Summary: The nonionic, red-emitting complexes [Os-(fppz)2L2] (L = PPhMe [1], PPhMe [2]) and [Os-(bptz)2L2] (L = PPhMe [3]) were synthesized, showing highly intense red phosphorescence emission in CH2Cl2 solution at λmax 617, 632, and 649 nm, respectively. The electroluminescent properties of these compounds on OLEDs showed promising device efficiencies required for future OLED applications.

Organometallic complex containing third-row transition-metal elements are crucial for the fabrication of organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs). The strong spin-orbit coupling induced by these heavy-metal ions promotes an efficient intersystem crossing from the singlet to the triplet state, which then facilitates high internal quantum efficiencies (ηint) for the OLEDs through utilization of both singlet and triplet excitons. As a result, these phosphorescent molecules become increasingly important. With regard to the goal of achieving three primary colors, the design and synthesis of red emitters presents a particular challenge, because their luminescence quantum yield tends to be low due to the smaller energy gap. 2 Despite this limitation, however, success has been achieved in the preparation of Ir(III) and Pt(II) red emitters. Recently, some red-emitting Os(II) phosphors have begun to receive intensive study. Unfortunately, because of their ionic nature, these OLED devices suffered inferior performance compared with the neutral Ir(III) counterparts. This is, in part, attributed to the lack of strong binding between the cationic emitters and their counteranions within the host matrix. Accordingly, it is proposed that only with the utilization of neutral Os(II) emitters can the goal of practical OLED applications be achieved. In this paper, a new series of such Os(II) emitting complexes are prepared, the molecular structure of which consists of two chelates containing either 3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)pyrazole (fppzH) or the corresponding 3-tert-butyl triazole (bptzH), to balance the 2+ charge on the Os(II) cation, and two phosphine donors located at the trans positions to complete the symmetrical octahedral coordination requirement.

Preparation of these Os(II) complexes requires the exploitation of the recently described blue-emitting pyridyl pyrazolate complex [Os(fppz2)(CO)2] or its relevant triazolate analogue [Os(bptz2)(CO)2]. The desired synthesis was first initiated by the treatment of Me2NO to eliminate the CO ligands, followed by addition of corresponding phosphine ligands. The synthetic scheme has led to the successful isolation of the red-emitting

part, attributed to the lack of strong binding between the cationic emitters and their counteranions within the host matrix. Accordingly, it is proposed that only with the utilization of neutral Os(II) emitters can the goal of practical OLED applications be achieved. In this paper, a new series of such Os(II) emitting complexes are prepared, the molecular structure of which consists of two chelates containing either 3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)pyrazole (fppzH) or the corresponding 3-tert-butyl triazole (bptzH), to balance the 2+ charge on the Os(II) cation, and two phosphine donors located at the trans positions to complete the symmetrical octahedral coordination requirement.

Preparation of these Os(II) complexes requires the exploitation of the recently described blue-emitting pyridyl pyrazolate complex [Os(fppz2)(CO)2] or its relevant triazolate analogue [Os(bptz2)(CO)2]. The desired synthesis was first initiated by the treatment of Me2NO to eliminate the CO ligands, followed by addition of corresponding phosphine ligands. The synthetic scheme has led to the successful isolation of the red-emitting

part, attributed to the lack of strong binding between the cationic emitters and their counteranions within the host matrix. Accordingly, it is proposed that only with the utilization of neutral Os(II) emitters can the goal of practical OLED applications be achieved. In this paper, a new series of such Os(II) emitting complexes are prepared, the molecular structure of which consists of two chelates containing either 3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)pyrazole (fppzH) or the corresponding 3-tert-butyl triazole (bptzH), to balance the 2+ charge on the Os(II) cation, and two phosphine donors located at the trans positions to complete the symmetrical octahedral coordination requirement.

