

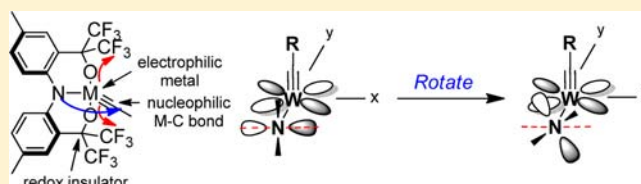
# A New $\text{ONO}^{3-}$ Trianionic Pincer-Type Ligand for Generating Highly Nucleophilic Metal–Carbon Multiple Bonds

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**S** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Appending an amine to a  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  double bond drastically increases the nucleophilicity of the  $\beta$ -carbon atom of the alkene to form an enamine. In this report, we present the synthesis and characterization of a novel  $\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}^{3-}$  trianionic pincer-type ligand, rationally designed to mimic enamines within a metal coordination sphere. Presented is a synthetic strategy to create enhanced nucleophilic tungsten–alkylidene and –alkylidyne complexes. Specifically, we present the synthesis and characterization of the new  $\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}^{3-}$  trianionic pincer tungsten–alkylidene  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}=\text{CH}(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$  (**2**) and –alkylidyne  $\{\text{MePPh}_3\}\{[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})\}$  (**3**) complexes. Characterization involves a combination of multinuclear NMR spectroscopy, combustion analysis, DFT computations, and single crystal X-ray analysis for complexes **2** and **3**. Exhibiting unique nucleophilic reactivity, **3** reacts with  $\text{MeOTf}$  to yield  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}=\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$  (**4**), but the bulkier  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiOTf}$  silylates the *tert*-butoxide, which subsequently undergoes isobutylene expulsion to form  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}=\text{CH}(\text{Et})(\text{OSiMe}_3)$  (**5**). A DFT calculation performed on a model complex of **3**, namely,  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$  (**3'**), reveals the amide participates in an enamine-type bonding combination. For complex **2**, the Lewis acids  $\text{MeOTf}$ ,  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiOTf}$ , and  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  catalyze isobutylene expulsion to yield the tungsten–oxo complex  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}(\text{O})(^i\text{Pr})$  (**6**).

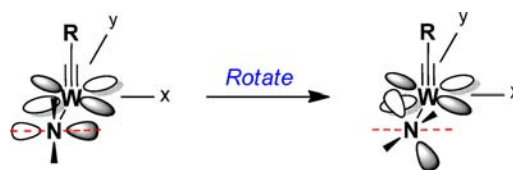


## INTRODUCTION

Transition-metal multiple bonds of groups 4 and 5, in particular the first row derivatives, have a significant ionic component<sup>1–5</sup> and are highly nucleophilic.<sup>1,2,5–7</sup> Superlative examples include the alkylaluminum stabilized Tebbe's reagents  $(\text{Cp}_2\text{Ti}(\mu\text{-CH}_2)(\mu\text{-X})\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_2)$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Me}$ )<sup>8–11</sup> and recently Mindiola's titanium ( $[\text{PNP}]\text{Ti}\equiv\text{C}^t\text{Bu}$ )<sup>12–21</sup> and vanadium ( $[\text{nacnac}]\text{V}\equiv\text{C}^t\text{Bu}$ ) alkylidyne.<sup>22,23</sup> In contrast, group 6 metal–carbon multiple bonds<sup>24</sup> of molybdenum and tungsten are more covalent and correspondingly less nucleophilic.<sup>1,3–5</sup> However, appropriate ancillary ligand design provides the possibility to fine-tune the electronic structure of molybdenum and tungsten multiple bonds to create highly nucleophilic species. Methodologies that accentuate the nucleophilicity of M–C multiple bonds are important for applications in 1,2-CH bond activation and olefin and alkyne metathesis. Herein, we present a rational approach to creating tungsten–carbon multiple bonds with high nucleophilicity at the carbon by employing a push–pull strategy that exploits an enamine bonding concept for the push.

To create a highly nucleophilic polarized metal–carbon bond, the ancillary ligand must accentuate the electrophilicity of the metal and impart nucleophilicity to the  $\alpha$ -carbon, a so-called push–pull effect.<sup>25</sup> However, inducing an electronically unsaturated metal center actually serves to diminish the nucleophilicity at the  $\alpha$ -carbon by forming a more covalent M–C multiple bond. The challenge in polarizing the M–C bond lies in accumulating electron density on the  $\alpha$ -carbon while removing it from the metal center.

Some of the most highly active alkene<sup>26,27</sup> and alkyne<sup>28–33</sup> metathesis catalysts employ a push–pull idea by including electron-rich imido or amido ligands coupled with electronically poor fluorinated alkoxides ( $-\text{OC}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{CH}_3$ ). The fluorinated alkoxides serve to weaken the alkoxide donor strength and create an electrophilic metal, but the role of the imido or amido is not as clear.<sup>31,34</sup> For monodentate amido ligands, the lone pair on the nitrogen typically orients perpendicular to the metal–carbon multiple bond and donates into a low-lying vacant  $d_{xy}$  orbital (Figure 1, left).<sup>29,31,32,35–37</sup> Donating electron



**Figure 1.** Left: amido p-orbital aligned with  $d_{xy}$ . Right: amido p-orbital rotated out of alignment.

density into an empty  $d_{xy}$  orbital stabilizes the N-atom lone-pair but operates against the goal of creating an electrophilic metal ion. A different strategy is to purposely orient the amido lone pair collinear or closely aligned with the metal–carbon bond axis (Figure 1, right). The result delocalizes the N-atom lone

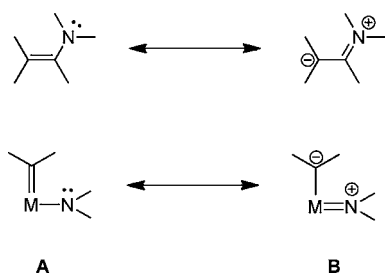
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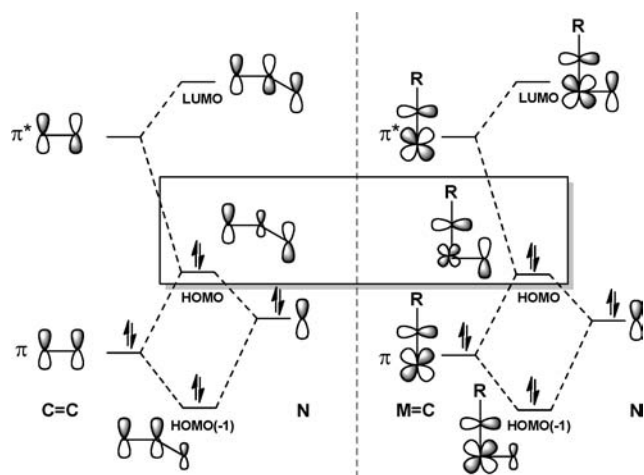
pair through the metal–carbon multiple bond, and instead, the  $\alpha$ -carbon atom receives additional electron density.

Enamines, exploited originally by Stork and co-workers in Stork-enamine alkylations, exhibit an analogous bonding interaction.<sup>38–40</sup> The practicality of enamine chemistry now extends well beyond stoichiometric reactions to exciting discoveries in organocatalysis.<sup>41–45</sup> A simple resonance structure depiction helps to explain the observed increased nucleophilicity of the  $\beta$ -carbon of an enamine (Scheme 1)<sup>39,40</sup>

**Scheme 1. Two Possible Resonance Contributions for an Enamine (Top) and Amidoalkylidene (Bottom)**



and, therefore, the potential application to metal–carbon multiple bonds. For both examples, the lone pair on nitrogen “pushes” electron density on the carbon atom two bonds away. A somewhat more sophisticated description, albeit perhaps less convincing, involves a delocalization of the N-atom lone pair into the C=C, or in the case of alkylidenes, into the M=C bond (Figure 2). The energetic consequence is the HOMO

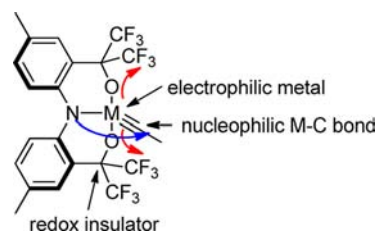


**Figure 2.** Truncated qualitative orbital diagram of the bonding analogy between enamines<sup>40</sup> and amidoalkylidenes.

orbital, consisting of significant electron density on the  $\beta$ -carbon of the enamine or the  $\alpha$ -carbon of an alkylidene, is destabilized. The challenge for synthesizing an inorganic version of an enamine is that unrestricted amido ligands preferentially orient the lone pair perpendicular to the M–C bond to maximize bonding with an unoccupied, often  $d_{xy}$ , orbital (Figure 1). A solution is to constrain the amido donor in a multidentate ligand. Trianionic NCN<sup>46,47</sup> and OCO<sup>48–51</sup> pincer ligands provide such a rigid meridional environment and have recently been exploited for catalytic aerobic oxidation,<sup>52</sup> alkene isomerization<sup>53</sup> and polymerization,<sup>54,55</sup> alkyne polymerization,<sup>56</sup> and fundamental transformations<sup>57</sup>

involving oxygen-atom transfer,<sup>58</sup> nitrogen-atom transfer,<sup>59</sup> and dioxygen activation.<sup>60</sup> In addition, Heyduk et al. introduced redox active trianionic ONO<sup>3-</sup> and NNN<sup>3-</sup> pincer-type ligands.<sup>61–64</sup> Yet to be reported is an ONO<sup>3-</sup> pincer-type ligand that incorporates a push–pull design and is redox insulated.

