New Bulky Bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes and Their Titanium(IV) Complexes: Synthesis, Structures and Ethene Polymerization Studies

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Keywords: Phosphazenes / Titanium / Homogeneous catalysis / Polymerization

Bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes $cis-[(RNH)(PN-tBu)]_{2}$ $R = 2,6-iPr_2C_6H_3$ (2), $2-tBuC_6H_4$ (3), $2-CF_3C_6H_4$ (4), 2,5 $tBu_2C_6H_3$ (5), Ph₂CH (6), 2,4-Me₂C₆H₃ (7), 2,6-Et₂C₆H₃ (8), have been synthesized in the presence of Et_3N by a nucleophilic substitution reaction of cis-(ClPN-tBu)₂ (1) with the corresponding bulky aryl and alkylamines. The bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes 2-8 adopt the thermodynamically stable cis-configuration - a prerequisite for efficient metal complex formation. Deprotonation of bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes with nBuLi slowly afforded the corresponding salts, $cis-[(2,4-Me_2C_6H_3N)(PN-tBu)]_2Li_2(THF)_2$. The crystal structure of $cis_{-}[(2,4-Me_2C_6H_3N)(PN-tBu)]_2Li_2(THF)_2$ (9) consists of a heterocube of two lithium atoms, two nitrogen atoms and a cyclodiphosph(III)azane ring. Transmetallation of Li compounds by TiCl₄ was unselective and led to a complex mixture of products. The direct reaction of cis-bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes with Ti(NMe₂)₄ is the most efficient method to prepare the corresponding titanium(IV) bis-amido complexes *cis*-[(RN)(PNtBu)]₂Ti(NMe₂)₂ (**11a**, **12a**, **14a**, **15a**). In the solid state, *cis*-[(PhN)(PN-tBu)]₂Ti(NMe₂)₂ (**11a**) adopts a highly distorted trigonal-bipyramidal configuration at the metal center. These bis-amido titanium(IV) complexes have been subsequently transformed into the dichlorides *cis*-[(RN)(PN-tBu)]₂TiCl₂ (**12–15**) with Me₃SiCl. After MAO activation the complexes possess moderate catalytic activity in ethene polymerization and produce linear polyethylene with molar masses of up to 2.6×10^6 g/mol and with narrow polydispersities. The catalytic activity and polymer properties depend strongly on the bulkiness of the ligand substituents; *cis*-[(2,6-*i*Pr₂C₆H₃N)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂TiCl₂ (**14**) gave the highest activity (231 kg PE/mol_{cat} × bar × h).

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Introduction

The highly efficient homogeneous α-olefin polymerization catalysts based on methylalumoxane (MAO) activated Group 4 metallocene dichlorides have stimulated intensive polymerization catalysis research over the past three decades.^[1] The major focus has been on the preparation of various *ansa*-metallocenes, especially ones intended for the stereoselective polymerization of propene.^[2] Numerous studies have also been made on late transition metal complexes,^[3] constrained geometry catalysts^[4] and complexes of Group 4 metals with non-cyclopentadienyl ligands. The substantial progress on non-metallocene polymerization catalysis has been achieved by both the "right" choice of a transition metal and the rational design of the ligand systems. Recent highly successful catalysts have been based on titanium and zirconium phenoxyimino-type complexes having novel polymerization properties,^[5] as well as on highly efficient C_1 -symmetric Group 4 pyridyl-amine catalysts aimed for isospecific propene polymerization.^[6]

Ligands containing heteroatoms (e.g. phosphorus, nitrogen) are candidates for catalyst components because they bind strongly to the early transition metals and their mode of coordination as well as ligand hapticity can be varied.^[7a] This allows the electronic character, geometric properties and steric protection of the catalytic center to be modified.^[7] Bis(amido) complexes of titanium(IV) have attracted considerable attention because of their high activity in ethene polymerization after activation with MAO.^[7,8] Thus, we found bis-amino type cis-2,4-bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes of the general formula $cis[(RNH)(PN-tBu)]_2$ to be interesting ligand precursors for olefin polymerization The coordination chemistry catalysts. of simple *cis*-2,4-bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes, namely cis-[(tBuNH)(PN-tBu)]₂ and cis-[(PhNH)(PN-tBu)]₂ (structure A), has been described in the synthesis of both main group compounds^[9] and titanium(IV), zirconium(IV) and hafnium(IV) complexes (structure B).^[10,11,12] Their polymerization properties have not, to our knowledge, been published.

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The relatively straightforward synthesis of various *cis*-2,4-bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes make them attractive candidates to study the ligand's influence on the polymerization properties. In the present work, a synthetic approach to new *cis*-2,4-bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azane ligands, *cis*-[(RNH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (**2**-**8**), bearing bulky amino substituents and their titanium(IV) complexes has been developed and ethene polymerization studies carried out.

Results and Discussion

Ligand Synthesis

Phosphazanes, both cyclic and acyclic,^[13] are stable P–N compounds that are easily synthesized. Cyclodiphosph(III)azanes (containing a P₂N₂ moiety) were first reported by Michaelis and Schroeter in 1894^[14] but were fully characterized only in the 1970s.^[15,16] They have attracted most attention as precursors for hybrid (organic-inorganic) P–N polymeric materials,^[16c] and as ligand precursors for the synthesis of main group element compounds^[9] and some, still rare, early transition metal complexes.^[10,11,12] They preparation, in good yield, is commonly based on the reaction of *cis*-(ClPN-*t*Bu)₂ (1) with either lithium amide or an excess of a free amine.^[9] We investigated both of these methods to access the new, bulky bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes.

However, some modifications of these general procedures became necessary as, for instance, 2,4-dimethylphenyllithiumamide in THF reacted with **1** nonselectively, and according to ³¹P NMR data the cyclodiphosph(III)azane P_2N_2 ring was destroyed. Direct aminolysis of the P–Cl bond with free amines was then explored but, even under severe conditions, direct substitution was negligible. For example, **1** and 2,6-diisopropylphenylamine, failed to react under various conditions, even after refluxing in THF for one week; ³¹P NMR data revealed only the starting compound **1** and the free amine. Apparently, the nucleophilic substitution did not take place because of the steric demand of the amine.

Another synthetic possibility is the application of Et_3N as a base in the reaction of **1** with bulky arylamines.^[9] Thus, the reaction of **1** with 2,6-diisopropylphenylamine and an

excess of Et_3N (4 equiv.), after refluxing for four days, gave, finally, the desired disubstituted compound *cis*-[(2,6-*i*Pr₂C₆H₃NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (2) in good yield. Further experiments with different ratios of reactants and reaction times showed the limitations of this reaction; the selectivity depends strongly on the ratio of arylamine to Et_3N , and on the refluxing time (Scheme 1). This optimized synthetic procedure was then applied to give various bis(amino)cyclo-diphosph(III)azanes (**3–8** in Scheme 2).



- i 2 equiv. RNH₂, 2 equiv. Et₃N in THF, 4 days refluxing (40% 2, 60% 2a)
 or 2 equiv. RNH₂, 4 equiv. Et₃N in THF, 2 days refluxing
- (70% 2, 30% 2a)or 2 equiv. RNH₂, 2 equiv. Et₃N in THF, 4 days refluxing

(100% **2**, 0% **2**a)

Scheme 1



Scheme 2

Et₃N acts as more than a simple Brönsted base that scavenges the generated HCl – at least four equivalents of it are required to obtain good yields. Some of the Et₃N can assist the nucleophilic substitution by coordination and polarization of the P–Cl bonds of (ClPN-tBu)₂ (1), while the rest acts as a traditional Brönsted base.

Structure of the Bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes

The obtained bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes are colorless, air-sensitive oils or solids that are very soluble even in aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents. Despite the long refluxing times, the reactions proceed selectively and, according to ³¹P NMR, yield only one product from each reaction. Bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes can exist as *cis* and *trans* isomers; the differences in chemical shifts in the ³¹P NMR spectra indicate which is present.^[17] According to NMR spectroscopic data, the synthesized bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes (2-8) adopt the synthetically more desirable, and thermodynamically more stable, *cis*-conformation (Exp. Sect.).

