

# Supplementary Materials: Chemical Adsorption of HF, HCl, and H<sub>2</sub>O onto YF<sub>3</sub> and Isostructural HoF<sub>3</sub> Surfaces by First Principles

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## 1. Computational Method Validation

### 1.1. Potential Files

We used the hard potential files for atoms available as recommended by VASP for very small bond distances, as e.g. the case for H–F, a central molecule of this study. We tested the effect of the hard potential files F\_h and H\_h vs. the normal ones F and H while keeping all other parameters, including the kinetic cutoff value constant as given in computational details. The first test system is the simple free, molecular HF in vacuum, which we need to calculate  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  of the adsorbed systems. When using the hard potential files, a bond distance of  $R_{\text{H-F}} = 93.15$  pm is obtained. With the normal potential files, the bond elongates significantly by 0.62 pm. According to NIST, the experimental bond length is  $R_{\text{H-F}} = 91.68$  pm [2] or by calculation e.g. 91.7 pm at the CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVQZ level [1]. Consequently, the bond elongation equals a worse description.

We also tested the effect onto the surfaces by single point calculations with the normal potential files onto bare (100) and adsorbed (100)·HF isomer c (see Figure S5 c) built and relaxed at the hard potential file setup as described in the computational details. The adsorption energy obtained by applying the normal potential files is by  $-3.4$  kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup> or

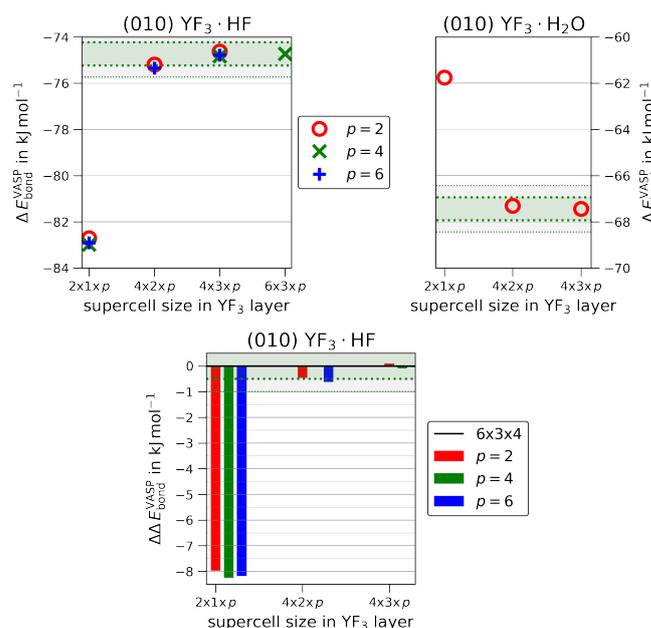
4% stronger. Thus the normal vs. hard potential files also have a considerable effect on the adsorption energies.

### 1.2. Supercell Size

To ensure isolated adsorptions with non-interacting adsorbates, we tested supercell sizes ( $n \times m \times p$ ) with  $n, m, p = \{1 - 3\}$  UC onto the (010) surface with a single HF or H<sub>2</sub>O molecule adsorbed. Note that each (010) UC corresponds to  $(2 \times 1 \times 2)$  YF<sub>3</sub>-layers. The atomic positions of the adsorbate and the first YF<sub>3</sub>-layer are relaxed. All other parameters equal those given within in the computational details for the isolated adsorption setup of the main paper.