Figure 3 depicts a new CF<sub>3</sub>–ONO<sup>3-</sup> pincer-type ligand that incorporates all the design features required to create high



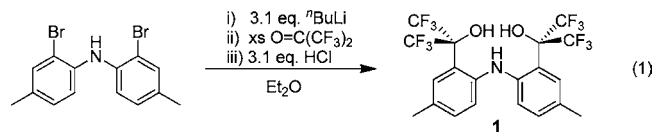
**Figure 3.** Push–pull effect of the [CF<sub>3</sub>–ONO]<sup>3-</sup> pincer-type ligand.

oxidation state nucleophilic metal–carbon multiple bonds. In contrast to Heyduk’s ONO<sup>3-</sup> amido-bisphenoxide ligand,<sup>61,64</sup> which can easily access multiple redox states, the quaternary carbon of the alkoxide acts as a redox insulator. The fluorinated alkoxides induce an electrophilic metal center (pull) and the constrained pincer framework prevents amido  $\pi$ -donation into the  $d_{xy}$  orbital, and instead, the lone pair interacts with the metal–carbon bond (push). Accomplishing this objective, we now report the two-step synthesis of the new trianionic pincer-type ligand [CF<sub>3</sub>–ONO]<sub>3</sub> (1) and its corresponding tungsten–alkylidene [CF<sub>3</sub>–ONO]W=C(Et)(O<sup>t</sup>Bu) (2) and –alkylidyne {MePPh<sub>3</sub>}{[CF<sub>3</sub>–ONO]W≡C(Et)(O<sup>t</sup>Bu)} (3) complexes. Demonstrating high nucleophilicity, addition of a Me<sub>3</sub>SiOTf to 3 expels isobutylene in an intramolecular C–H bond activation pathway. Moreover, the reaction is catalytic for 2.

## RESULTS

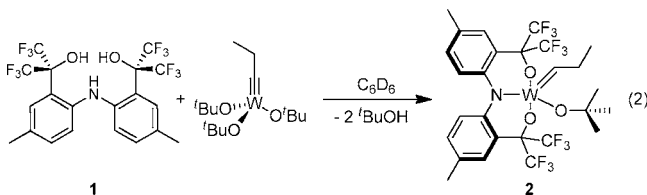
### Synthesis and Characterization of [CF<sub>3</sub>–ONO]<sub>3</sub> (1).

Preparing the ligand precursor [CF<sub>3</sub>–ONO]<sub>3</sub> (1) involves treating bis(2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)amine<sup>65</sup> with 3.1 equiv of <sup>n</sup>BuLi in Et<sub>2</sub>O and then adding hexafluoroacetone at –78 °C (eq 1). Warming to 25 °C and an acidic workup yields isolable

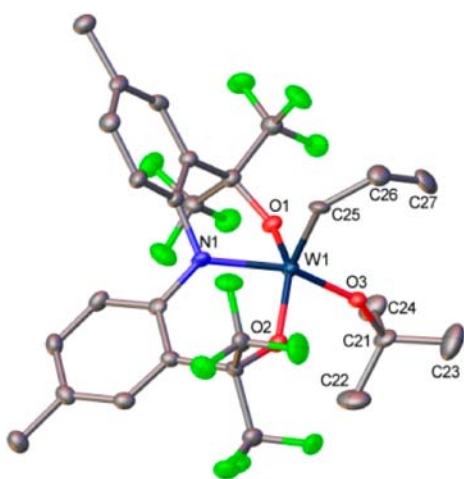


proligand 1 in 35% yield. In the <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum of 1 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), two broad multiplets attributable to the fluorine atoms appear at –76.3 and –74.9 ppm. The fact that two signals appear indicates a slow rotation around the aryl–C(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>OH bond at 25 °C. Coalescence of the signals occurs upon heating a sample of 1 to 45 °C in an NMR probe. Routine <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectroscopic techniques corroborate the identity and purity of 1 (see Supporting Information). Notable features in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum include a singlet at 2.36 ppm for the aryl–methyl protons and a broad resonance spanning from 7.0 to 7.5 ppm that corresponds to the protons of the amine and the two alcohol groups.

**Synthesis and Characterization of  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}=\text{CH}(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$  (2).** In benzene, combining proligand **1** with  $(^t\text{BuO})_3\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(\text{Et})$ <sup>66</sup> results in the immediate formation of the trianionic pincer alkylidene complex  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}=\text{CH}(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$  (**2**) according to eq 2. Isolation of reasonably pure



**2** only requires removal of all volatiles in vacuo; recrystallizing **2** in pentane provides analytically pure material. Single crystals amenable to an X-ray diffraction experiment deposit upon cooling a concentrated pentane solution of **2** to  $-35\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . Structure refinement of the diffraction data provides the molecular structure of **2** presented in Figure 4.

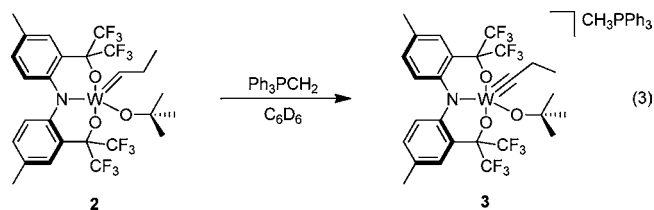


**Figure 4.** Molecular structure of  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}=\text{CH}(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$  (**2**) with ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level, with hydrogen atoms removed for clarity.

Complex **2** is  $C_1$ -symmetric, and occupying the basal plane of the distorted square-pyramidal tungsten(VI) geometry are the  $\text{ONO}^{3-}$  trianionic pincer ligand and *tert*-butoxide. In the apical position resides a propylidene ligand with a  $\text{W}-\text{C}_\alpha$  bond length of  $1.882(4)\text{ \AA}$ , which is consistent with a double bond and similar to two other  $\text{OCO}^{3-}$  trianionic pincer  $\text{W}$ -alkylidenes that have bond lengths of  $1.887$  and  $1.913\text{ \AA}$ .<sup>67</sup> Consistent with a  $\text{W}=\text{C}$  double bond, the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2** contains a downfield resonance at  $260.3\text{ ppm}$  [ $^1J(^{13}\text{C}, ^{183}\text{W}) = 173.1\text{ Hz}$ ] and the corresponding alkylidene proton ( $\text{W}=\text{CHR}$ ) resonates as a triplet at  $7.36\text{ ppm}$ . An interesting structural feature appears in the trianionic pincer ligand framework. Unable to lie coplanar, the  $\text{N}$ -aryl rings twist, thereby lowering the solid-state symmetry from potentially  $C_s$  to  $C_1$ . This twist and resulting low symmetry persists in solution as four distinct quartets appear in the  $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2** at  $-71.2$ ,  $-71.5$ ,  $-73.9$ , and  $-77.2\text{ ppm}$ . The low symmetry also results in diastereotopic  $-\text{C}_\beta\text{H}_2-$  methylene protons for the propylidene ligand that appear as two multiplets at  $5.08$  and  $4.79\text{ ppm}$ . The propylidene methyl appears as a triplet at  $0.77\text{ ppm}$  ( $^3J = 7.36\text{ Hz}$ ). The nitrogen atom of the  $\text{ONO}$  ligand is trigonal planar [sum of angles =  $359.6(4)$ ], consistent with  $\text{sp}^2$  hybridization.