The single-crystal X-ray measurements of **3–5** also support the exclusive presence of the *cis*-isomer. The solid-state structures (Figures 1–3) and selected structural parameters (Table 1) are presented here. The solid-state structures reveal that the P_2N_2 cyclodiphosph(III)azane rings are bent from the mean plane. Such disturbance of the P_2N_2 rings accords with the results of earlier molecular orbital calculations for *cis*-cyclodiphosph(III)azanes with small amino substituents,^[18] and may be caused by repulsive lone pair–bond pair electronic interactions.^[9] Despite the sterically bulky aryl or alkyl substituents on these bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes the basic structural features (bond lengths and angles) of the ligand backbone are rather similar to ones reported earlier (Table 1).

The solid-state structure of cis-[(2- $tBuC_6H_4NH$)(PN-tBu)]₂ (3) (Figure 1), which has only monosubstituted aniline groups, resembles that established for cis-[(PhNH)(PN-tBu)]₂.^[9,12] In both structures, the *tert*-butyl groups on the P-N ring are bent towards the P₂N₂ mean plane [for 3: C(1)-P₂N₂ plane 161.05(3)° and C(5)-P₂N₂ plane 170.94(3)°] and the orientation of the anilines gives an overall $C_{2\nu}$ symmetry. The slight asymmetry of the P₂N₂ ring in 3 is reflected by the P-N endocyclic bond lengths, which vary from 1.707(3) to 1.728(3) Å.

The structural features of cis-[(2-CF₃C₆H₄NH)(PN-tBu)]₂ (4) resemble those of 3 (Figure 2). The electron-with-

R		R	
			J-Q
D-C	N1	N4 N2	
	P1		
	E		

Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of *cis*-[(2-*t*BuC₆H₄NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (3)



Figure 2. ORTEP diagram of cis-[(2-CF₃C₆H₄NH)(PN-tBu)]₂ (4)

	3	4	5	<i>cis</i> -[(<i>t</i> BuNH)(<i>t</i> BuNP)] ₂ ^[20]	cis-[(PhNH)(tBuNP)]2 [9]
Distances, Å					
P1-N3	1.728(3)	1.7063(15)	1.705(3)	1.721(2)	
P1-N4	1.707(3)	1.7256(17)	1.734(3)	1.730(2)	
P2-N3	1.726(3)	1.7072(16)	1.716(3)	1.730(2)	1.726(2)
P2-N4	1.715(3)	1.7184(16)	1.724(3)	1.721(2)	
P1-P2	2.5910(13)	2.5937(7)	2.5997(1)	2.600(2)	2.583(1)
P2-N2	1.680(3)	1.7064(15)	1.695(2)	1.664(2)	1.689(2)
N3-C1	1.485(5)	1.472(3)	1.473(4)	1.485(3)	
N4-C5	1.474(4)	1.481(3)	1.485(4)	1.485(3)	
N1-C9	1.403(4)	1.400(3)	1.411(4)	1.470(3)	
Angles, deg					
N3-P1-N4	80.56(14)	81.08(8)	80.67(13)	80.88(1)	
P1-N3-P2	97.20(15)	98.90(9)	98.92(14)	97.83(1)	
P1-N4-P2	98.43(15)	97.72(8)	97.50(14)	97.83(1)	
C1-N3-P1	125.5(2)	130.96(13)	129.8(2)	124.8(2)	
C5-N4-P1	128.5(2)	124.79(13)	124.9(2)	125.1(2)	
N2-P2-N4	105.01(18)	101.80(8)	101.60(13)	104.69(1)	
N2-P2-N3	101.15(16)	105.20(8)	106.21(13)	105.03(1)	
C9-N1-P1	128.1(3)	127.01(16)	125.8(2)	130.2(2)	
C23-N2-P2			127.3(2)		
C22-N2-P2					

Table 1. Selected structural parameters for ligands 3-5

drawing CF₃ substituents on the aniline groups have a significant influence only on the P(2)–N(2) and P(1)–N(1) bond lengths, while the puckering of the P₂N₂ ring is fairly similar to that for **3**. Owing to the second *tert*-butyl group on the aniline moiety *cis*-[(2,5-di-*t*BuC₆H₃NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (**5**) (Figure 3) has lost its superfacial $C_{2\nu}$ symmetry. The bond lengths and angles in the P₂N₂ ring are nevertheless similar to those of **3**.



Figure 3. ORTEP diagram of cis-[(2,5-tBu₂C₆H₃NH)(PN-tBu)]₂ (5)

Synthesis of Titanium(IV) Complexes

Of the various literature methods for the preparation of early transition metal complexes the general route is the transmetallation reaction between transition metal halides and alkali or alkaline earth metal salts of the ligand.^[19] Applying a procedure described earlier,^[20] the desired dilithium salts of *cis*-[(2,6-di-*i*PrC₆H₃NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (**2**) (see supporting information) and *cis*-[(2,4-di-MeC₆H₃NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (**7**) were prepared in THF (Scheme 3). According to the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, the lithium salts contains two coordinated THF molecules. The phosphorus signal at 163.01 ppm in the ³¹P NMR spectrum confirms the formation of the lithium salt *cis*-[(2,4-di-MeC₆H₃N)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂-Li₂(THF)₂ (**9**).^[21]



i - nBuLi, THF, reflux, 5h

Scheme 3

Recrystallization of the dilithium salt 9 from THF/hexane solution provided crystals suitable for X-ray study (Figure 4). Selected bond lengths and angles are collected in Table 2. The P_2N_2 ring is almost planar, which is also related to the symmetry of the molecule and to the equal bond lengths in the ring. The P_2N_2 ring, exocyclic N, and both Li atoms form an inorganic heterocube that is surrounded by the aniline groups of the ligand and two coordinated THF molecules. The exocyclic P–N bonds are shorter than the endocyclic ones [1.674(3) vs. 1.768(3) Å]. The bond lengths between Li and the exocyclic nitrogen atoms are almost equal [from 2.071(6)Å to 2.095(6)Å] and similar to those in related lithium amides [Li–N in {Li[N(SiMe₃)₂]OEt₂}₂ are 2.06(1) Å].^[22] Thus, the solidstate structure of compound **9** has similar features to those described for *cis*-[(*t*BuN)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂Li₂(THF)₂,^[21] but in **9** the lithium atom and endocyclic nitrogen atoms are further apart [2.133(6) Å] and can be considered typical for bonds between a coordinated lithium cation and a donor nitrogen atom.



Figure 4. ORTEP diagram of cis-[(2,4-Me₂C₆H₃N)(PN-tBu)]₂Li₂-(THF)₂ (9); one solvent molecule is omitted for clarity

Table 2. Selected structural parameters for compound 9

Distances, Å			
P1-N1	1.768(3)	N2-Li1	2.133(6)
P1-N1a ^[a]	1.752(3)	N2-Li1a	2.095(6)
P1-N2	1.674(3)	Li1-Li1a	2.612(1)
P1-P1a	2.635(2)	Li1-O1	1.911(6)
N1-C1	1.492(4)	N2-C5	1.408(4)
N1-Li1	2.071(6)		
Angles, deg			
N1-P1-N1a	83.06(1)	N2-Li1-N2a	99.70(2)
P1-N1-P1a	96.92(1)	N1-Li1-N2	76.90(2)
N2-P1-N1	98.83(1)	Li1-N1-C1	123.80(2)
N2-P1-N1a	98.29(1)	C1-N1-P1	122.10(2)
Lil-Nl-Pl	91.76(2)	N1-Li1-O1	123.60(3)
Li1-N1-P1a	91.55(2)	O1-Li1-N2	121.80(3)
Lil-N2-Lila	76.30(2)	C5-N2-Li1	127.10(2)
Li1-N2-P1	92.31(2)	C5-N2-Lila	136.0(3)

^[a] Label "a" means a symmetry equivalent atom at -x, y, -z + 1/2.

