

**Shock Wave and Modelling Study of the Dissociation Pathways of  $(C_2F_5)_3N$**

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**Supplementary Information**

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## SI-1. Comparison of quantum-chemical results for selected reaction enthalpies

Energetics of the reactions  $(C_2F_5)N \rightarrow C_2F_5 + N$  and  $(C_2F_5)N \rightarrow (CF_2)N + CF_3$  (DFT calculations with B3LYP,<sup>1,2</sup> M06-2X,<sup>3</sup> BMK,<sup>4</sup> and  $\omega$ B97X-D<sup>5</sup> models, combined with a 6-311+G(3df) basis set; *ab initio* calculations employing CBS-QB3<sup>6,7</sup> and G4 models;<sup>8</sup> all calculations performed using the Gaussian set of codes<sup>9</sup>).

model	$(C_2F_5)N \rightarrow C_2F_5 + N$	$(C_2F_5)N \rightarrow (CF_2)N + CF_3$	TS12
CBS-QB3	288.7	115.9	134.7
G4	293.3	117.2	143.1
B3LYP	290.4	79.9	107.5
M06-2X	297.9	125.1	138.9
BMK	299.6	107.1	135.1
$\omega$ B97X-D	291.2	103.8	123.4

(enthalpies at 0 K in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>; ground state multiplicities:  $(C_2F_5)N$ : triplet,  $(CF_2)N$ : doublet,  $N$ : quartet,  $CF_3$ : doublet,  $C_2F_5$ : doublet, TS12: triplet;  $(C_2F_5)N \rightarrow C_2F_5 + N$  is a simple bond fission without barrier for the reverse reaction; the reaction  $(C_2F_5)N \rightarrow (CF_2)N + CF_3$  has a rigid activated complex TS12).

## SI-2. Reaction enthalpies for the decomposition of $(C_2F_5)_2N$ .

(Reaction enthalpies at 0 K in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>)

model	$(C_2F_5)_2N \rightarrow (C_2F_5)N + C_2F_5$	$(C_2F_5)_2N \rightarrow (C_2F_5)NCF_2 + CF_3$	$(C_2F_5)NCF_2 \rightarrow (C_2F_5)N + CF_2$
B3LYP	297.5	25.5	495.0
M06-2X	328.0	53.1	518.0
BMK	321.3	45.2	513.0
$\omega$ B97X-D	320.9	46.0	512.5

(ground state multiplicities:  $(C_2F_5)_2N$ : doublet,  $(C_2F_5)NCF_2$ : singlet,  $CF_2$ : singlet, other species: table SI-1; all reactions are simple bond fissions without barrier for the reverse reactions).

**SI-3. Reaction enthalpies for the decomposition of  $(C_2F_5)_3N$ .**(at 0 K in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>)

model	$(C_2F_5)_3N \rightarrow (C_2F_5)_2N + C_2F_5$	$(C_2F_5)_3N \rightarrow (C_2F_5)_2NCF_2 + CF_3$	$(C_2F_5)_2NCF_2 \rightarrow (C_2F_5)_2N + CF_2$
B3LYP	272.8	307.1	187.9
M06-2X	354.8	363.2	234.3
BMK	322.6	347.3	207.1
$\omega$ B97X-D	327.2	345.6	218.0

(ground state multiplicities:  $(C_2F_5)_3N$ : triplet,  $(C_2F_5)_2NCF_2$ : doublet, other species: tables SI-1 and SI-2; all reactions are simple bond fissions without barrier for the reverse reactions).**SI-4. Reaction enthalpies for the decomposition of  $C_2F_5$** (at 0 K in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>; literature value 240.2 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>).

model	$C_2F_5 \rightarrow CF_3 + CF_2$
B3LYP	222.6
M06-2X	242.3
BMK	234.7
$\omega$ B97X-D	237.2

**SI-5. Parameters in the calculation of  $C_2F_5$  dissociation rate constants.**Vibrational frequencies (in cm<sup>-1</sup>, from B3LYP/6-311+G(3df) calculations): $C_2F_5$  : 61, 208, 220, 363, 416, 509, 581, 606, 697, 813, 1103, 1166, 1207, 1274; $CF_3$  : 504, 504, 698, 1076, 1235, 1235; $CF_2$  : 671, 1104, 1226.Rotational constants (in cm<sup>-1</sup>, from B3LYP/6-311+G(3df) calculations): $C_2F_5$  : 0.125, 0.0796, 0.0655 ( $\sigma = 3$ ); $CF_3$  : 0.362, 0.362, 0.187 ( $\sigma = 3$ ); $CF_2$  : 2.935, 0.418, 0.366 ( $\sigma = 2$ ).

Morse-potential for the  $\text{CF}_3$  -  $\text{CF}_2$  bond, with Morse-parameter  $\beta = 3.24 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$  (from G4//B3LYP/6-311+G(3df) calculations; for details of the fitting of the potential, see e.g. refs 3,15, and 16 of the main text).

Average looseness parameter of the transitional modes  $\alpha = 1.68 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$  (from G4//B3LYP/6-311+G(3df) calculations; for details of the fitting of the potential, see e.g. refs 13, 15, and 16 of the main text).

#### **SI-6. Modelled rate constants for the dissociation of $\text{C}_2\text{F}_5$ .**

Limiting high-pressure rate constants (between 1000 and 2000 K):

$$k_{2,\infty} = 7.88 \times 10^{14} \exp(-226 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}/RT) \text{ s}^{-1}$$

(the corresponding recombination rate constants are

$$k_{-2,\infty} = 1.51 \times 10^{12} (T/1500)^{0.24} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}.$$

SACM/CT calculations following ref. 10.

Limiting low-pressure rate constants (between 1000 and 2000 K):

$$k_{2,0} = [\text{Ar}] 5.45 \times 10^{21} (T/1500)^{-14.89} \exp(-292 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}/RT) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

Calculations following ref. 11 with rotational factor  $F_{\text{rot}}$  for the Morse potential of SI-5, leading to centrifugal constants  $B_{\text{cent}}(r) = 0.0726/[1 + 0.4094(r - 1.520) + 0.1659(r - 1.520)^2]$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $C_v = 6.66 \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $v = 1.14$ ) (from B3LYP/6-311+G(3df) calculations);  $F_{\text{rotint}} \approx F_{\text{rotint}}^{\text{free}}$  (the rotational barrier at the G4//B3LYP/6-311+G(3df) level is  $10.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ); collision efficiencies  $\beta_c$  were calculated using a temperature independent value of  $-<\Delta E>/hc = 100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $M = \text{Ar}$ .

#### Falloff curves

Falloff curves were represented in the form proposed in refs. 12 and 13 with strong collision broadening factors  $F_{\text{cent}} = 0.084$  (1000 K), 0.078 (1250 K), 0.080 (1500 K), 0.086 (1750 K), 0.095 (2000 K) from ref. 14.

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