Preparation of these Os(II) complexes requires the exploitation of the recently described blue-emitting pyridyl pyrazolate complex [Os(fppz2)(CO)2] or its relevant triazolate analogue [Os(bptz2)(CO)2]. The desired synthesis was first initiated by the treatment of Me2NO to eliminate the CO ligands, followed by addition of corresponding phosphine ligands. The synthetic scheme has led to the successful isolation of the red-emitting

part, attributed to the lack of strong binding between the cationic emitters and their counteranions within the host matrix. Accordingly, it is proposed that only with the utilization of neutral Os(II) emitters can the goal of practical OLED applications be achieved. In this paper, a new series of such Os(II) emitting complexes are prepared, the molecular structure of which consists of two chelates containing either 3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)pyrazole (fppzH) or the corresponding 3-tert-butyl triazole (bptzH), to balance the 2+ charge on the Os(II) cation, and two phosphine donors located at the trans positions to complete the symmetrical octahedral coordination requirement.

Preparation of these Os(II) complexes requires the exploitation of the recently described blue-emitting pyridyl pyrazolate complex [Os(fppz2)(CO)2] or its relevant triazolate analogue [Os(bptz2)(CO)2]. The desired synthesis was first initiated by the treatment of Me2NO to eliminate the CO ligands, followed by addition of corresponding phosphine ligands. The synthetic scheme has led to the successful isolation of the red-emitting

part, attributed to the lack of strong binding between the cationic emitters and their counteranions within the host matrix. Accordingly, it is proposed that only with the utilization of neutral Os(II) emitters can the goal of practical OLED applications be achieved. In this paper, a new series of such Os(II) emitting complexes are prepared, the molecular structure of which consists of two chelates containing either 3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)pyrazole (fppzH) or the corresponding 3-tert-butyl triazole (bptzH), to balance the 2+ charge on the Os(II) cation, and two phosphine donors located at the trans positions to complete the symmetrical octahedral coordination requirement.

Preparation of these Os(II) complexes requires the exploitation of the recently described blue-emitting pyridyl pyrazolate complex [Os(fppz2)(CO)2] or its relevant triazolate analogue [Os(bptz2)(CO)2]. The desired synthesis was first initiated by the treatment of Me2NO to eliminate the CO ligands, followed by addition of corresponding phosphine ligands. The synthetic scheme has led to the successful isolation of the red-emitting

part, attributed to the lack of strong binding between the cationic emitters and their counteranions within the host matrix. Accordingly, it is proposed that only with the utilization of neutral Os(II) emitters can the goal of practical OLED applications be achieved. In this paper, a new series of such Os(II) emitting complexes are prepared, the molecular structure of which consists of two chelates containing either 3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)pyrazole (fppzH) or the corresponding 3-tert-butyl triazole (bptzH), to balance the 2+ charge on the Os(II) cation, and two phosphine donors located at the trans positions to complete the symmetrical octahedral coordination requirement.
complexes [Os(fppz)2L2] (L = PPh2Me (1), PPhMe2 (2)) and [Os(bptz)2L2] (L = PPh2Me (3)) in moderate yields (40−72%). These Os complexes were fully characterized using routine spectroscopic methods, while complex 1 was further examined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis.

As depicted in Figure 1, the Os atom of 1 is located at a crystallographic center of inversion. The molecular frame reveals an octahedral configuration where two chelating fppz ligands establish a nearly planar OsN4 basal arrangement, together with two PPh2Me ligands located at the axial dispositions. The planar ligand arrangement is analogous to that of the porphinato ligand in metalloporphyrins such as [Os(TTP)(PPh3)2] (TTP = meso-tetrathiaporphophinate) and [Os(TPP)(CO)-Im] (Im = 1-methylimidazole). The measured Os−N(pz) distances of 2.073(2) Å in 1 are slightly shorter than the respective Os−N(py) bonds of 2.090(2) Å; both lengths fall in the range expected for a typical N−Os11 dative bond. Of particular interest are the relatively weak nonbonding contacts (N3A···C1 = 3.305 Å and N3A···N1 = 3.305 Å) observed between the ortho hydrogen atom of the pyridil moiety and the N atom of the nearby pyrazolate fragment. In good agreement with this observation, the 1H NMR spectrum revealed a significantly downfield signal at δ 10.40, giving an additional indication of the deshielding effect exerted by the N atom. It is speculated that this H bonding, to a certain extent, is akin to that observed in the cobaloxime complexes.8