To synthesize titanium(IV) dichloride complexes from the *cis*-2,4-bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes the above-described lithium salts were treated with TiCl₄. Surprisingly, the transmetallation reaction failed and led to a complex mixture of unidentified products. Only one complex, $[(tBuN)_2(PN-tBu)_2]TiCl_2$ (10), previously synthesized by Stahl et al.^[23] was obtained. This might be due either to the



i - Ti(NMe₂)₄, toluene, reflux; ii - excess of Me₃SiCl

Scheme 4

steric demand of the obtained lithium {see the solid-state structure of $[(2,4-di-MeC_6H_3N)(tBuNP)]_2Li_2(THF)_2$ (9)} salts, which slow down the reaction, or to titanium tetrachloride, a strong Lewis acid, which may attack the P–N bond of the P₂N₂ cycle or the phosphorus lone pair more readily than a N–Li or N–Mg bond.

An alternative approach, the direct metallation of the ligand precursors through amine elimination,^[24] turned out to be efficient. The reaction of the less Lewis-acidic Ti(NMe₂)₄ with [(RNH)(tBuNP)]₂ (2, 5, 6, 8) occurred selectively, according to ¹H and ³¹P NMR data, and the bis-amido complexes [(RNH)(tBuNP)]₂Ti(NMe₂)₂ (11a-15a) were formed (Scheme 4). Such bis-amido complexes are usually oils, and are highly soluble in aliphatic solvents, making their separation and purification difficult. Therefore, they were characterized on the basis of ¹H, ¹³C and ³¹P NMR spectroscopic data (see Supporting Information). Their ¹H NMR spectra revealed the $C_{2\nu}$ symmetry expected for such titanium(IV) complexes and indicate the equivalence of all alkyl and aromatic substituents. Only the ligand precursor 4, with electron-withdrawing CF₃ substituents, behaved differently, and complex formation under similar reaction conditions was incomplete.

With $cis-[(PhN)_2(PN-tBu)_2]Ti(NMe_2)_2$ (11a), crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained from a saturated hexane solution at -20 °C. The ORTEP diagram of 11a (Figure 5) and selected bond lengths and angles (Table 3) are given here. In the solid state, four metal-amide bonds and an additional donor bond from one of the cyclophosph(III)azane ring nitrogen atoms define a highly distorted trigonal-bipyramidal coordination at the central titanium atom, reducing the symmetry of this molecule from C_2 to C_s in the solid state. In general, the coordination sphere of 11a resembles previously described structures for Ti, Zr and Hf complexes based on the cis-[(tBuNH)(PNtBu]₂ ligand.^[10,11,12] The cyclophosph(III)azane ring is almost planar and the phenyl rings are almost perpendicular to the P_2N_2 plane and, hence, leave the metal center relatively open to nucleophilic attack.



Figure 5. ORTEP diagram of cis-[(PhN)(PN-tBu)]₂Ti(NMe₂)₂ (11a)

Table 3. Selected structural parameters for compound 11a

Distances, Å			
Ti-N3	2.325(4)	P1-N3	1.791(4)
Ti-N1	2.020 (3)	P2-N3	1.770(4)
Ti-N2	2.011(3)	P1-N4	1.731(4)
Ti-N5	1.907(4)	P2-N4	1.728(4)
Ti-N6	1.884(4)	P1-P2	2.653(2)
P1-N1	1.708(4)		
Angles, deg			
N5-Ti-N6	98.66(2)	N5-Ti-N3	159.82(2)
N1-Ti-N2	111.80(1)	N6-Ti-N3	101.39(2)
N1-Ti-N5	101.26(2)	N1-P1-P2	101.73(1)
N1-Ti-N6	121.14(2)	N3-P1-N4	81.38(2)
N5-Ti-N2	98.67(2)	P1-N3-P2	96.32(2)
N6-Ti-N2	118.99(2)	P1-N4-P2	100.15(2)

The additional nitrogen is rather weakly coordinated, as indicated by the elongated bond length [2.325 (4) Å], which is significantly longer than the 2.267 (2) Å in the related

compound $[(tBuN)_2(PN-tBu)_2]TiCl_2)$.^[11] This may be due to NMe₂ substituents donating additional electron density from the sp²-hybridized amido nitrogen atoms to the metal center, thereby decreasing the Lewis acidity of the titanium. Four amido nitrogen atoms are in a pseudo-tetrahedral environment around the metal center [N(1)-Ti-N(2)] and N(5)-Ti-N(6) are 111.80 (1)° and 98.66 (2)° respectively] and the amido N-Ti bond lengths vary from 1.884 (4) to 2.020 (3) Å (Table 3).

Dichlorotitanium(IV) complexes are preferred as catalyst precursors in olefin polymerization due to their higher activity than the corresponding bis(amido) derivatives.^[1a] The standard transformation of early transition metal bis(amido) complexes into their dichloride derivatives involves the reaction with an excess of Me₃SiCl.^[25] Thus, we treated $[(RN)_2(PN-tBu)_2]Ti(NMe_2)_2$ (**11a**, **12a**, **14a**, **15a**) with an excess of Me₃SiCl (Scheme 4). The one-pot synthesis of $[(RN)_2(PN-tBu)_2]TiCl_2$ complexes is also possible, starting from a ligand precursor, tetrakis(dimethylamido)-titanium(IV) and Me₃SiCl (see Exp. Sect., **13**).

Evaporation of all solvents, followed by extraction with a mixture of CH₂Cl₂/hexane, gave the dichloro titanium(IV) complexes [(RN)₂(PN-*t*Bu)₂]TiCl₂ (**12–15**) in good yield. All ¹H NMR spectra display a clear singlet at $\delta =$ 1.0–1.4 ppm for the imido *t*Bu groups, peaks at $\delta =$ 1.0-4.0 ppm for the alkyl substituents, and signals at $\delta =$ 7.0–7.8 ppm for the aromatic protons (see supporting information). Phosphorus signals in the ³¹P NMR spectra appear in the same region as the peaks of the corresponding ligand. This indicates the covalent character of the Ti–amido bond, whereas in the lithium salts the Li–N bonds are strongly polarized.

With cis-[(PhN)₂(PN-tBu)₂]Ti(NMe₂)₂ (11a), amine elimination by Me₃SiCl was unselective and led to the destruction of the parent bis-amido complex. This can be taken as a limitation of the synthetic route, since, without sufficient steric hindrance from the ligand side, breakage of the Ti–N phosphazane amido bond may occur instead of breakage of the Ti–N dimethylamido bond. Apparently, the phenyl group alone is not bulky enough to sufficiently protect the bonding between the metal center and ligand moiety and may be a reason for the lack of selectivity.

Ethene Polymerization

In addition to the preparative chemistry described above the ligand's influence on the titanium(IV) complexes in ethene polymerization was also investigated. After methylalumoxane (MAO) activation all dichloro titanium(IV) complexes [(RN)₂(PN-tBu)₂]TiCl₂ (**12–15**), regardless of polymerization temperature, produced high molar mass linear polyethylene. The polymerization results and the properties of the obtained polymers are summarized in Table 4.

Catalyst 10/MAO bearing tert-butyl groups showed a remarkably high initial catalytic activity that severely declined after a few minutes (Figure 6, curve a). The polyethene produced had a high molar mass and a bimodal molar mass distribution, indicating at least two different active centers (run 1 in Table 4; $M_w 1 = 1.927\ 000\ \text{g/mol}, M_w 2 = 42\ 000\ \text{g/}$ mol, for GPC curve see supporting information). After activation with MAO, complexes 12 with diphenylmethylamino substituents gave lower initial activities than 10/MAO, but the steady state consumption of ethene was higher (run 2 in Table 4, curve b in Figure 6). Catalyst precursors 13 and 15 are slowly activated by MAO (Figure 6, curves c and e, respectively) but the high steady state of 15/MAO is noteworthy. The polymers obtained with 12/MAO and 13/MAO exhibit a low molar mass shoulder in the GPC curve, which also explains the relatively large polydispersity (PD) values. 15/MAO produces ultrahigh molar mass polyethene ($M_w =$ 2.56×10^6 g/mol, $M_w/M_n = 2.8$).