**Table S1.** Scope of supercell size convergence onto the (010) YF<sub>3</sub> surface with a single adsorbate. Each column gives the supercell thickness in unit cell copies (UC) and YF<sub>3</sub>-layers perpendicular to the surface. The supercells of 1 UC thickness are done for a single adsorbate of HF or H<sub>2</sub>O:

YF <sub>3</sub> ·HF + YF <sub>3</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O		YF <sub>3</sub> ·HF		YF <sub>3</sub> ·HF	
UC	layer	UC	layer	UC	layer
1 × 1 × 1	2 × 1 × 2	1 × 1 × 2	2 × 1 × 4	1 × 1 × 3	2 × 1 × 6
2 × 2 × 1	4 × 2 × 2	2 × 2 × 2	4 × 2 × 4	2 × 2 × 3	4 × 2 × 6
2 × 3 × 1	4 × 3 × 2	2 × 3 × 2	4 × 3 × 4	2 × 3 × 3	4 × 3 × 6
		3 × 3 × 2	6 × 3 × 4		



**Figure S1.** Supercell size convergence of  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  for the (010) YF<sub>3</sub> surface with a single adsorbate of HF (top left) or H<sub>2</sub>O (top right). The x-axis gives the thickness perpendicular to the surface ( $p$ ) in YF<sub>3</sub>-layers. The difference to the biggest supercell ( $\Delta E_{\text{bond}} - \Delta E_{\text{bond}}(6 \times 3 \times 4)$ ) is plotted for YF<sub>3</sub>·HF (bottom). The green dotted lines and shaded areas visualize  $\pm 1.0$  and  $\pm 0.5$   $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ , respectively.

Comparing the two in-surface-plane lattice vectors, we find that the effect onto YF<sub>3</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O is smaller than on YF<sub>3</sub>·HF. Therefore, the bigger supercell tests were only done for the slower converging YF<sub>3</sub>·HF. When increasing from the unit cell of  $(2 \times 1)$  YF<sub>3</sub> layers to a  $(2 \times 2)$  supercell of  $(4 \times 2)$  YF<sub>3</sub> layers, the difference in  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  is as large as 7–8  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ . A further increase to the square-like supercell of  $(4 \times 3)$  YF<sub>3</sub> layers, only changes  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  by 0.5  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ . The next possible supercell of  $(6 \times 3)$  YF<sub>3</sub> layers alters the  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  by as little as 0.1  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ . We thus consider a supercell size of  $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$  in UC or  $(4 \times 3 \times 4)$  in YF<sub>3</sub>-layers as converged. This corresponds to almost square-like dimensions

of  $12.6430 \text{ \AA} \times 12.9900 \text{ \AA} \times 13.6118 \text{ \AA}$ . The  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  differed by as little as  $0.5 \text{ kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$  compared to the largest tested supercell area of  $18.9645 \text{ \AA} \times 12.9900 \text{ \AA} \times 13.6118 \text{ \AA}$  by  $(6 \times 3 \times 4)$   $\text{YF}_3$ -layers. For the other surface cuts, supercells have been chosen that keep the dimensions similar.

Upon increasing the supercell thickness, the changes in relaxed adsorption energy  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  are very low. 2  $\text{YF}_3$ -layers perpendicular to the surface give already a converged  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$ . However, for the substoichiometric (101) surfaces, these were found to be unstable within the atomic position relaxations. Consequently, a thickness of 4  $\text{MF}_3$ -layers is used for all supercells.

**Table S2.** Converged supercell sizes of all surface cuts with their corresponding surface area ( $A_{\text{surf}}$ ), the total number of formula units ( $N_{\text{f.u.}}$ ) and atoms within the supercell ( $N_{\text{atoms}}$ ):

$(hkl)$	in UC	in layers	$A_{\text{surf}}$ in $\text{\AA}^2$	$N_{\text{f.u.}}$	$N_{\text{atoms}}$
(010)	$(2 \times 3 \times 2)$	$(4 \times 3 \times 4)$	$(12.6430 \times 12.9900)$	48	192
(100)	$(2 \times 3 \times 2)$	$(4 \times 3 \times 4)$	$(13.6117 \times 12.9900)$	48	192
(101)	$(2 \times 2 \times 4)$	$(4 \times 4 \times 4)$	$(13.6117 \times 15.3245)$	64–8F	248
(011)	$(2 \times 2 \times 4)$	$(4 \times 4 \times 4)$	$(12.6430 \times 16.1330)$	64	256

## 2. AIMD

An overview of all AIMD runtimes and temperatures is given in Table S3. Within the pure HF monolayers, the issue of infinite HF-chains forming by the periodic boundary conditions was frequently encountered due to the relatively small lattice vectors within the surface plane. These Ads-Ads interactions gave a more favorable energy than the interaction towards the surface. Accordingly, it was not helpful to judge adsorption events by the energy time series of the trajectory.