The alkylidene bond orients with the alkyl group pointing away from the amido (anti-isomer) and does not rotate with an appreciable rate even at  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . No signals attributable to an exchange with the syn-isomer appear in variable temperature  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of **2** from  $-60$  to  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . In Schrock's tungsten imido alkylidene, the syn-isomer predominantly forms ( $K_{\text{syn/anti}} = 5000$ ), but access to the anti-isomer is possible by exposing a sample to UV-radiation at  $-85\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for several hours.<sup>68</sup> The relaxation of the anti-isomer back to syn occurs between  $-53$  and  $-38\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .<sup>68</sup> Interestingly, the rate of relaxation decreases as the alkoxide ligands become more fluorinated.<sup>69</sup> Invoking similar conditions for complex **2**, a toluene- $d_8$  solution of **2** exposed to  $366\text{ nm}$  light for  $4\text{ h}$  at  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  does not yield any detectable syn-isomer, as determined by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $500\text{ MHz}$ ) spectroscopy.

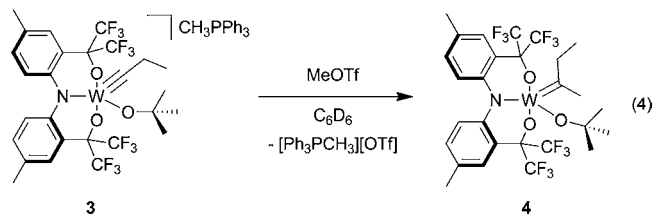
**Synthesis and Characterization of  $\{[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})\}\{\text{MePPh}_3\}$  (3).** Deprotonating alkylidenes with methylenetriphenylphosphorane ( $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}=\text{CH}_2$ ) is a convenient method to access the corresponding alkylidyne anion.<sup>70</sup> Treating alkylidene **2** with  $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}=\text{CH}_2$  in pentane at  $25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  precipitates the  $\text{W}$ -alkylidyne anion **3** (eq 3). Complex **3** turns



to a bright red color upon dissolving in benzene or ether. Removing the solvent by vacuum yields a red oil, but the addition of cold pentane returns **3** to a yellow powder.

Multinuclear  $^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}$  gHSQC and  $^1\text{H}-^{13}\text{C}$  gHMBC NMR spectroscopic experiments confirm the identity of **3** and permit the absolute assignment of all resonances in the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra (see Supporting Information). Most pronounced is the downfield shift to  $280.6\text{ ppm}$  for the  $\text{W}\equiv\text{C}_\alpha$  alkylidyne carbon in the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum. In the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, a doublet ( $J_{\text{HP}} = 13.31\text{ Hz}$ ) at  $2.44\text{ ppm}$  is attributable to the methyl protons of the phosphonium counteranion, and the corresponding phosphorus resonates at  $21.8\text{ ppm}$  in the  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum. Consistent again with a  $C_1$ -symmetric complex, the  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectrum contains four distinct quartets at  $-69.38$ ,  $-71.24$ ,  $-74.08$ , and  $-76.38\text{ ppm}$ .

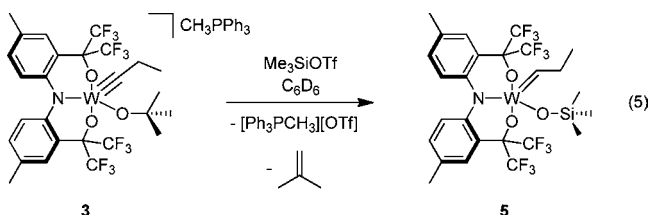
**Reactivity Studies, Nucleophilic at Carbon.** Adding methyl triflate to **3** in a sealable NMR tube results in alkylation of the alkylidyne carbon to form  $[\text{CF}_3\text{-ONO}]\text{W}=\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{Et})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})$  (**4**) (eq 4). Confirming the identity of **4**, a  $^1\text{H}$



NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture reveals a resonance attributable to the newly formed methyl protons ( $\text{W}=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{Et}$ ) at  $4.90\text{ ppm}$  (3H). The  $-\text{C}_\beta\text{H}_2-$  methylene protons are diastereotopic, resonating as two sets of multiplets

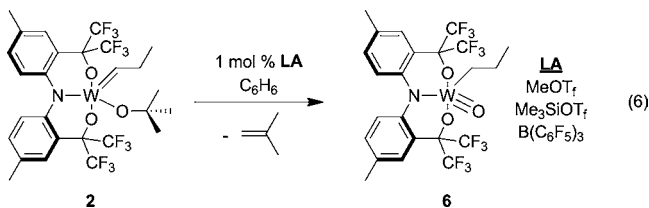
at 4.65 and 4.53 ppm, similar to complex **2**. The  $-O^tBu$  protons resonate at 1.21 ppm (9H). The  $W-C_\alpha$  resonates at 284.3 ppm, consistent with other reported tungsten dialkyl-substituted alkylidenes.<sup>71–73</sup> The  $^1H-^{13}C$  gHMBC spectrum of **4** confirms the connectivity among the methyl protons at 4.90 ppm, the diastereotopic methylene protons at 4.65 and 4.53 ppm, and the alkylidene carbon. Unidentifiable and inseparable minor impurities precluded the large-scale purification of **4**.

**Isobutylene Expulsion from 3.** Adding the larger electrophile  $Me_3SiOTf$  to complex **3** in a sealable NMR tube provides an interesting result. The products observed by  $^1H$  NMR spectroscopy are isobutylene (4.71 ppm, 2H; and 1.56 ppm, 6 H) and the new alkylidene complex  $[CF_3-ONO]W=CH(Et)OSiMe_3$  (**5**). Complex **5** exhibits a new set of diastereotopic  $-C_\beta H_2-$  methylene protons at 5.28 and 4.91 ppm, and the trimethylsiloxy protons appear at 0.12 ppm. Corroborating the identity of **5**, the  $W=CH$  proton resonates at 7.20 ppm and the corresponding  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  signal appears at 262.1 ppm. Multinuclear  $^1H-^{13}C$  gHSQC and  $^1H-^{13}C$  gHMBC NMR spectroscopic experiments confirm the identity of **5** and permit the absolute assignment of all resonances in the  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR spectra (see Supporting Information). Complex **5** is unstable at ambient temperature and decomposes to unidentifiable and intractable impurities.

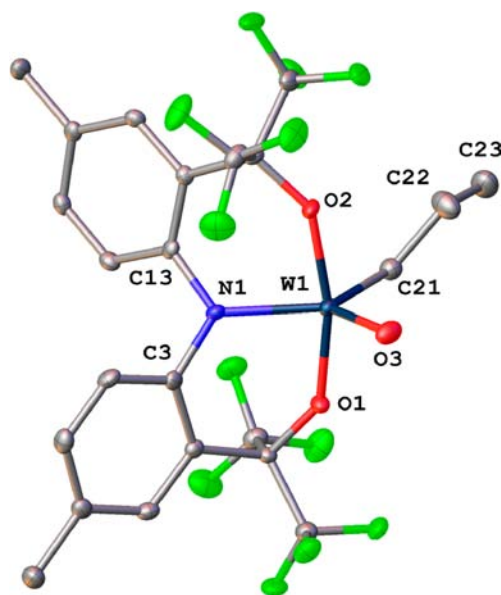


**Catalytic Isobutylene Expulsion from 2.** As mentioned above, complex **2** contains a restricted amide rotation similar to that of complex **3**. The amide lone pair and alkylidene of **2** form a torsion angle of  $44.34^\circ$ , potentially creating a nucleophilic  $M=C$  double bond.

Indeed, treating complex **2** with  $Me_3SiOTf$  also results in isobutylene expulsion as well as the formation of  $[CF_3-ONO]W(O)^nPr$  (**6**). The absence of  $Me_3SiOTf$  in the product suggests it acts as a catalyst in the expulsion of isobutylene from **2**. Indeed, adding 5 mol %  $Me_3SiOTf$ ,  $MeOTf$ , or  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  to a solution of **2** catalyzes isobutylene expulsion to form **6** quantitatively by  $^1H$  NMR spectroscopy (eq 6). Stripping the



solvent from **6** initially yields a thick blue oil, but crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis gradually form (isolated yield = 73%). The solid state structure of **6** (Figure 5) contains a tungsten(VI) ion in a trigonal bipyramidal geometry with equatorial plane angles  $N1-W1-O3 = 129.69^\circ$ ,  $N1-W1-C21 = 121.46^\circ$ , and  $C21-W1-O3 = 108.82(10)^\circ$ . The  $W1-O3$  bond is  $1.704 \text{ \AA}$ , which is consistent with other reported neutral  $W^{VI} \equiv O$  complexes.<sup>74–93</sup> The  $^{19}F\{^1H\}$  NMR of **6** confirms a  $C_1$  symmetric species in solution with four quartets at  $-71.2$ ,



**Figure 5.** Molecular structure of  $[CF_3-ONO]W(O)^nPr$  (**6**) with ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level, with hydrogen atoms removed for clarity.