Complex 14/MAO displayed a combination of high initial activity and slow decline in productivity (Figure 6, d). After one hour of polymerization with the catalysts under similar conditions, the highest polymerization activity was recorded for 14/MAO (121 kg of PE/(mol_{cat} × bar × h) (run 5 in Table 4). The polymer also exhibited a high molar mass (2.6×10^6 g/mol) and a narrow PD (2.17). In a further study, we examined the influence of catalyst concentration and polymerization temperature. Lower amounts of catalyst resulted in higher activities with no significant change in the molar mass of the polymers. For example, when the amount of catalyst 14/MAO was halved (from 20 µmol to 10 µmol) and then to 5 µmol, the polymerization activity increased from 121 to 143 and 231 kg of PE/(mol_{cat} × bar

Entry no. ^[a]	Catalyst	Concentration (µmol)	Reaction temp. (°C)	Time (min)	Yield (g)	Activity ^[b]	M_w (g/mol)	M_w/M_n	T_m (°C)
1	10	20	50	30	4.22	111	818 000	14.17	135.3
2	12	20	50	20	2.1	79	1 897 000	4.70	139.0
3	13	10	50	60	3.33	87.6	1 479 000	5.18	139.0
4	14	10	50	60	5.45	143.4	2 465 000	4.17	140.7
5	14	20	50	60	9.23	121	2 558 000	2.17	140.3
6	14	10	70	60	6.24	164.2	1 369 000	2.19	137.7
7	14	5	50	30	2.2	231.6	2 375 000	4.32	141.7
8	15	10	50	30	2.1	110.5	2 008 000	2.73	139.7
9	15	10	70	60	1.74	45.8	2 564 000	2.84	140.7
10	15	20	50	60	4.38	57.9	2 268 000	3.70	141.0

^[a] MAO (Al/M = 1000), toluene (200 mL), ethylene (3.8 bar). ^[b] kg PE/(mol_{cat} × bar × h).



Figure 6. Ethylene consumption curves from polymerization experiments with (a) $[(tBuN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (10), (b) $[(Ph_2CHN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (12), (c) $[(2,6-Et_2PhN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (13), (d) $[(2,6-iPr_2PhN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (14), and (e) $[(2,5-tBu_2PhN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (15) as catalyst precursors

 \times h) (runs 5, 4 and 7, respectively, in Table 4). This indicates that mass transfer effects play an important role. On increasing the temperature from 50 to 70 °C (runs 5 and 6), the molar mass of the polymers clearly decreases, from 2.5 to 1.4 \times 10⁶ g/mol, while the PD is the same. This reveals that catalyst 14/MAO is stable at higher temperatures.

From the results above, it appears that the catalytic performance of the bis(amido)cyclodiphosph(III)azane titanium(IV)dichlorides depends strongly on the ligand substituents. Activation with MAO was faster for the complexes $[(tBuN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (10) and amido $[(Ph_2CHN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (12) than for the complexes 13-15 with aniline substituents. Moreover, the rate of decline of the polymerization and the steady state values depend on the catalyst precursors used. This indicates that the steric bulkiness of the ligand substituents can influence a sensitive equilibrium between active and dormant metal centers. The bulkiest aniline complex, 15/MAO, exhibited the highest steady state activities followed by cis-[(2,6 $iPr_2C_6H_3N_2(PN-tBu)_2$]TiCl₂ (14)and cis-[(2,6- $Et_2C_6H_3N_2(PN-tBu)_2$ [TiCl₂ (13), i.e. in the order of steric bulkiness.

The polymerization behavior of 10/MAO ([(*t*BuN)(*t*BuNP)]₂TiCl₂) is unique due to the bimodal molar mass distribution of the polymer. The relatively small *tert*-butyl groups not only leave the titanium center open for activation and polymerization but, at the same time, the catalyst is susceptible to side reactions. Coordination of the Lewis acidic cocatalyst (MAO) to the lone-pair electrons of phosphorus atoms can initiate destruction of the ligand,^[11] which could explain the presence of different active centers and could also be one reason for the fast catalyst deactivation. Therefore, bulky aromatic groups attached directly to the amido nitrogen (13-15) have two roles: they protect the catalytic active center from side reactions and they prevent the phosphorus atoms of the ligand from destructive coordination to MAO.

Conclusion

New bis(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes cis-[(RNH)- $(PN-tBu)]_2$ **2–8** $[R = 2,6-iPr_2C_6H_3$ (**2**), $2-tBuC_6H_4$ (**3**), $2-tBuC_6H_4$ (**3**), CF₃C₆H₄ (4), 2,5-*t*Bu₂C₆H₃ (5), Ph₂CH (6), 2,4-Me₂C₆H₃ (7), 2,6-Et₂C₆H₃ (8)] bearing bulky substituents have been synthesized. According to NMR spectroscopic data and single-crystal X-ray analysis, all compounds adopt the thermodynamically more stable cis-configuration. Bis-(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes can be deprotonated with *n*BuLi, but an extended reaction time is required for complete formation of the lithium salts. The straightforward method of TiCl₄ transmetallation of these Li salts proceeded unselectively and gave a complex mixture of products. Direct reaction of $[(RNH)(tBuNP)]_2$ (2, 5, 6, 8) with the less Lewis acidic Ti(NMe₂)₄ and application of the amine elimination approach led to the desired bis(amido)cyclodiphosph(III)azane titanium(IV) dichloro complexes $[(RN)(tBuNP)]_2$ TiCl₂ (12–15) in high yield. According to the ³¹P NMR spectra, the titanium(IV)-amido bonds in these complexes have covalent character.

MAO activated titanium(IV)dichloride complexes $[(RN)(tBuNP)]_2TiCl_2$ (12–15) display moderate ethene polymerization activity. The polymerization behavior depends on the bulkiness of the ligand substituents. Large alkyl and aryl groups both protect the catalytically-active site from side reactions and prevent the phosphorus atoms of the ligand from destructive MAO coordination. Complex [(tBuN)(tBuNP)]₂TiCl₂ (10), bearing tBu groups, exhibits an initially high polymerization activity, but ethene consumption falls off sharply after just a few minutes. [(RN)(*t*BuNP)]₂TiCl₂ **12–15** produce very high molar mass polyethylene with a relatively narrow molar mass distribution. The bulky aromatic groups in 12-15 protect the metal center, which is seen in the slow decline of the catalytic activity during prolonged polymerization. The series of catalysts described here offers an efficient route toward very high or even ultrahigh molar mass linear polyethene. The focus of our future research is to introduce other early transition metals into the coordination chemistry of bis-(amino)cyclodiphosph(III)azanes so as to enhance their catalytic performance.