The absorption and luminescence spectra of complexes 1−3 in CH2Cl2 are shown in Figure 2. The strong absorption bands in the UV region are assigned to the spin-allowed 1T→1T* transition of the fppz (or bptz) ligands, owing to their spectral similarity to the free fppz (or bptz) anion. The next lower energy absorption can be ascribed to a typical spin-allowed metal to ligand charge transfer (MLCT) transition, while two absorption bands extending into the visible region are associated with the spin−orbit coupling enhanced 2T→1T* and 3MLCT transitions. Further luminescence properties (vide infra) support 3MLCT to be in the lowest triplet state with peak wavelengths at 542 nm (ε = 1300 M−1 cm−1), 553 nm (ε = 1600 M−1 cm−1), and 560 nm (ε = 950 M−1 cm−1) for complexes 1−3, respectively. It is notable that substitution with strong electron donors such as PPh2Me and PPhMe2 ligands not only increases the entire transition dipole moment but also causes a significant red shift due to the enhancement of dative interactions with Os(II), hence raising the d orbital energy level of the Os metal center. A similar mechanism has been proposed to delineate the electron-donating effect for the Os(II) polypyrrolid complexes.9

Highly intense luminescence was observed for 1−3 with λmax located at 617, 632, and 649 nm, respectively. The entire emission band originating from a triplet state manifold was ascertained by the O2 quenching rate constant of ∼1.78 × 108 M−1 s−1 for 1−3 in CH2Cl2. The significant overlap of the 0−0 onsets between emission and the lowest energy absorption band, in combination with a broad, structureless spectral feature, leads us to conclude that the phosphorescence originates primarily from the 3MLCT state. In comparison to 2 coordinated with PPhMe2 ligands, complex 1 bearing the PPh2Me group reveals a ∼15 nm hypsochromic shift in λmax and can qualitatively be rationalized by a decrease of Os(II) d orbital energy level due to the electron-withdrawing strength of an additional phenyl substituent. Table 1 lists the corresponding photophysical data for the studied complexes in both solution and solid phases. The observed lifetimes of ca. 0.6−0.9 μs in degassed CH2Cl2 are considerably shorter than those of most reported red-emitting Ir(III) complexes.10 In the solid state, the emission maximum for these osmium phosphors shifts to the red, possibly due to molecular packing, and the lifetime falls within the range of 0.4−0.6 μs (Table 1). The emission quantum efficiencies of 1−3 lie within the range 0.19−0.50 in CH2Cl2 and 0.1−
Table 1. Photophysical, Electrochemical, and Device Properties for 1–3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UV/vis abs (nm (ε))</td>
<td>405 (14700)</td>
<td>411 (15500)</td>
<td>406 (11100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>454 (2400)</td>
<td>456 (2600)</td>
<td>466 (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>542 (1300)</td>
<td>552 (1600)</td>
<td>560 (950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL λmax (nm)</td>
<td>617 (618)</td>
<td>632 (655)</td>
<td>649 (670)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>φa</td>
<td>0.50 (0.21)</td>
<td>0.19 (0.29)</td>
<td>0.25 (0.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>τmax (ns)</td>
<td>855 (631)</td>
<td>725 (610)</td>
<td>634 (440)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2ox/(V)</td>
<td>−0.15</td>
<td>−0.22</td>
<td>−0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EL λmax (nm)</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kmax (cm⁻³/s)</td>
<td>3276</td>
<td>2155</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ηmax (cd/A)</td>
<td>~4.0</td>
<td>~3.0</td>
<td>~1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V @ 1 cd/m²</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Samples were degassed and recorded in CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature with ε in M⁻¹ cm⁻¹. b Data in parentheses are measured in solid state at room temperature. c OLED device structure: ITO/PVK:Os/PBD(200 Å)/LiF(10 Å)/Al(1500 Å). d Reversible oxidation potential referenced to Fc/Fc⁺.

In the solid state, the results correlate well with unusually large extinction coefficients measured for the 3MLCT bands and thus are very desirable for OLED-related applications.