$-71.8$ ,  $-75.6$ , and  $-76.4$  ppm. The  $\alpha$ -protons of the propyl group  $\{WCH_2CH_2CH_3\}$  resonate in the  $^1H$  NMR spectrum as a multiplet at 3.00 ppm. The  $\beta$ -protons and  $\gamma$ -protons of the propyl group appear as a multiplet at 2.65 ppm and a triplet at 0.92 ppm, respectively. The nitrogen atom is  $sp^2$  hybridized and a vector perpendicular to the amido plane, representing the lone pair on nitrogen, forms a  $39.72^\circ$  torsion angle with the  $W \equiv O$  bond.

## COMPUTATIONAL RESULTS

Employing DFT calculations, the model complexes **2'**, **2-Me'**, and **3'**, representing **2**, the intermediate **2-Me**, and **3**, respectively, were geometry optimized. Figure 6 depicts the computed structures and Table 1 lists pertinent bond lengths and angles. Experimental bond lengths and angles for **2** serve to calibrate the calculated structure of **2'**. The tungsten coordination sphere metric parameters are agreeable and it is clear that the calculation reproduces the twist of the ONO backbone observed experimentally. A vector perpendicular to the  $C3-W1-C13$  plane, representing the nitrogen lone pair, creates a  $41.7^\circ$  dihedral angle with the  $W1-C1$  bond axis (the experimental value is  $40.5^\circ$ ). Also, the alkylidene orients in the same direction as in **2**. A quantifiable parameter confirming the similar orientation is the dihedral angle  $C22-C21-W1-O3$ ; for **2** it is  $10.2^\circ$  and within **2'** it is  $11.7^\circ$ . In general, there is a small overestimate of most of the bond lengths by  $0.02 \text{ \AA}$  or less. For example, the  $N1-W1$  distance of  $2.013 \text{ \AA}$  in **2'** is slightly longer than in **2** [ $1.993(3) \text{ \AA}$ ], and the computed alkylidene  $W1-C21$  bond length of  $1.898 \text{ \AA}$  matches the experimental value of  $1.882(4) \text{ \AA}$ .

The computed structures of **2-Me'** and **3'** also reproduce the ONO twist and some interesting trends emerge between the set of three complexes. Most apparent is the  $W-N$  bond distance, which increases with **2-Me'** ( $1.982 \text{ \AA}$ ) < **2'** ( $2.013 \text{ \AA}$ ) < **3'** ( $2.142 \text{ \AA}$ ). The computation accurately predicts a trend assignable to an increase in electronic saturation at the metal ion. Complex **3'** is anionic, thus electron-rich, whereas **2-Me'** is

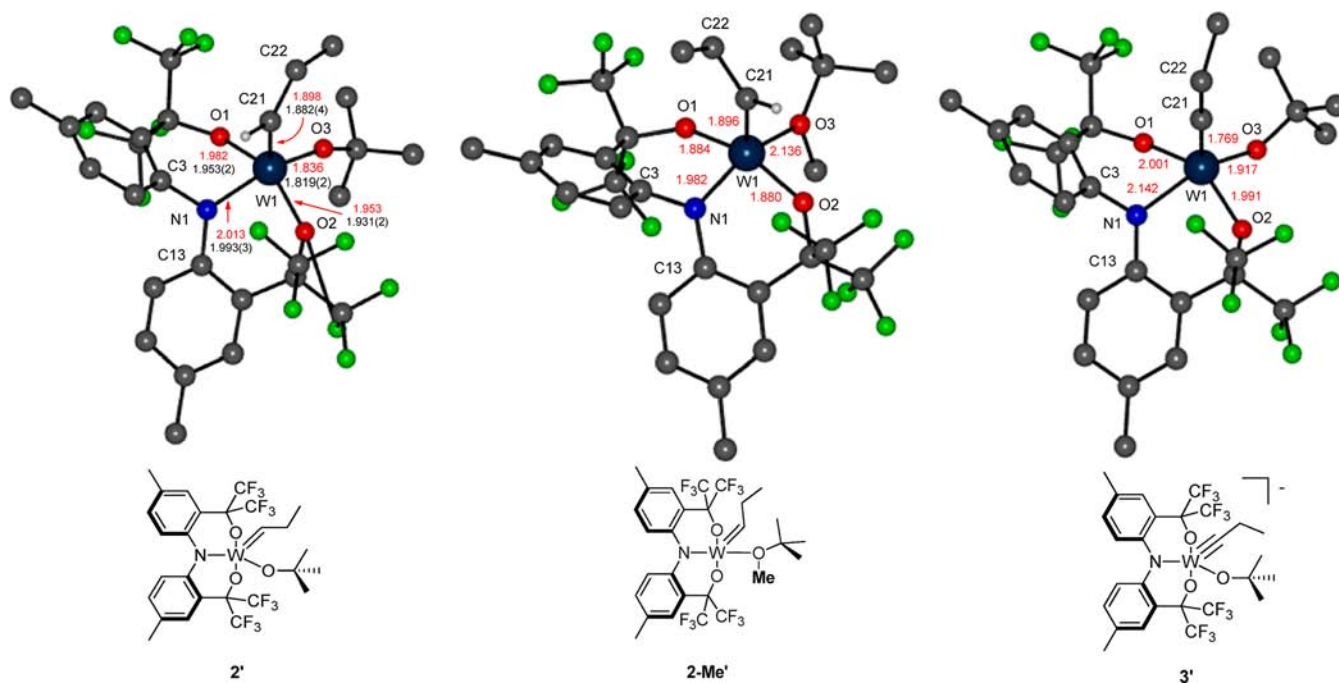


Figure 6. Geometry-optimized structures for 2', 2-Me', and 3'.

Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for the Single Crystal X-ray Structure of 2 and DFT Geometry-Optimized Structures of 2', 2-Me', and 3'

bond lengths	2	2'	2-Me'	3'
W1–O1	1.953(2)	1.982	1.884	2.001
W1–O2	1.931(2)	1.953	1.880	1.991
W1–O3	1.819(2)	1.836	2.136	1.917
W1–N1	1.993(3)	2.013	1.982	2.142
W1–C21	1.882(4)	1.898	1.986	1.769
C21–C22	1.499(5)	1.519	1.507	1.493
O3–C28			1.498	
angles	2	2'	2-Me'	3'
O1–W1–O2	144.95(11)	145.68	156.17	146.18
O1–W1–C21	104.44(13)	103.65	99.44	103.39
N1–W1–O3	154.64(11)	155.42	151.23	153.28
N1–W1–C21	99.81(14)	97.98	101.36	98.06
O2–W1–C21	109.41(13)	108.38	104.08	106.26
O3–W1–C21	105.50(13)	106.48	107.40	108.65
C22–C21–W1	137.2(3)	137.44	134.18	176.20
C28–O3–W1				111.50

electron-poor, due to the loss of  $\pi$ -donation upon methylating the alkoxide O-atom. Correspondingly, the W–O bond length of 2.136 Å for the bound *tert*-butyl methyl ether in 2-Me' is appropriately longer than the *tert*-butoxide of 3', and only slight shorter by  $\sim 0.05$  Å than the crystallographically characterized diethyl ether W–O bond of 2.185(2) Å found in the related  $\text{OCO}^3-$  pincer alkylidyne  $[\text{tBuOCO}]\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(\text{tBu})(\text{Et}_2\text{O})$ .<sup>56</sup>

The most salient feature of complex 3' is the alkylidyne  $\text{W}\equiv\text{C}$  bond with a length of 1.769 Å that matches experimentally determined values. Though there are no structurally characterized trianionic pincer alkylidyne anions known, two neutral  $\text{OCO}^3-$  pincer complexes have  $\text{W}\equiv\text{C}$  bond lengths of 1.755(2) and 1.759(4) Å. For additional comparison, Schrock's  $(\text{ArO})_2\text{NpW}\equiv\text{C}(\text{tBu})$ <sup>94</sup> complex contains a  $\text{W}\equiv\text{C}$  bond length of 1.755(2) Å, a difference of only  $\sim 0.01$  Å with that

