

LUMO+4[#68, -0.407 eV]= Fr 1: 94.2%L+3 1.0%L+4

Fr 2: 2.4%L+0 S(-0.015 -0.002 ) OP(-0.01 0.00 )

LUMO+3[#67, -0.590 eV]= Fr 1: 46.9%L+4 24.8%L+2 3.3%L+0 2.4%L+6 2.0%L+10 1.3%H-0

Fr 2: 13.2%L+1 S(-0.044 0.038 0.136 -0.040 -0.145 -0.103 ) OP(-0.02 0.01 -0.02 0.00 0.01 -0.01 )

1.5%L+3 S(-0.003 0.004 0.148 0.102 0.055 0.035 ) OP(0.00 0.00 0.01 0.00 0.00 0.00 )

LUMO+2[#66, -1.714 eV]= Fr 1: 44.5%L+1 19.2%L+0 4.0%L+4 3.5%L+2

Fr 2: 6.7%L+2 S(-0.063 -0.263 -0.075 -0.002 ) OP(0.02 0.05 0.00 0.00 )

6.4%H-0 S(0.184 0.087 0.044 -0.052 ) OP(-0.10 -0.03 0.01 0.01 )

5.4%L+1 S(-0.118 0.136 -0.044 0.038 ) OP(-0.04 0.03 0.00 0.00 )

2.5%L+0 S(0.003 -0.031 -0.002 -0.004 ) OP(0.00 -0.01 0.00 0.00 )

LUMO+1[#65, -2.303 eV]= Fr 1: 8.2%L+1 3.4%H-2 3.3%H-1 2.0%L+3 1.6%L+0

Fr 2: 77.5%L+0 S(0.003 0.075 -0.085 -0.015 -0.031 ) OP(0.00 -0.03 -0.04 0.00 -0.01 )

LUMO+0[#64, -2.674 eV]= Fr 1: 46.0%L+0 29.1%L+1 1.4%H-0

Fr 2: 9.3%L+1 S(0.136 -0.118 -0.103 ) OP(0.05 0.03 -0.01 )

7.8%L+0 S(-0.031 0.003 0.022 ) OP(0.01 0.00 0.00 )

1.7%L+2 S(-0.263 -0.063 0.000 ) OP(0.03 -0.01 0.00 )

HOMO-0[#63, -6.368 eV]= Fr 1: 85.4%H-0 2.2%H-1

Fr 2: 4.0%H-0 S(0.010 -0.002 ) OP(0.00 0.00 )

3.8%L+1 S(-0.103 0.002 ) OP(0.03 0.00 )

HOMO-1[#62, -6.456 eV]= Fr 1: 58.7%H-1 39.6%H-2 1.2%H-0

HOMO-2[#61, -6.537 eV]= Fr 1: 55.1%H-2 35.1%H-1

Fr 2: 7.7%L+0 S(0.075 -0.085 ) OP(0.03 0.02 )

HOMO-3[#60, -7.351 eV]= Fr 1: 10.3%L+1 4.4%H-0 1.3%L+0

Fr 2: 76.7%H-0 S(0.184 0.010 0.087 ) OP(0.09 0.00 0.02 )