The electrochemical behavior of these Os complexes was investigated by cyclic voltammetry using ferrocene as the internal standard. During the anodic scan in CH₂Cl₂, all Os complexes exhibited reversible oxidation with potential in the region −0.15 to −0.25 V (Table 1). As the oxidation mainly occurs at the Os metal site, the formal oxidation potential is strongly dependent on the coordination environment of the osmium; i.e., good donor strength of the ancillary ligand would shift the oxidative potential to a more negative value. This was demonstrated by the fact that replacement of PPh₂Me by the more electron-donating PPH₂Me₂ decreased the oxidative potential from −0.15 V of 1 to −0.22 V of 2, while substitution of the fppz ligands with less electron deficient bptz ligands led to a cathodic shift to −0.25 V in 3. It is noteworthy that the oxidation potentials of these Os complexes are significantly less than those of Os(II) complexes such as [Os(bpy)₂L₂]²⁺ (L = cis-1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethylene), which has E₁/₂ox = 0.87 V. The largely cathodic shift of Os complexes 1–3 is apparently due to their neutral characteristics.

The electroluminescence (EL) spectra of OLEDs based on 1–3 are shown in Figure S1 of the Supporting Information. The energy transfer from the host material with better charge carrier transport properties to a lower work-function cathode, such as Ca or MgAg alloy.

In summary, we have demonstrated the synthesis, spectral and electrochemical properties, and OLED applications of a series of neutral red-emitting Os(II) complexes. In contrast to most previously reported Os(II) red emitters with ionic character, in which the diffusion of the counterions might seriously deteriorate the device performance, this new series of complexes comprises discrete, neutral molecules that would remain at their fixed positions upon electron and hole injection. Moreover, the higher HOMO level at the Os(II) center, which is induced by the superior donor ability of anionic fppz (or bptz), may also contribute to more efficient energy transfer and carrier trapping, giving additional advantages to the overall device efficiency for complexes 1–3.

**Experimental Section**

**General Experiments.** All reactions were performed under nitrogen. Solvents were distilled from appropriate drying agents prior to use. Commercially available reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise stated. All reactions were monitored by TLC with Merck precoated glass plates (0.20 mm with fluorescent indicator UV 254). Flash column chromatography was carried out using silica gel from Merck (230–400 mesh).

**Preparation of 1.** Freshly sublimed Me₃NO (90 mg, 1.19 mmol) was first dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL), and the resulting solution was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of [Os(fppz)₂(CO)₂] (200 mg, 0.25 mmol) in toluene (30 mL), giving a clear, yellow orange solution after stirring for 2 min at room temperature. The phosphine ligand PPh₂Me (567 mL, 3.0 mmol) was then added, and the mixture was brought to reflux for 3 h, during which time the color was found to change to bright red. The reaction was then stopped, toluene solvent and excess phosphine ligand were removed under vacuum, the solid residue was dissolved in 50 mL of ethyl acetate, and this solution was washed with distilled water (30 mL × 2) to remove the remaining Me₃NO. The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was removed in vacuo to yield red-orange crude product. Further purification was conducted by silica gel column chromatography using a 1:1 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane, followed by recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂ and hexane, giving a red-orange crystalline solid (300 mg, 0.18 mmol); yield 72%. Complexes 2 and 3 were prepared in an analogous manner.

**Spectral data of 1 are as follows.** MS (EI, 192Os; observed m/z (assignment)): 1015 [M⁺], 814 [M⁺ – PPh₂Me], 614 [M⁺ – 2PPh₂Me], 14H NMR (400 MHz, d6-acetone): δ 10.40 (d, 2H,
**J** = 6.0 Hz, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>, 7.32 (ddd, 2H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 7.6, 6.0, 1.2 Hz, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>), 7.15–6.84 (m, 20H, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>, **H**<sub>pσ</sub>), 6.73 (s, 2H, **H**<sub>pσ</sub>), 6.66–6.14 (m, 4H, **H**<sub>pσ</sub>), 6.16 (t, 6H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 3.2 Hz, Me). 19F NMR (470 MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-acetone): δ <sup>19</sup>F = –59.8 (s). 31P NMR (202 MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-acetone): δ <sup>31</sup>P = –17.4 (s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>36</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 52.07; N, 8.28; H, 3.58. Found: C, 51.99; N, 8.17; H, 3.78.