Experimental Section

General Remarks: All manipulations were performed under an argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. The hydrocarbon and ethereal solvents were boiled under reflux over sodium and benzophenone, distilled, and stored under an inert atmosphere with pieces of sodium. Dichloromethane was boiled under reflux with CaH₂ powder and distilled before use. Mass spectra were measured on a JEOL SX102 spectrometer and the ¹H and ¹³C

NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Gemini 200 MHz spectrometer. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are referenced relative to CHCl₃ (δ = 7.24 and 77.0 ppm, respectively) or C₆D₅H (δ = 7.15 and 128.0 ppm, respectively). ³¹P NMR spectra were collected with a Bruker AMX 400 spectrometer, with phosphorus signals referenced to an external 85 % H₃PO₄ solution. Elemental analyses were performed Analytische Laboratorien Prof. Dr. H. Malissa and G. Reuter GmbH, Lindlar, Germany. High-temperature gel permeation chromatography of polyethylene samples (GPC) was performed in 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene at 145 °C by using a Waters HPLC 150 C.

tert-Butylamine and phosphorus trichloride were purchased from Merck and purified by distillation under argon ($tBuNH_2$ over sodium hydroxide). Arylamines and diphenylmethylamine were obtained from Aldrich and distilled in vacuo over sodium hydroxide before use. Chlorotrimethylsilane was purchased from Fluka and used as received. Ti(NMe₂)₄ was purchased from Aldrich and used as solution in toluene. Methylalumoxane (MAO, 30 wt.% solution in toluene) was received from Borealis Polymers Oy. *cis*-[Cl(tBuNP)]₂ (1),^[16] *cis*-[(tBuNH)(tBuNP)]₂,^[21] *cis*-[(C_6H_5NH)(tBuNP)]₂ ^[12] and *cis*-[(tBuNN)₂(tBuNP)₂]Li₂(THF)₂ ^[21] were prepared according to modified literature procedures.

cis-[(2,6-iPr₂C₆H₃NH)(PN-tBu)]₂ (2): 2,6-Diisopropylaniline (5.5 mL, 5.15 g, 29 mmol) and Et₃N (8.1 mL, 5.87 g, 58 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of cis-(ClPN-tBu)₂ (1) (4 g, 14.5 mmol) in THF (100 mL) and the reaction mixture was boiled under reflux for four days. After filtration, all volatile compounds were removed under vacuum and pentane (20 mL) was added to the residue. The mixture was then kept in a freezer (-20 °C) overnight. After additional filtration and removal of pentane the required product was obtained as a colorless oil (6.42 g, 80 %). C₃₂H₅₄N₄P₂ (556.8): calcd. C 69.03, H 9.78, N 10.06; found C 69.65, H 9.88, N 9.31. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.17$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 1.27 (d, 24 H, CH₃, *i*Pr), 2.90 (m, 4 H, CH, *i*Pr), 4.63 (s, 2 H, NH), 7.05–7.18 (m, 6 H, ArH) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, $[D_6]$ benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_C = 24.2 (CH_3, iPr), 29.2 (m, CH, iPr), 31.4$ (t, CH₃C), 51.7 (t, CH₃C), 118.8 (Ar), 124.0 (Ar), 136.3 (Ar), 141.0 (d, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 21 °C): $\delta_P =$ 114.8 (s) ppm. MS(EI): m/z (%) = 556 (48) [M⁺], 380 (84), 204 (35), 176 (76), 57 (87).

cis-[(2-tBuC₆H₄NH)(PN-tBu)]₂ (3): Reaction of cis-(ClPN-tBu)₂ (1) (0.65 g, 2.4 mmol), Et₃N (1.4 mL, 1.93 g, 9.6 mmol) and 2-tert-butylaniline (0.75 mL, 0.71 g, 4.7 mmol) and separation of the resulting crude product were carried out as for 2. The obtained white solid was dissolved in pentane (10 mL) and the solution was concentrated to 3 mL and kept at -20 °C until colorless crystals appeared (0.90 g, 76 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray crystallography were obtained in this manner. $C_{28}H_{46}N_4P_2$ (500.6): calcd. C 67.17, H 9.26, N 11.19, P 12.37; found C 66.99, H 9.33, N 11.06, P 12.47. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 1.29 (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 1.50 (s, 18 H, *t*BuAr), 5.34 (br.s, 2 H, N*H*), 6.80 (td, 2 H, Ar*H*, ${}^{1}J$ = 7.8, ${}^{2}J = 1.5$ Hz), 7.12 (t, 2 H, Ar*H*, ${}^{1}J = 7.8$, ${}^{2}J = 1.5$ Hz), 7.30 (dd, 2 H, ArH, ${}^{1}J$ = 8.0, ${}^{2}J$ = 1.5 Hz), 7.71 (d, 2 H, ArH, J = 8.0 Hz) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 31.1$ (t, CH_3C , $J_{P,C} = 6.7$ Hz), 30.6 (CH_3CAr), 34.2 (CH_3CAr), 51.5 (t, CH₃C, J_{P,C} = 13.7 Hz), 115.9 (Ar), 116.5 (Ar), 119.3 (Ar), 126.7 (Ar), 133.6 (Ar), 141.8 (d, Ar, J = 11.0 Hz) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_P = 97.8$ (s) ppm. MS(EI): m/z (%) = 500 (58) [M⁺], 364 (94), 203 (10), 162(32), 57 (99).

cis-[(2-CF₃C₆H₄NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (4): Reaction of cis-(ClPN-*t*Bu)₂ (1) (2.6 g, 9.5 mmol), Et₃N (5.3 mL, 3.80 g, 37.8 mmol) and 2-tri-

fluoromethylaniline (2.4 mL, 3.05 g, 18.9 mmol) and separation of the obtained crude product were carried out as above. The resulting white solid was dissolved in pentane (20 mL). This solution was then concentrated to 8 mL and kept at -20 °C to yield colorless crystals of product (4.20 g; 85 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained in this manner. $C_{22}H_{28}F_2N_4P_2$ (524.4): calcd. C 50.39, H 5.38, N 10.68, P 11.81; found C 49.46, H 5.91, N 10.89, P 11.88. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.29$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 5.49 (br.s, 2 H, N*H*), 6.90 (t, 2 H, Ar*H*, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.38 (t, 2 H, ArH, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.48 (dd, 2 H, ArH, ${}^{1}J = 7.7, {}^{2}J = 1.4 \text{ Hz}$, 7.66 (d, 2 H, Ar*H*, J = 7.7 Hz) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{C} = 30.9$ (t, CH₃C, $J_{P,C} = 6.5 \text{ Hz}$), 51.6 (t, CH₃C, $J_{P,C} = 12.5 \text{ Hz}$), 116.4 (CCF₃, $J_{C,F} =$ 29.0 Hz), 116.9 (Ar), 117.4 (Ar), 119.2 (Ar), 126.6 (q, Ar, J_{CF} = 5.0 Hz), 132.71 (Ar), 124.5 (q, CF_3 , $J_{C,F} = 272.0$ Hz) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_P = 107.8$ (s) ppm. MS(EI): m/z (%) = 524 (37) [M⁺], 364 (94), 203(10), 161(32).

 $cis-[(2,5-tBu_2C_6H_3NH)(PN-tBu)]_2$ (5): 2,5-Di-tert-butylaniline (3.88 g, 18.9 mmol), cis-(ClPN-tBu)₂ (1) (2.60 g, 9.5 mmol) and Et₃N (5.3 mL, 3.83 g, 37.8 mmol) were mixed in THF (80 mL) and then boiled under reflux for four days. After filtration, all volatile compounds were removed under vacuum. The resulting white solid was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) and hexane (30 mL) was added. The resulting solution was then kept at 0 °C overnight. The suspension that formed was filtered off and all volatile components were removed from the filtrate. The white solid product was then recrystallized from CH_2Cl_2 /hexane solution at -20 °C (colorless crystals; 3.94 g; 68 %). Crystals suitable for the X-ray analysis were obtained in this manner. $C_{36}H_{62}N_4P_2$ (612.9): calcd. C 70.55, H 10.20, N 9.14, P 10.11; found C 70.39, H 10.34, N 8.96, P 10.30. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 1.33 (s, 18 H, tBu), 1.30 (s, 18 H, tBuAr), 1.48 (s, 18 H, tBuAr), 5.30 (br.d, 2 H, NH, J = 7.0 Hz), 6.80 (dd, 2 H, ArH, ${}^{1}J$ = 8.4, ${}^{2}J$ = 2.2 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2 H, ArH, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.80 (dd, 2 H, Ar*H*, ${}^{1}J = 5.5$, ${}^{2}J = 2.0$ Hz) ppm. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): δ_{C} = 30.7 (CH₃CAr), 31.2 (t, $CH_{3}C$, $J_{P,C} = 6.8$ Hz), 31.3 ($CH_{3}CAr$), 33.8 ($CH_{3}CAr$), 34.3 (CH_3CAr) , 51.4 (t, CH_3C , $J_{P,C} = 13.5$ Hz), 113.4 (Ar), 114.1 (Ar), 116.0 (Ar), 126.2 (Ar), 130.8 (Ar), 141.7 (d, Ar, J = 9.9 Hz) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_P = 98.1$ (s) ppm. MS(EI): m/z (%) = 612 (18) [M⁺], 408 (96), 204(10), 57 (38).