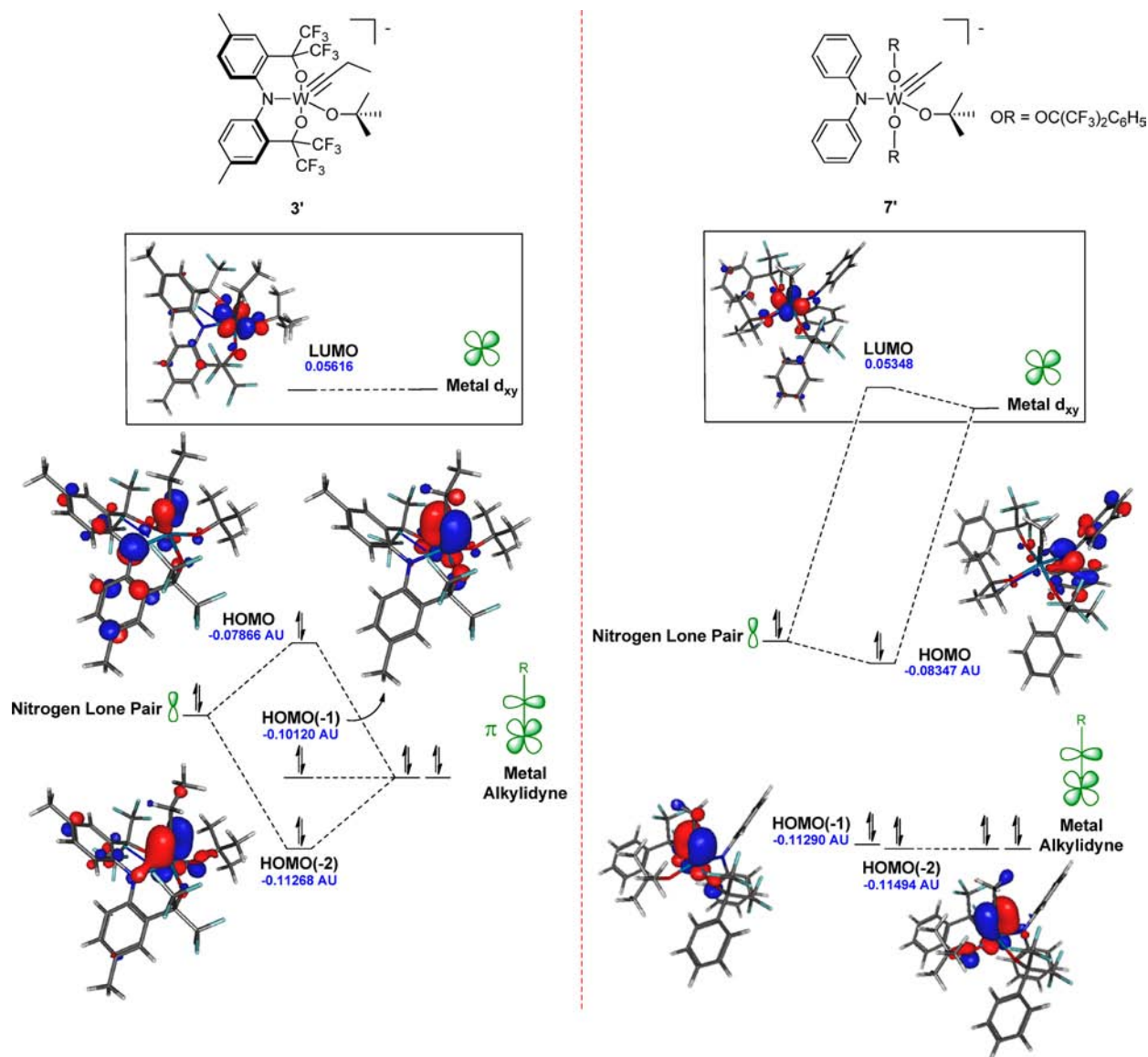
of 3'. Considering the reasonable match in metric parameters, single point calculations of each complex were performed and the resulting electronic structures were evaluated (*vide infra*).

## DISCUSSION

MeOTf alkylation at the  $\text{C}_\alpha$  atom of the alkylidyne in 3 has a different reactivity pattern compared to previous examples. Alkylating agents preferentially attack the ancillary ligands, leaving both neutral and anionic tungsten alkylidynes intact.<sup>95</sup> Similarly for anionic molybdenum imido alkylidyne complexes, both small ( $[\text{Me}_3\text{O}][\text{BF}_4]$ ) and large ( $\text{Me}_3\text{SiOTf}$ ) electrophiles selectively attack the imido N-atom.<sup>70</sup> The direct alkylation of the  $\text{W}\equiv\text{C}_\alpha$  bond by MeOTf has no precedent in the literature. Enamines react with electrophiles at the  $\beta$ -position, whereas unfunctionalized alkenes do not. Electronically, complex 3 is analogous to an enamine. Examining the electronic structure of 3 through single-point calculations provides insight into how the  $\text{CF}_3\text{—ONO}$  pincer ligand influences the tungsten alkylidyne bond.

Figure 7 (left) depicts a truncated molecular orbital diagram that illustrates the bonding combination between the amido lone pair and the  $\text{W}\equiv\text{C}$   $\pi$ -bond. The key feature is the forced torsion angle between the alkylidyne bond and the amide lone pair. This contrasts the typical arrangement in which the nitrogen lone pair orients perpendicularly to the alkylidyne bond to maximize  $\pi$ -donation into the empty  $d_{xy}$ . The rigid ONO pincer geometry within 3 prevents the amide from orienting perpendicularly to the alkylidyne and instead the LUMO of 3', consisting of the  $d_{xy}$  orbital, contains no orbital interaction with the amido lone pair (Figure 7, left).

The alkylidyne  $\pi$ -bond facing the nitrogen [ $\text{HOMO}(-2)$ ] displays overlap with the nitrogen's lone pair, lowering its energy relative to the adjacent  $\pi$ -bond [ $\text{HOMO}(-1)$ ] by 0.01139 au (Figure 7, left). A torsion angle of 42.8° between the lone pair and the alkylidyne bond results in significant overlap. The corresponding antibonding combination corresponds to the HOMO orbital analogous to an enamine (Figure



**Figure 7.** (Left) The HOMO, HOMO(-1), and HOMO(-2) orbitals of 3'. (Right) The HOMO, HOMO(-1), and HOMO(-2) orbitals of 7' (isovalue = 0.051 687).

2). This bonding–antibonding interaction raises the energy of the HOMO, thus increasing the nucleophilicity of the alkylidyne  $\alpha$ -carbon.