Spectral data of 2 are as follows. MS (FAB, 192Os; observed m/z [assignment]): 892 [M + ]<sup>+</sup>, 754 [M + – PPhMe<sub>2</sub>], 616 [M + – 2PPhMe<sub>2</sub>]. 1H NMR (400 MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-acetone): δ 10.31 (dd, 2H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 6.6, 0.8 Hz, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>), 7.56–7.48 (m, 4H, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>), 7.05 (ddd, 2H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 6.6, 6.8, 0.8 Hz, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>), 6.94–6.87 (m, 8H, **H**<sub>pσ</sub>, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>), 6.42–6.38 (m, 4H, **H**<sub>pσ</sub>), 0.80 (t, 6H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 3.6 Hz, Me), 0.60 (t, 6H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 3.6 Hz, Me). 19F NMR (470 MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-acetone): δ <sup>19</sup>F = –59.5 (s). 31P NMR (202 MHz, d<sub>6</sub>-acetone): δ <sup>31</sup>P = –19.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>36</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 45.84; N, 9.43; H, 3.62. Found: C, 46.00; N, 9.43; H, 3.81.

Spectral data of 3 are as follows. MS (FAB, 192Os; observed m/z [assignment]): 994 [M + ]<sup>+</sup>, 794 [M + – PPh<sub>2</sub>Me], 594 [M + – 2PPh<sub>2</sub>Me]. 1H NMR (500 MHz, d<sub>4</sub>-methanol): δ 10.37 (d, 2H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 4.8 Hz, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>), 7.34 (d, 4H, **J**<sub>pπ</sub> = 4.8 Hz, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>), 7.09–6.86 (m, 18H, **H**<sub>pπ</sub>, **H**<sub>pσ</sub>), 6.62–6.59 (m, 4H, **H**<sub>pσ</sub>), 1.63 (s, 18H, **Bu<sub>2</sub>P**<sub>2</sub>Me), 0.90 (s, br, 6H, Me). 31P NMR (202 MHz, d<sub>4</sub>-methanol): δ <sup>31</sup>P = –19.6 (s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>52</sub>N<sub>8</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 58.05; N, 11.28; H, 5.28. Found: C, 57.71; N, 11.28; H, 5.40.

**X-ray Structural Analysis.** Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data of 1 were measured on a Bruker SMART CCD diffractometer using λ(Mo Kα) radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å). The data collection was executed using the SMART program. Cell refinement and data reduction were carried out with the SAINT program. The structure was determined using the SHELXTL/PC program and refined using full-matrix least squares. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, whereas hydrogen atoms were placed at calculated positions and included in the final stage of refinements with fixed parameters.

Selected crystal data of 1: C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>36</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, M<sub>r</sub> = 1014.93, triclinic, space group P<sub>1</sub><sub>1</sub><sub>1</sub>, a = 10.4469(5) Å, b = 10.5233(6) Å, c = 10.6829(6) Å, α = 71.968(1)<sup>°</sup>, β = 62.053(1)<sup>°</sup>, γ = 82.167(1)<sup>°</sup>, V = 986.46(9) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 1, ρ<sub>calc</sub> = 1.708 g cm<sup>–3</sup>, F(000) = 502, crystal size 0.35 × 0.30 × 0.25 mm, λ(Mo Kα) = 0.7107 Å, T = 295 K, μ = 3.383 mm<sup>–1</sup>, 4516 reflections collected (R<sub>int</sub> = 0.0253), final R1(I > 2σ(I)) = 0.0182, wR2(all data) = 0.0438.

**Acknowledgment.** We thank the National Science Council of Taiwan for financial support (Grant Nos. NSC 91-2119-M-002-016 and NSC 91-2113-M-007-006).

**Supporting Information Available:** Text giving experimental procedures involving photophysical and electrochemical data and OLED device fabrication and a CIF file giving X-ray data for 1. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

OM0498246