cis-[(Ph₂CHNH)(PN-tBu)]₂ (6): The reaction of diphenylmethylamine (2.5 mL, 2.67 g, 18.9 mmol), cis-(ClPN-tBu)₂ (1) (2.0 g, 7.3 mmol) and Et₃N (4.1 mL, 2.94 g, 29.1 mmol) and the separation of the crude product were carried out as for 5. The resulting white solid was then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL), and hexane (20 mL) was added to give a solution that was kept at 0 °C overnight. The precipitate that formed was filtered off and solvents from the filtrate were removed. The white solid product was then recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂/hexane solution as colorless crystals (3.94 g; 72 %). C₃₄H₄₂N₄P₂ (568.7): calcd. C 71.81, H 7.44, N 9.85; found C 71.64, H 7.34, N 9.77. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} =$ 0.97 (s, 18 H, tBu), 3.44 (dd, 2 H, Ph₂CH), 5.60 (dd, 2 H, NH), 7.18 (m, 20 H, ArH) ppm. 13C{1H} NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 30.5$ (t, CH₃C), 51.6 (t, CH₃C), 59.7 (Ph₂CH), 126.8 (Ar), 127.3 (Ar), 128.3 (Ar), 145.5 (d) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ_P = 100.0 (br. s) ppm. MS(EI): *m*/*z* $(\%) = 568 (72) [M^+], 403 (48), 386 (95), 204(20), 183(99), 167 (98),$ 77 (47), 57 (32).

cis-[(2,4-Me₂C₆H₃NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (7): Reaction of *cis*-(ClPN-*t*Bu)₂ (1) (5.15 g, 18.7 mmol), (11 mL, 7.58 g, 75 mmol) and 2,4-dimethylaniline (4.6 mL, 4.54 g, 37.4 mmol) and separation of the crude product were carried out as described for compound **2**. The crude

product was then dissolved in pentane (20 mL) to give a solution that was kept in a freezer (-20 °C) overnight. After filtration and removal of solvent a colorless oil was obtained (7.46 g, 90 %) and used without further purification. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.32$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 2.15 (s, 6 H, CH₃Ar), 2.27 (s, 6 H, CH₃Ar), 4.91 (br.d, 2 H, NH, J = 5.5 Hz), 6.96 (d, 4 H, ArH), 7.50 (d, 2 H, ArH) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 17.8$ (CH₃Ar), 20.5 (CH₃Ar), 31.0 (t, CH₃C, $J_{\rm P,C} =$ 6.5 Hz), 51.7 (t, CH₃C, $J_{\rm P,C} = 13.7$ Hz), 115.0 (Ar), 117.7 (Ar), 125.0 (Ar), 127.0 (Ar), 131.2 (Ar), 139.0 (d, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_{\rm P} = 99.0$ (s) ppm.

cis-**[**(2,6-Et₂C₆H₃NH)(PN-*t*Bu)]₂ (8): This was prepared in the same manner as 7, starting from *cis*-(ClPN-*t*Bu)₂ (1) (2.6 g, 9.5 mmol), Et₃N (5.3 mL, 3.83 g, 37.8 mmol), and 2,6-diethylaniline (3.1 mL, 2.82 g, 18.9 mmol). A colorless oil (4.47 g; 94 %) was obtained and used without further purification. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.38$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 1.50 (t, 12 H, CH₃, Et), 3.13 (q, J = 7.7 Hz, 8 H, CH₂, Et), 4.86 (s, 2 H, NH), 6.80–7.50 (m, 6 H, ArH) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 15.3$ (CH₃, Et), 26.7 (CH₂, Et), 31.8 (t, CH₃C, $J_{\rm P,C} = 6.5$ Hz), 52.1 (t, CH₃C, $J_{\rm P,C} = 13.4$ Hz), 123.2 (Ar), 130.0 (Ar), 136.1 (Ar), 141.2 (d, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_{\rm P} = 114.2$ (s) ppm. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) = 500 (64) [M⁺], 352 (83), 204 (20), 177(99), 57 (99).

[(2,4-Di-MeC₆H₃N)(*t*BuNP)]₂Li₂(THF)₂ (9): A solution of *n*BuLi in hexane (23 mL, 1.6 M, 35.5 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 7 (7.46 g, 16.8 mmol) in THF (60 mL) at -30°C. The reaction mixture was then stirred 20 min at -20 °C, allowed to warm to room temperature, and boiled under reflux for 5 h. The resulting yellow solution was then concentrated to 15 mL and pentane (40 mL) was added. This suspension was then stored overnight at -20 °C to give a white-yellow precipitate that was then separated and washed with several portions of pentane at -20°C. The mother liquid was then concentrated to 8 mL and pentane (20 mL) was added. After two days at -20 °C a second lot of the white-yellow product was obtained (8.5 g in total; 84 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by crystallization from a THF/hexane mixture at -20 °C. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.16$ (m, 8 H, THF), 1.54 (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 2.41 (d, 12 H, CH₃, Ar), 3.28 (m, 8 H, THF), 7.20 (m, 4 H, ArH), 7.80 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2 H, ArH) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_C = 20.5$ (CH₃, Ar), 23.1 (CH₃, Ar), 25.3 (THF), 30.7 (t, CH_3C , $J_{P,C} = 7.60$ Hz), 53.3 (t, CH_3C , $J_{P,C} = 16.0$ Hz), 68.3 (THF), 116.72 (Ar), 118.5 (Ar), 124.3 (Ar), 127.2 (Ar), 133.8 (Ar), 142.1 (d, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 21 °C): $\delta_P = 163.01$ (s) ppm.

[(tBuN)(tBuNP)]2TiCl2 (10): TiCl4 (1.3 g, 0.75 mL, 6.84 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of cis-[(tBuN)(tBuNP)]2Li2(THF)2 (3.45 g, 6.84 mmol) in toluene at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 0 °C for 20 min and boiled under reflux overnight. The resulting brown suspension was filtered off and toluene was removed in vacuo. The obtained brown solid residue was then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL), and hexane was added until precipitation commenced. The solution then was cooled to -20 °C and left overnight. The resulting suspension was filtered through Celite and the solvents were removed. After a second recrystallization, an orange-brown powder (1.61 g; 50.6 %) was isolated. C₁₆H₃₆Cl₂N₄P₂Ti (465.2): calcd. C 41.31, H 7.80; found C 41.58, H 8.01. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.23$ (s, 18 H, tBu, P_2N_2 cycle), 1.66 (s, 18 H, tBu) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 28.3$ (t, $J_{\rm PC} = 7.25$ Hz, CH_3 , *t*Bu, P₂N₂ cycle), 33.7 (d, $J_{P,C} = 12.2$ Hz, *C*H₃, *t*Bu), 54.6 (t, $J_{P,C} =$

9.9 Hz, *C*, *t*Bu, P₂N₂ cycle), 60.2 (d, $J_{P,C} = 19.2$ Hz, *C*, *t*Bu) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_P = 117.4$ (s) ppm. The complex was prepared earlier by a different procedure and the data given here are in good agreement with those reported.^[21] MS(EI): m/z (%) = 465 (80) [M⁺], 429 (40) [M⁺ - Cl], 352 (98, ligand).