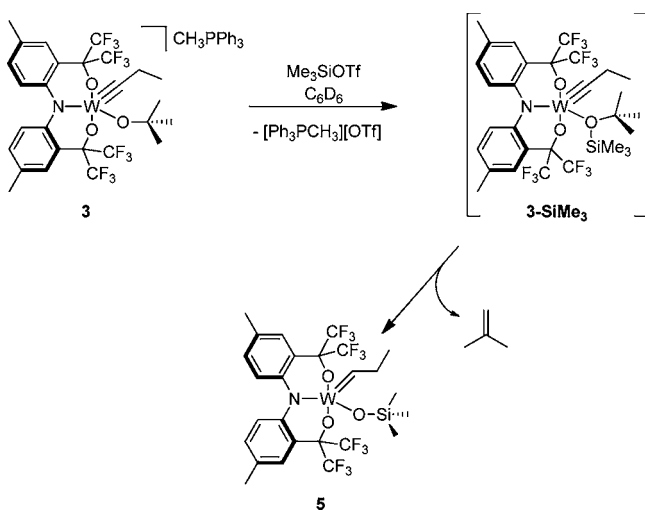
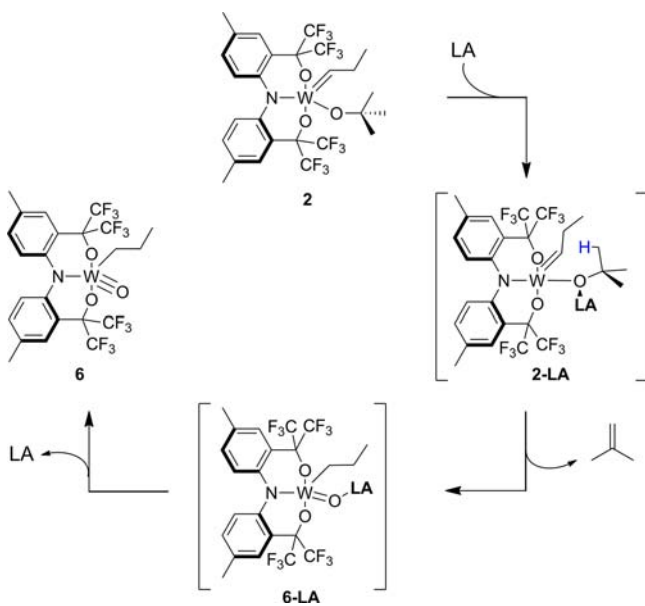
In stark contrast is the single-point calculation from a geometry-optimized structure performed on the model anionic alkylidyne  $\{(\text{Ph}_2\text{N})\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(\text{Me})(\text{OC}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{Ph})_2(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})\}^-$  (7'). The amido ligand orientation matches the analogous complex  $\{3,5\text{-C}_6\text{H}_3\text{Me}_2\}^t\text{BuN}\}\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(^t\text{Bu})\{\text{OC}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{Me}\}_2$  calculated by Tamm and co-workers.<sup>31</sup> Depicted in Figure 7 (right) are the single point calculations of 3' and 7', aligned for easy comparison. The model complex 7' features an unrestricted amido ligand  $\text{N}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2$ , yet retains the electron-withdrawing  $\text{OC}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$  groups. In 7' the amido ligand orients to maximize  $\pi$ -donation into the empty  $d_{xy}$  orbital, which serves to stabilize the HOMO orbital comprised mostly of the N-atom lone pair. However, the  $\text{M}-\text{C}$   $\pi$ -bonding orbitals are completely unaffected by the N-atom lone pair. By comparing the electronic structures, it is evident that purposely constraining the N-atom lone pair to be collinear with the

$\text{M}\equiv\text{C}$  bond destabilizes the HOMO orbital and places increased electron density on the  $\alpha$ -carbon.

Isobutylene expulsion provides more evidence for the nucleophilicity of 3. Scheme 2 illustrates a proposed mechanism for isobutylene expulsion. In the first step,  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiOTf}$  attacks the *tert*-butoxide ligand to yield the trimethylsilyl-*tert*-butyl ether adduct, 3-SiMe<sub>3</sub>. Then, acting as a nucleophile, the *W*-alkylidyne deprotonates the *tert*-butyl group to expel isobutylene and form 5. *tert*-Butoxide is a common ligand, especially for tungsten complexes featuring  $\text{M}-\text{C}$  multiple bonds, but this is the first occurrence of its degradation via alkylidyne deprotonation and is clear evidence of the highly nucleophilic character of the  $\text{W}-\text{C}_\alpha$  atom.

Additional evidence that the N-atom plays an important role comes from reactivity studies employing the related  $\text{OCO}^3-$  pincer ligand. Without the N-atom a different reaction occurs; addition of  $\text{MeOTf}$  to the analogous  $\text{OCO}$  trianionic pincer alkylidyne anion  $\{\text{MePPh}_3\}\{[^t\text{BuOCO}]\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(^t\text{Bu})(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})\}^-$  produces  $[^t\text{BuOCO}]\text{W}\equiv\text{C}(^t\text{Bu})(\text{OEt}_2)$ .<sup>56</sup> The reaction proceeds via Me-alkylation of the *tert*-butoxide *but deprotonation*

## Scheme 2. Proposed Mechanism for Isobutylene Expulsion from 3

Scheme 3. Proposed Mechanism for Isobutylene Expulsion from 2 (LA = Me<sup>+</sup>, Me<sub>3</sub>Si<sup>+</sup>, and B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>)

does not occur; instead, MeO<sup>t</sup>Bu forms. Notably, the Me<sup>+</sup> adds to the alkoxide and not the alkylidene  $\alpha$ -carbon as in 3.

Not all of the divergent chemistry between the CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO<sup>3-</sup> and the OCO<sup>3-</sup> ligands are attributable to the N-atom alone. An additional significant difference is the fluorinated alkoxides on CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO<sup>3-</sup>, which create an electrophilic tungsten ion. Silylating the -O<sup>t</sup>Bu of 3 removes  $\pi$ -donation from the alkoxide and leaves only a weakly  $\sigma$ -donating ether. The result is an even more electrophilic tungsten metal. Yet, other electrophilic tungsten alkylidenes supported by three -OC(CF<sub>3</sub>)Me are known metathesis catalysts that show stability toward substrates containing ether, ester, ketone, aldehyde, acetal, and thioether moieties<sup>96</sup> and are only protonated via hydrohalic acids.<sup>97,98</sup> The combination of the N-atom and the electron-withdrawing CF<sub>3</sub> groups must lead to deprotonation of the *tert*-butoxide.

The Lewis acid-catalyzed expulsion of isobutylene from 2 demonstrates that W-C double bonds with the CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO<sup>3-</sup>

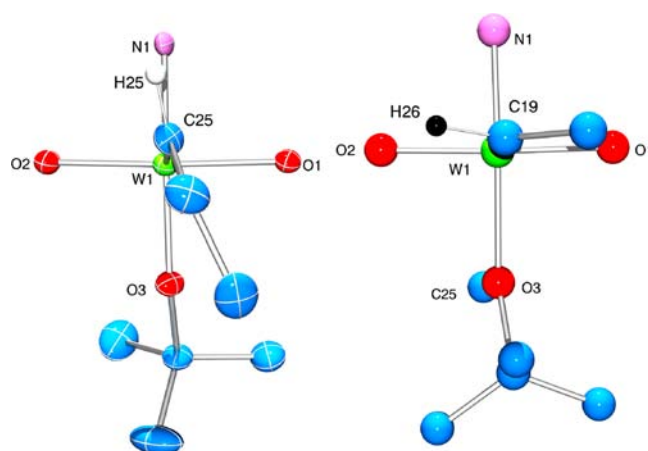


Figure 8. Truncated X-ray structure of 2 (left) and geometry-optimized structure 2-Me' (right) illustrating the 77° rotation of the W=C bond.

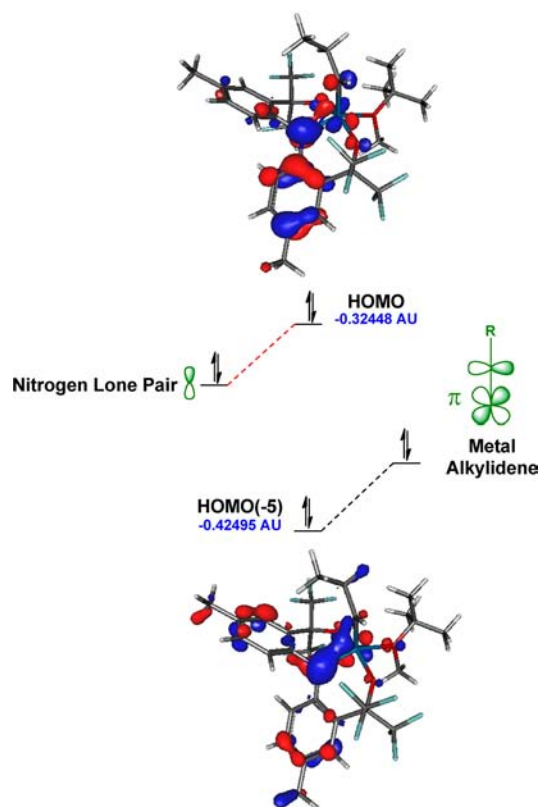


Figure 9. The HOMO, HOMO(-1), and HOMO(-5) orbitals of 2-Me' (isovalue = 0.051 687).

ligands are also highly nucleophilic. Scheme 3 depicts the proposed mechanism for the Lewis acid-catalyzed isobutylene expulsion from 2. Two plausible sites for electrophilic (LA) attack on 2 are the amido N-atom and the *tert*-butoxide O-atom. The N-atom is too sterically crowded, especially for large electrophiles such as B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> and Me<sub>3</sub>SiOTf, which catalyze the reaction too. Thus, initial attack must occur at the *tert*-butoxide to form 2-LA. Proceeding from 2-LA, the alkylidene deprotonates the <sup>t</sup>Bu group to form isobutylene and 6-LA. The Lewis acid catalyst is then released to provide 6.