HOMO-4[#59, -9.117 eV]= Fr 2: 98.5%H-1

HOMO-5[#58, -10.467 eV]= Fr 2: 98.2%H-2

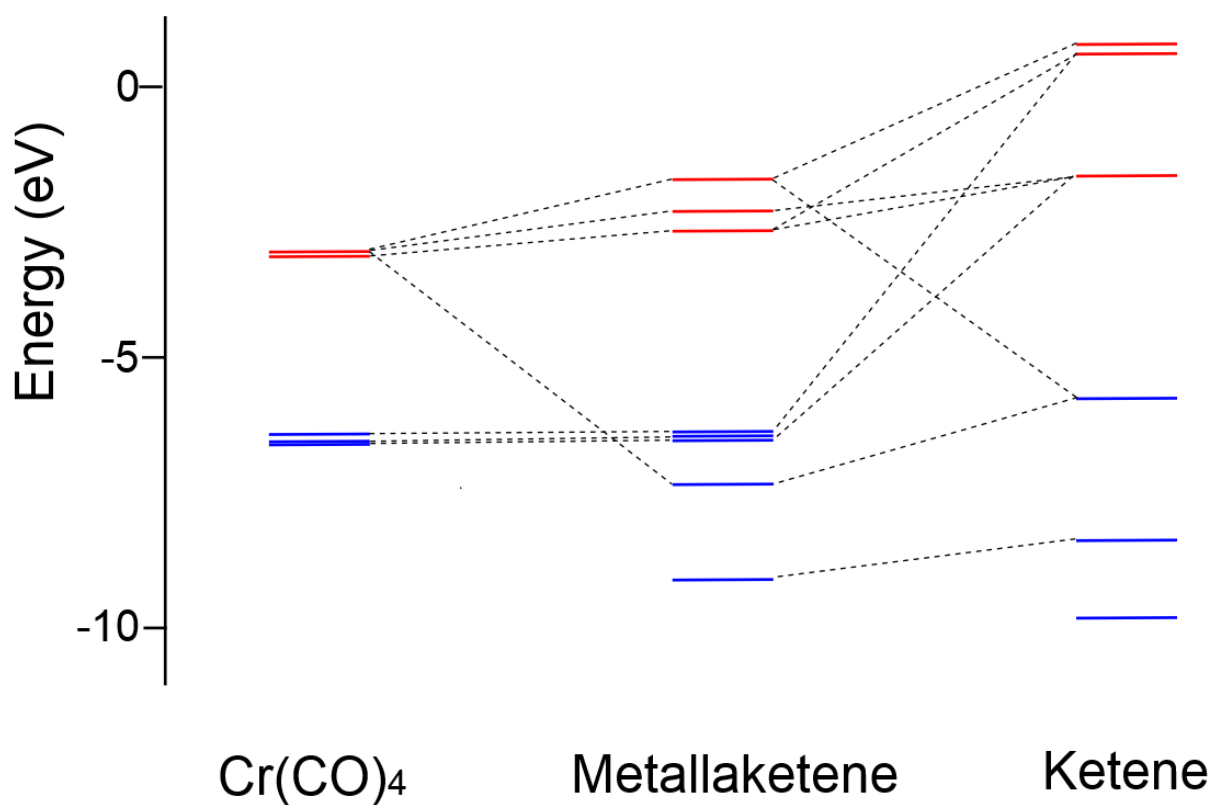
HOMO-6[#57, -11.150 eV]= Fr 1: 90.9%H-3

Fr 2: 5.9%H-5 S(0.044 ) OP(-0.02 )

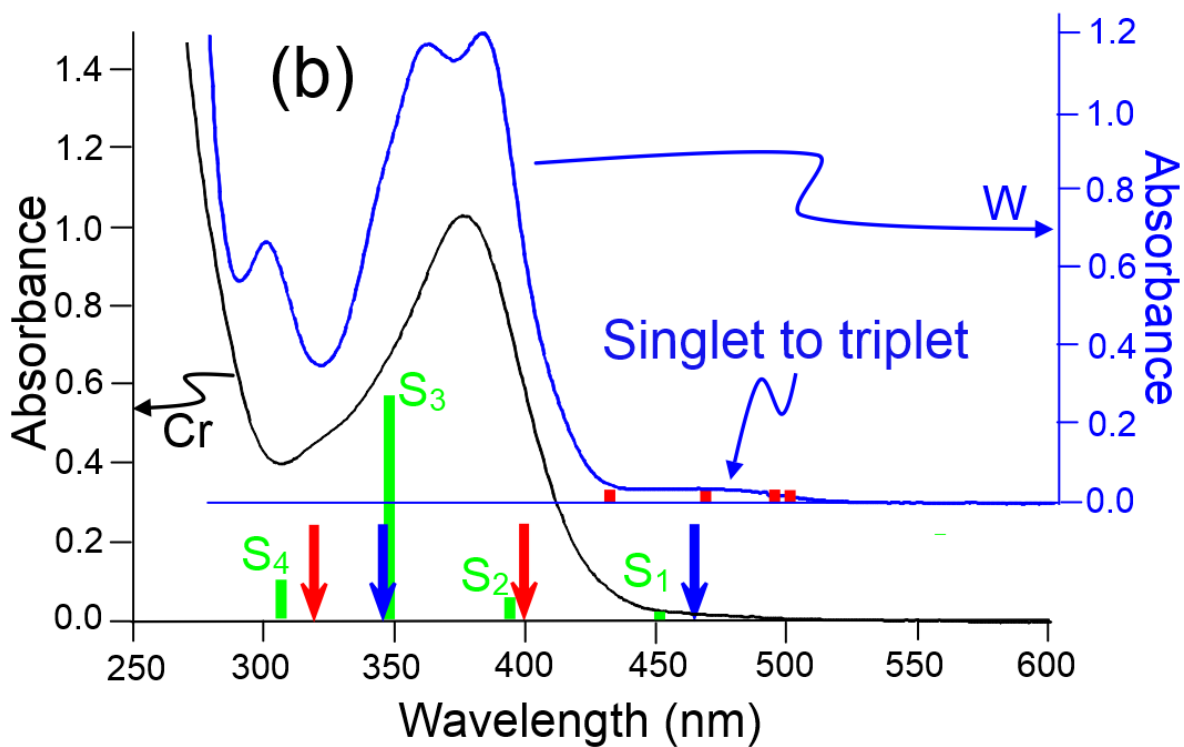
HOMO-7[#56, -11.532 eV]= Fr 1: 89.2%H-4 9.4%H-5

HOMO-8[#55, -11.658 eV]= Fr 1: 84.6%H-5 9.3%H-4

Fr 2: 4.4%H-3 S(0.004 -0.001 ) OP(0.00 0.00 )



**Figure S10.** A Molecular orbital interaction diagram showing the molecular orbitals of (**3**) and the corresponding orbitals of the constituent fragments, occupied levels are indicated in blue and virtual orbitals are in red. Energies and percentage compositions are presented above the plot. This plot shows the ketene HOMO acting as a two electron donor by interaction with a virtual  $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_4$  fragment orbital.



**Figure S11.** The calculated vertical excitations superimposed on the experimental UV/vis. Spectra for (1) and (4) including the excitation wavelengths used in the psTIR experiments. The blue spectrum is that of (4) with the calculated vertical excitation to the lowest four triplet excited states. The UV/vis spectrum of (1) is represented in black with the vertical excitation energies of the four lowest energy singlet excited states. The downward red arrows indicate the excitation wavelengths used in psTRIR and the blue arrows indicate the excitation wavelengths used in matrix isolation experiments