[(PhN)(tBuNP)]₂Ti(NMe₂)₂ (11a): A solution of Ti(NMe₂)₄ (1.3 g, 5.8 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of cis-[(PhNH)(tBuNP)]2 (2.15 g, 5.5 mmol) in toluene (30 mL). The reaction mixture was then boiled under reflux overnight. All volatile components were removed in vacuo. The resultant red-brown residue was extracted with several portions of hexane. The extracts were then filtered, concentrated to 10 mL, and cooled to -20 °C to yield the product (1.34 g; 46.4 %) as a red-brown, crystalline solid. Crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by crystallization from hexane at -20 °C. $C_{24}H_{40}N_6P_2Ti$ (522.5): calcd. C 55.18, H 7.72, N 16.09; found C 55.53, H 8.00, N 15.53. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.50$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 3.43 (s, 12 H, NMe₂), 7.03 (t, J = 7.33 Hz, 2 H, p-H-Ph) 7.20-7.50 (m, Ph) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 29 °C): $\delta_{C} = 29.3$ (t, $J_{P,C} = 7.2 \text{ Hz}, CH_3, tBu), 44.0 (NMe_2), 53.1 (t, J_{P,C} = 11.1 \text{ Hz}, C)$ tBu), 117.7 (d, Ar), 119.5 (Ar), 128.6 (Ar), 151.0 (d, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_{\rm P} = 142.2$ (s) ppm. MS(EI): m/z (%) = 522 (50) [M⁺], 478 (64, M⁺ - NMe₂), 434 (70, M⁺ - 2NMe₂), 388 (90, ligand).

[(Ph₂CHN)(*t***BuNP)]₂TiCl₂ (12):** *cis***-[(Ph₂CHNH)(***t***BuNP)]₂ (6) (2.23 g, 3.93 mmol) was dissolved in toluene and added via a syringe to a solution of Ti(NMe₂)₄ (0.87 g, 3.9 mmol) at 0 °C. The resultant mixture was boiled under reflux for 22 h to give the bisdimethylamido titanium(IV) complex [(Ph₂CHN)(***t***BuNP)]₂-Ti(NMe₂)₂ (12a), which was analyzed by ¹H, ¹³C and ³¹P NMR. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): \delta_{\rm H} = 1.22 (s, 18 H,** *t***Bu), 1.82–2.40 (12 H, NMe₂), 3.54 (dd, 2 H, J = 14.0 Hz,** *CH***, Ph₂CH), 7.11 (m, 16 H,** *o***- and** *m***-Ph), 7.25 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 4 H,** *p***-H-Ph) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): \delta_{\rm C} = 30.9 (t, J_{\rm PC} = 7.2 Hz,** *CH***₃C), 43.0 (NMe₂) 52.0 (t, J_{\rm P,C} = 15.0 Hz, CH₃C), 59.3 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, Ph₂CH), 126.8 (Ar), 127.7 (Ar), 128.6 (Ar), 146.1 (d, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): \delta_{\rm P} = 103.8 (s) ppm.**

Subsequently, to form the dichloride, an excess of Me₃SiCl (5.2 mL, 4.48 g, 41.2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The solvent was then removed and the product purified similarly to **10**, washed with pentane and dried in vacuo. The product was isolated as a brown powder (2.13 g, 72 %). C₃₄H₄₀Cl₂N₄P₂Ti·C₅H₁₂ (757.6): calcd. C 61.83, H 6.92, N 7.40; found C 62.47, H 6.60, N 8.04. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.20$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 3.50 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 14.1 Hz, C*H*, Ph₂CH), 7.00 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 8 H, *o*-H-Ph), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 8 H, *m*-H-Ph), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4 H, *p*-H-Ph) ppm ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 30.8$ (t, $J_{\rm PC} = 7.0$ Hz, CH₃, *t*Bu), 52.0 (t, $J_{\rm PC} = 14.3$ Hz, *C*, *t*Bu), 59.0 (Ph₂CH), 109.0 (Ar), 126.8 (Ar), 128.6 (Ar), 146.1 (Ar) ppm ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_{\rm P} = 100.0$ (s) ppm. MS (EI): *m/z* (%) = 684 (10) [M⁺], 649 (15) [M⁺ - Cl], 568 (95, ligand).

 $[(2,6-Et_2C_6H_3N)(tBuNP)]_2$ TiCl₂ (13): *cis*- $[(2,6-Et_2C_6H_3NH)(t-BuNP)]_2$ (8) (1.79 g, 3.58 mmol) in toluene and a toluene solution of Ti(NMe₂)₄ (0.8 g, 3.57 mmol) were treated as described above. To this solution Me₃SiCl (4.8 mL, 4.15 g, 38.2 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The solvent was removed then under vacuum to give a redbrown residue that was extracted first with hexane (30 mL) and then twice with a mixture of hexane (20 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (7 mL).

After filtration and evaporation of solvent, the product was dried in vacuo to give a red-brown oil (1.9 g, 86.4 %). $C_{28}H_{44}Cl_2N_4P_2Ti$ (617.4): calcd. C 54.47, H 7.18, N 9.07; found C 54.08, H 7.41, N 9.51. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.41$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 1.45 (t, 12 H, *CH*₃, Et), 3.16 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 8 H, *CH*₂, Et), 7.10–7.40 (6 H, H–Ar) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 14.9$ (*CH*₃, Et), 26.3 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, *CH*₂, Et), 31.2 (t, *J*_{P,C} = 6.5 Hz, *CH*₃, *t*Bu), 51.5 (t, *J*_{P,C} = 14.5 Hz, *C*, *t*Bu), 123.3 (Ar), 127.1 (Ar), 135.7 (Ar), 138.1 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_{\rm P} = 114.6$ (s) ppm. MS(EI): *m/z* (%) = 617 (55) [M⁺], 583 (8) [M⁺ – Cl], 500 (76, ligand).

[(2,6-*i***Pr₂C₆H₃N)(***t***BuNP)]₂TiCl₂ (14): A toluene solution of** *cis***-[(2,6-***i***Pr₂C₆H₃NH)(***t***BuNP)]₂ (2) (3.65 g, 6.56 mmol) and Ti(NMe₂)₄ (1.47 g, 6.55 mmol) were treated as described above. The titanium(***iv***) bis-amido complex, generated in situ, [(2,6***i***Pr₂C₆H₃N)(***t***BuNP)]₂Ti(NMe₂)₂ (14a) was then characterized by ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): \delta_{\rm H} = 1.32 (s, 18 H,** *t***Bu), 1.39 (d, 24 H, CH₃,** *i***Pr), 3.00–3.23 (12 H, NMe₂), 3.91 (m, 4 H, CH,** *i***Pr), 6.90–7.30 (6 H, H-Ar) ppm ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): \delta_{\rm C} = 24.2 (CH₃,** *i***Pr), 31.4 (t, J_{P,C} = 6.5 Hz, CH₃,** *t***Bu), 33.6 (d, J = 1 Hz, CH,** *i***Pr), 45.7 (NMe₂), 51.6 (t, J_{P,C} = 14.7 Hz, C,** *t***Bu), 123.0 (Ar), 123.9 (Ar), 136.3 (t, J = 1.9 Hz, Ar), 140.9 (Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): \delta_{\rm P} = 115.6 (s) ppm.**

To obtain the dichloride complex, Me₃SiCl (9 mL, 7.47 g, 69 mmol) was added to the red-brown solution of [(2,6*i*Pr₂C₆H₃N)(*t*BuNP)]₂Ti(NMe₂)₂ (14a) via syringe, and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The so-obtained product was then purified similarly to 13 to afford a redbrown oil that was treated with Et₂O to give a red-brown solid after drying in vacuo (3.60 g, 81 %). C₃₂H₅₂Cl₂N₄P₂Ti (673.5): calcd. C 57.07, H 7.78, N 8.32; found C 56.83, H 7.98, N 8.44. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.32$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 1.39 (d, 24 H, CH₃, *i*Pr), 3.88 (m, 4 H, CH, *i*Pr), 7.10–7.60 (6 H, H–Ar) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 24.2$ (CH_3, iPr) , 31.4 (t, $J_{PC} = 6.7$ Hz, CH_3 , tBu), 32.1 (d, J = 1 Hz, CH, *i*Pr), 51.3 (t, $J_{PC} = 14.5$ Hz, C, *t*Bu), 122.5 (Ar), 124.0 (Ar), 130.7 (Ar), 140.9 (Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_{\rm P} = 115.6$ (s) ppm. MS (EI): m/z (%) = 672 (10) [M⁺], 639 (8) $[M^+ - Cl]$, 556 (90, ligand).