An interesting question arises regarding the deprotonation event. Structural characterization and subsequent variable-

temperature NMR experiments indicate that the alkylidene W=C bond in **2** is perpendicular to the *tert*-butoxide ligand (see Figure 8 for an illustration). To complete the deprotonation the  $\pi$ -bond needs to approach the proton of the *tert*-butoxide. Curious as to the orientation of the alkylidene in **2-LA**, we performed a geometry optimization calculation of **2-Me'**, in which Me<sup>+</sup> serves as the Lewis acid (see Figure 6 above). The electrophile accepts a pair of electrons from the oxygen atom that normally  $\pi$ -donate into the W-d<sub>xy</sub> orbital. Most pronounced and interestingly, the alkylidene in **2-Me'** rotates  $\sim 77^\circ$  from that of the experimentally determined structure of **2**. Illustrated in Figure 8 is a truncated X-ray structure of **2** and the computed structure **2-Me'**. The double bond clearly orients toward the MeO<sup>t</sup>Bu. A single-point calculation of **2-Me'** again reveals that the HOMO and HOMO(-5) are the amide/alkylidene  $\pi$ -antibonding and  $\pi$ -bonding orbitals, respectively, analogous to that calculated for **3** and a prototypical enamine (Figure 9). The LUMO of **2-Me'** (not depicted) consists of the d<sub>xy</sub> orbital and contains only a small component from the N-atom lone pair and ether ligand.

## CONCLUSION

Presented above is evidence for an inorganic enamine: a unique strategy for creating nucleophilic W-C multiple bonds by constraining an amide ligand lone pair orientation. Traditionally, tungsten alkylidenes/alkylidyne are weakly nucleophilic. Thus, a straightforward synthetic strategy to create nucleophilic alkylidene and alkylidyne complexes is to purposely orient an amido ligand lone pair toward the alkylidyne/alkylidene bond. To accomplish this feat we report the convenient two-step synthesis of a new CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO<sup>3-</sup> trianionic pincer-type ligand. The "push" via alignment of an amido lone pair, coupled to the "pull" of the CF<sub>3</sub> groups, serve to polarize the M-C bond and create a nucleophilic  $\alpha$ -carbon. Evidence is the direct alkylation of the alkylidyne in **3** with MeOTf; and isobutylene expulsion upon addition of the larger Me<sub>3</sub>SiOTf. Complementing these results is the Lewis acid-catalyzed expulsion of isobutylene from **2**, proposed to occur via *tert*-butyl deprotonation by the nucleophilic  $\alpha$ -carbon of the W=C bond. The reaction works with several Lewis acids [MeOTf, Me<sub>3</sub>SiOTf, and B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] and insight into their role comes from a geometry optimization of the proposed Lewis acid adduct **2-Me'**. The calculation reveals a critical reorientation of the alkylidene double bond that places it according to an enamine alignment and in position to deprotonate the *tert*-butyl group.

Using a trianionic pincer framework to constrain amide orientation provides a new approach to increasing nucleophilicity of M-C multiple bonds. Another example of a constrained amido adjacent to M-C multiple bonds is Mindiola's PNP<sup>1-</sup> titanium alkylidyne,<sup>12-21</sup> though being a first row metal and already highly nucleophilic, the amide contribution may be difficult to assess. The ease of synthesis of proligand **1** relative to other trianionic pincer ligands will facilitate exploration of this ligand with many other metal ions as well as other M-X multiple bonds (where, X = O, N, and P).

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Procedure.** Unless specified otherwise, all manipulations were performed under an inert atmosphere using standard Schlenk or glovebox techniques. Pentane, hexanes, toluene, diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O), dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran (THF), and 1,2-dimethoxyethane (DME) were dried using a GlassContour drying column. Benzene-d<sub>6</sub> (Cambridge Isotopes) was dried over sodium-benzophenone ketyl,

distilled or vacuum transferred, and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Bis(2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)amine,<sup>65</sup> PPh<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>,<sup>70</sup> and (tBuO)<sub>3</sub>W≡C(Et)<sup>66</sup> were prepared according to published literature procedures. All other reagents were purchased from commercial vendors and used without further purification. NMR spectra were obtained on Varian Gemini 300 MHz, Varian Mercury Broad Band 300 MHz, or Varian Mercury 300 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in  $\delta$  (ppm). For <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra, the solvent peak was referenced as an internal reference. Infrared spectra were obtained on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet 6700 FT-IR.

**DFT Calculations.** Spin-restricted density functional theory calculations, including geometry optimization and single point analysis, were performed for **2**, **2-Me'**, **3**, and **7'** using a hybrid functional (the three parameter exchange functional of Becke (B3)<sup>99</sup> and the correlation functional of Lee, Yang, and Parr (LYP)<sup>100</sup> (B3LYP) as implemented in the Gaussian 03 program suite.<sup>101</sup> The LANL2DZ basis set were used for all atoms within **2**, **2-Me'**, **3**, and **7'**.<sup>102</sup> The geometry was optimized using atomic coordinates from the crystal structure as an initial input and calculations for the vibrational frequencies were performed alongside the geometry optimization to ensure the stability of the ground state as denoted by the absence of imaginary frequencies. Molecular orbital pictures were generated from Gabedit at their reported isovalues.

**Synthesis of 2,2'-(Azanediyl)bis(3-methyl-6,1-phenylene)-bis(1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropan-2-ol) (1).** Inside a nitrogen-filled glovebox, an *n*-butyllithium solution (10.9 mL, 2.5 M, 27.3 mmol) was added dropwise to a Schlenk-flask containing a solution of bis(2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)amine (3.103 g, 8.79 mmol) in diethyl ether (30 mL) at  $-35^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h while warming to room temperature. The reaction flask was fitted with a dry ice condenser before exiting the box. The reaction flask was connected to a Schlenk line through the port on the dry ice condenser. The reaction solution was cooled to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , and dry ice and acetone were added to the condenser. Hexafluoroacetone was first measured into a graduated glass pressure flask by condensing at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  (5 mL, 6.6 g, 39 mmol). The pressure flask was then connected to the reaction flask via a side arm. The pressure flask was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature, causing the hexafluoroacetone to evaporate and condense into the reaction flask. After complete transfer, the pressure flask was removed. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature while the dry ice/acetone condenser was kept filled (the hexafluoroacetone will condense on the coldfinger and drip back into the solution). The reaction mixture was stirred for at least 3 h before allowing the dry ice/acetone to expire and the excess hexafluoroacetone to leave through the Schlenk manifold. To the resulting red solution was added HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O (27.3 mL, 1 M). A colorless precipitate formed (LiCl) and the mixture was filtered. The filtrate was reduced under vacuum to a thick oil followed by adding hexanes to precipitate the product as a light-pink powder, which was filtered (1.66 g, 35% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.5–7.0 (b, 3 H, NH and 2 OH), 7.37 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.17 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.35 Hz, Ar-H), 8.83 (d, 2H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.35 Hz, Ar-H), and 2.36 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = -74.9 (b) and -76.3 (b) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 142.8 (s, Ar C), 134.3 (s, Ar C), 132.1 (s, Ar C), 128.5 (s, Ar C), 126.0 (s, Ar C), 120.78 9 (s, Ar C), and 21.0 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>19</sup>F} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 122.8 (s, CF<sub>3</sub>) and 80.3 (s, Ar(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>COH) ppm. ESI-MS: 530.0984 [1 + H]<sup>+</sup>, 552.0803 [1 + Na]<sup>+</sup>, and 574.0623 [1 - H + 2Na]<sup>+</sup>.

**Synthesis of [CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO]W=CH(Et)(O<sup>t</sup>Bu) (2).** A benzene solution (2 mL) of **1** (376.4 mg, 0.711 mmol) and W≡C(Et)(O<sup>t</sup>Bu)<sub>3</sub> (315.9 mg, 0.711 mmol) were combined and stirred for 0.5 h. The solvent was evaporated and the residual solid was placed under vacuum for 4 h. Single crystals of **2** were grown from a pentane solution at  $-35^\circ\text{C}$  (0.352 g, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 7.72 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.36 (t, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.64 Hz, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 6.81 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.49 Hz, Ar-H), 6.66 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.21 Hz, Ar-H), 6.60 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 9.06 Hz, Ar-H), 6.59 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.49 Hz, Ar-H), 5.08 (ddq, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J = 15.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.36 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.36 Hz, WCHC(H')(H)CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.79 (ddq, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J = 15.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.36 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.36 Hz, WCHC(H')(H)CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.00 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>'), 1.96 (s, 3H,



CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.21 (s, 9H, OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), and 0.77 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.36 Hz, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 282 MHz, 25 °C): δ = -71.2 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.61 Hz), -71.5 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 12.0 Hz), -73.9 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.60 Hz), and -77.2 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.61 Hz) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 126 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 260.3 (s, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, with satellites <sup>1</sup>J(<sup>13</sup>C,<sup>183</sup>W) = 173.1 Hz), 146.8 (s, Ar C), 145.8 (s, Ar C), 135.1 (s, Ar C), 134.6 (s, Ar C), 133.0 (s, Ar C), 131.7 (s, Ar C), 127.5 (s, Ar C), 124.7 (s, Ar C), 124.5 (s, Ar C), 124.3 (s, Ar C), 90.3 (s, OCM<sub>3</sub>), 33.6 (s, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.8 (s, OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 21.4 (s, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.0 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>'), and 20.8 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>27</sub>F<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>W (825.33 g/mol): C, 39.29; H, 3.30; N, 1.70. Found: C, 39.25; H, 3.37; N, 1.58.

**Synthesis of [(CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO)W≡C(Et)(O<sup>t</sup>Bu)]{MePPh<sub>3</sub>} (3).** A pentane solution of CH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>3</sub> (131.5 mg, 0.476 mmol, 1.6 equiv) was filtered prior to dropwise addition to a stirring pentane solution of **2** (243.4 mg, 0.295 mmol, 1 equiv). Red oil formed upon complete addition and the reaction mixture was triturated in the pentane solution for 6 h to yield a yellow powder. The powder was filtered, washed with pentane, and dried overnight (0.170 g, 83%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 7.81 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.66 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.51 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.35 Hz), 7.20 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.95 Hz), 7.01 (b, (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.98 (b, (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.92 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.65 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.64 Hz), 6.80 (dd, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.35 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J = 1.64 Hz), 4.35 (q, 2H, WCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.61 Hz), 2.44 (d, 3H, (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PCH<sub>3</sub>, <sup>2</sup>J = 13.31 Hz), 2.16 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.09 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>'), 1.63 (s, 9H, OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), and 0.80 (t, 3H, WCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.64 Hz) ppm. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 121 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 21.8 ppm. <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 282 MHz, 25 °C): -69.38 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 8.30 Hz), -71.24 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 10.38 Hz), -74.08 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 10.38 Hz), and -76.38 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 8.30 Hz) ppm. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>44</sub>F<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>PW (1096.64 g/mol): C, 50.15; H, 4.03; N, 1.27. Found: C, 50.15; H, 3.96; N, 1.32.

**[(CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO)W=C(CH<sub>3</sub>)(Et)(O<sup>t</sup>Bu)] (4).** To a benzene (1 mL) solution of **3** (0.024 g, 2.1 × 10<sup>-5</sup> mol) was added MeOTf (0.004 mg, 2.1 × 10<sup>-5</sup> mol). The reaction solution turned immediately from red to brown and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in Et<sub>2</sub>O and filtered to remove a colorless precipitate (MePPh<sub>3</sub>OTf). The solvent was removed again in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in pentane and filtered. Removal of all volatiles from the filtrate provides **4** along with intractable impurities (<10%), thus precluding combustion analysis. Multinuclear and 2D NMR techniques provide the unambiguous characterization of **4** and the absolute assignment of all <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR resonances. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 7.67 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.65 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 6.76 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.50 Hz, Ar-H), 6.71 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.50 Hz, Ar-H), 6.61 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.80 Hz, Ar-H), 6.51 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.80 Hz, Ar-H), 4.87 (s, 3H, WC(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.62 (m, 1H, WCHC(H')(H)CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.50 (m, 1H, WCHC(H')(H)CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.93 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.19 (s, 9H, OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), and 0.70 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.33 Hz, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 470 MHz, 25 °C): δ = -76.3 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 8.48 Hz), -75.6 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.69 Hz), -71.1 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.69 Hz), and -70.8 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 8.48 Hz) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 126 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 284.3 (s, WC(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 145.3 (s, Ar C), 142.8 (s, Ar C), 134.2 (s, Ar C), 133.2 (s, Ar C), 131.9 (s, Ar C), 131.6 (s, Ar C), 127.3 (s, Ar C), 126.9 (s, Ar C), 126.5 (s, Ar C), 124.0 (s, Ar C), 122.8 (s, Ar C), 89.9 (s, -OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 34.0 (s, WC(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 29.1 (s, OC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 23.5 (s, WC(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.4 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>'), 20.2 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), and 18.4 (s, WC(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**[(CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO)W=CH(Et)(OSiMe<sub>3</sub>)] (5).** To a diethyl ether (1 mL) solution of **3** (0.143 g, 1.30 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol) was added Me<sub>3</sub>SiOTf (0.029 mg, 1.31 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol). The reaction solution turned immediately from red to brown and a colorless precipitate formed (MePPh<sub>3</sub>OTf). The solid was removed by filtration and the filtrate was reduced to provide a brown oil. The product was immediately redissolved in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> to prevent decomposition. The product was found to decompose when left as an oil for several hours, thus precluding combustion analysis. However, the complex was stable long enough in solution to be characterized by multinuclear and 2D NMR techniques, thus providing its unambiguous assignment. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 7.68 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.66 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.20 (t, 1H, W=CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>,

<sup>3</sup>J = 7.04 Hz), 6.71 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.21 Hz), 6.61 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.21 Hz), 6.53 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.21 Hz), 6.51 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.21 Hz), 5.28 (m, 1H, WCHC(H')(H)CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.91 (m, 1H, WCHC(H')(H)CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.97 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.93 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>'), 0.67 (t, 3H, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.33 Hz), and 0.12 (s, 9H, OSi(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) ppm. <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 470 MHz, 25 °C): -69.38 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.61 Hz), -71.24 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.61 Hz), -74.08 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.61 Hz), and -76.38 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.61 Hz) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 126 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 262.1 (s, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 145.8 (s, Ar C), 145.0 (s, Ar C), 134.5 (s, Ar C), 134.0 (s, Ar C), 132.0 (s, Ar C), 131.0 (s, Ar C), 127.2 (s, Ar C), 126.9 (s, Ar C), 126.4 (s, Ar C), 123.7 (s, Ar C), 123.6 (s, Ar C), 123.1 (s, Ar C), 31.3 (s, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.6 (s, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.2 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>'), 20.0 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>'), and -0.1 (s, OSi(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) ppm.

**Synthesis of [(CF<sub>3</sub>-ONO)W(O)(<sup>n</sup>Pr)] (6).** To a 2.0 mL benzene solution of **2** (398 mg, 4.82 × 10<sup>-4</sup> mol) was added trimethylsilyl triflate (1 mg, 4.5 × 10<sup>-6</sup> mol) in benzene (1 mL). The solution changed from reddish-brown to aquamarine blue over the period of 2 h. The solution was evaporated in vacuo to remove solvent and trimethylsilyl triflate, providing an oil. Crystals of **6** formed from the oil after 3 h. The crystals were removed by spatula (0.274 g, 74.6%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300 MHz, 25 °C): δ = 7.52 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 6.73 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.21 Hz), 6.68 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.80 Hz), 6.61 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.21 Hz), 6.52 (d, 1H, Ar-H, <sup>3</sup>J = 8.80 Hz), 3.03–2.97 (m, 2H, WCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.81–2.52 (m, 2H, WCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.92 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.88 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>'), and 0.92 (t, 3H, WCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.33 Hz) ppm. <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 282 MHz, 25 °C): -71.17 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 8.48 Hz), -71.77 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.69 Hz), -75.55 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 9.69 Hz), and -76.38 (q, 3F, <sup>4</sup>J = 8.48 Hz) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 126 MHz, 25 °C): δ 146.5 (s, Ar), 145.5 (s, Ar), 135.5 (s, Ar), 133.9 (s, Ar), 132.8 (s, Ar-H), 127.5 (s, Ar-H), 125.4 (s, Ar), 123.0 (s, Ar-H), 82.7 (s, WCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, with satellites <sup>1</sup>J(<sup>13</sup>C,<sup>183</sup>W) = 109.1 Hz), 26.9 (s, WCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.0 (Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.7 (s, WCHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), and 19.3 (s, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>') ppm. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>F<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>W (769.22 g/mol): C, 36.76; H, 2.83; N, 1.79. Found: C, 36.67; H, 2.87; N, 1.79.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### 📄 Supporting Information

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H}, <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}, 2-D NMR spectra, IR, and crystallographic data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org/>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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