[(2,5-tBu₂C₆H₃N)(tBuNP)]₂TiCl₂ (15): A toluene solution of cis- $[(2,5-tBu_2C_6H_3NH)(tBuNP)]_2$ (5) (2.73 g, 4.46 mmol) and $Ti(NMe_2)_4$ (1.0 g, 4.46 mmol) was treated in the same way as 13. The resultant titanium(IV) bis-amido complex, generated in situ, $[(2,5-tBu_2C_6H_3N)(tBuNP)]_2Ti(NMe_2)_2$ (15a) was characterized by ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.44$ (s, 36 H, *t*BuAr), 1.57 (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 3.19 (12 H, NMe₂), 6.98 (dd, $J_1 = 6.2$, $J_2 = 2.1$ Hz, 2 H, 4-H–Ph), 7.36 (2 H, 3-H-Ph), 8.23 (dd, $J_1 = 3.1$, $J_2 = 2.1$ Hz, 2 H, 2-H-Ph) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{C} = 31.0$ (CH₃, 5-*t*BuAr), 31.3 (t, $J_{P,C} = 6.5$ Hz, *C*H₃, *t*Bu), 31.5 (*C*H₃, 2-*t*BuAr), 33.1 (C, 5-tBuAr), 34.0 (C, 2-tBuAr), 45.2 (NMe₂), 51.7 (t, $J_{P,C} =$ 13.7 Hz, C, tBu), 113.8 (Ar), 114.5 (Ar), 117.1 (Ar), 131.2 (Ar), 141.9 (Ar), 150.0 (t, J = 1.2 Hz, Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): δ_P = 98.86 (s) ppm.

To obtain the dichloride complex, Me_3SiCl (5.9 mL, 5.09 g, 46.8 mmol) was added to the red-brown solution of $[(2,5-tBu_2C_6H_3N)(tBuNP)]_2Ti(NMe_2)_2$ (15a) and the reaction mixture stirred overnight at room temperature. All volatiles were then removed in vacuo and the residue was extracted three times with a

mixture of hexane (30 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). After removal of the solvent, the product was washed with several portions (each 10 mL) of cold pentane and dried. A red-brown powder (2.40 g, 73.8%) was isolated. C₃₆H₆₀Cl₂N₄P₂Ti (729.7): calcd. C 59.26, H 8.29, N 7.68; found C 58.94, H 8.41, N 7.86. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm H} = 1.39$ (s, 36 H, *t*BuAr), 1.52 (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 6.93 (dd, ¹J = 6.2, ²J = 2.1 Hz, 2 H2 Hz, 4-H-Ar), 7.32 (2 H, 3-H-Ar), 8.17 (dd, ¹J = 3.1, ²J = 2.1 Hz, 2 H, 2-H-Ar) ppm. ¹³C{¹H} NMR (50.3 MHz, [D₆]benzene, 29 °C): $\delta_{\rm C} = 31.0$ (CH₃, 5-*t*BuAr), 31.4 (t, *J*_{P,C} = 6.0 Hz, CH₃, *t*Bu), 31.5 (CH₃, 2-*t*BuAr), 33.1 (*C*, 5-*t*BuAr), 34.5 (*C*, 2-*t*BuAr), 51.7 (t, *J*_{P,C} = 13.7 Hz, *C*, *t*Bu), 113.8 (Ar), 114.5 (Ar), 117.1 (Ar), 131.1 (Ar), 137.8 (Ar), 150.0 (Ar) ppm. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 21 °C): $\delta_{\rm P} = 99.72$ (s) ppm. MS (E1): *m/z* (%) = 728 (20) [M⁺], 693 (10) [M⁺ - Cl], 612 (40, ligand).

Polymerization Experiments: A 1-L glass autoclave (manufacturer Büchi) was charged with toluene (200 mL) and cocatalyst (MAO) (Al/Ti ratio was 1000), thermostatted (50 or 70 °C), saturated with ethene (3.8 bar), and the desired amount of complex solution was then added. The monomer pressure (\pm 50 mbar) and temperature (\pm 0.5 °C) were kept constant during each polymerization run. Monomer consumption, polymerization temperature and pressure were controlled by real-time monitoring. The polymerizations were quenched with 10 % HCl solution in methanol, and the polymer precipitated quantitatively by pouring the solution into methanol (400 mL) acidified with aqueous hydrochloric acid. The samples were washed several times with methanol and water, and dried at 60 °C.

X-ray Crystallographic Study: Crystal data of compounds **3–5** were collected with an Enraf–Nonius CAD-4 single-crystal diffractometer at 193(2) K using Cu- K_{α} radiation (graphite mono-chromator), 1.54179 Å (scan-type omega/2-theta). Intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects with XCAD4.^[26,27]

The crystal data of compound **9** were collected with a Rigaku AFC-7S single-crystal diffractometer at 193(2) K using Mo- K_{α} radiation (graphite monochromator), 0.71073 Å (omega/2-theta scans). Intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects with TEXSAN.^[28] A psi-scan absorption correction was made for each compound.^[29]

The crystal data of compound **11a** were collected with a Nonius KappaCCD area-detector diffractometer at 173(2) K using Mo- K_a radiation (graphite monochromator), 0.71073 Å. Data reduction: COLLECT;^[30] absorption correction: SADABS.^[31]

Solution and refinement: SHELX-97,^[32,33] direct methods. All nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were refined on calculated positions. The displacement factors of the Hatoms were $1.2 \times (1.5 \times)$ that of the host atom. Data relating to the structure determinations are collected in Table 5. CCDC-213508 to -213512 (for compounds **3**–**5**, **9**, **11a**) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge at www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html [or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: (internat.) +44-1223/336-033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

Acknowledgments

Financial support for this research by CIMO, University of Helsinki and the Academy of Finland is gratefully acknowledged.

Table 5. Crystallographic data for compounds 3-5, 9, 11a

Compound	3	4	5	9	11a
Formula	$C_{28}H_{46}N_4P_2$	$C_{22}H_{28}F_6N_4P_2$	$C_{36}H_{62}N_4P_2$	C ₃₆ H ₆₀ Li ₂ N ₄ O ₃ P ₂	$C_{24}H_{40}N_6P_2T_1$
Fw	500.63	524.42	612.84	672.70	522.46
Space group	$P2_1/n$	$P\overline{1}$	$P2_{1}2_{1}2_{1}$	C2/c	$P2_1/c$
a, Å	10.130(1)	9.251(1)	9.885(1)	14.761(5)	11.903(1)
b, Å	18.899(1)	11.010(1)	18.136(1)	15.070(3)	22.667(2)
<i>c</i> , Å	15.907(1)	13.790(1)	21.012(1)	17.815(3)	11.699(1)
α , deg	90	81.44(1)	90	90	90
β, deg	98.19(1)	82.66(1)	90	98.94(2)	115.808(1)
γ, deg	90	69.440(10)	90	90	90
$V, Å^3$	3014.3(4)	1296.1(2)	3766.9(5)	3914.8(17)	2841.6(4)
$d_{\rm calcd}$ g cm ⁻³	1.103	1.344	1.081	1.141	1.221
Z	4	2	4	4	4
μ , cm ⁻¹	14.60	20.73	12.45	1.48	0.436
λ. Å	1.54179	1.54179	1.54179	0.71073	0.71073
T, K	193(2)	193(2)	193(2)	193(2)	173(2)
$R^{[a]}$	0.0675	0.0486	0.0433	0.0835	0.0613
$R_w^{[b]}$	0.1911	0.1417	0.1158	0.2345	0.1434

^[a] $R = \Sigma F_{o} - F_{c} / \Sigma F_{o}$ for observed reflections $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$. ^[b] $Rw = \{\Sigma [w(F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})^{2}] / \Sigma [w(F_{o}^{2})^{2}] \}^{1/2}$ for all data.

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Received July 21, 2003

Early View Article

Published Online December 19, 2003