**Table S3.** Overview of AIMD simulation at different temperatures for pure monolayers of  $\text{YF}_3 \cdot (\text{Ads})_4$  and 1:1 mixed monolayers of  $\text{YF}_3 \cdot (\text{Ads}_1)_4 \cdot (\text{Ads}_2)_4$  with summed up simulation times over all respective runs:

$(hkl)$	Ads	setup	$T$ in K	runtime in ps
(010)	HF	a	50	1
	HF	a	100	2.5
	HF	a	200	25
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	a	50	1
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	a	100	2.5
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	a	200	25
	HF:H <sub>2</sub> O 1:1	c	200	20
HCl:H <sub>2</sub> O 1:1	c	200	8	
(011)	HF	b	50	1
	HF	b	100	2.5
	HF	b	200	25
	HF	b	300	1
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	b	50	1
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	b	100	2.5
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	b	200	25
(101)	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	b	300	1
	HF	b	50	1
	HF	b	100	2.5
	HF	b	200	25
	HF	b	300	1
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	b	50	1
	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	b	100	2.5
$\text{H}_2\text{O}$	b	200	25	

### 3. Structural Scope

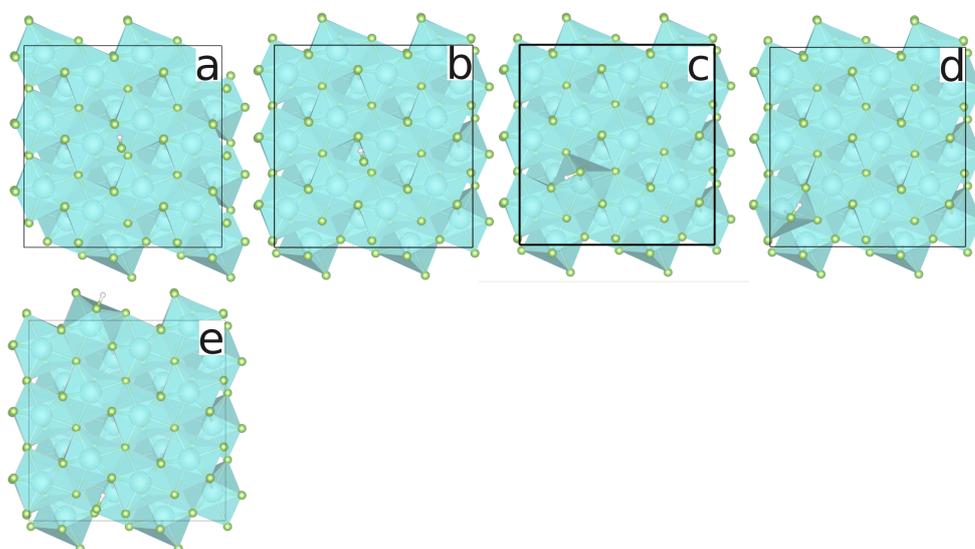
This section visualizes all found 44 single adsorption conformations grouped from 60 relaxed structures for  $\text{YF}_3$  and 58 for  $\text{HoF}_3$  done in the isolated setup. All final electronic structure data used to calculate  $\Delta E_{\text{int}}$  and  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  are available within the NOMAD repository (ID: xoipefEvRGOWfNVSx\_R1MA).

**Table S4.** Structural Scope of  $\text{MF}_3\text{-(Ads)}$  giving the total number of different final conformers with the total number of all respective starting structures in parenthesis:

$(hkl)$	$n$ Ads	$\text{YF}_3$	$\text{HoF}_3$
(010)	1 HF	5 (10)	5 (8)
	1 HCl	3 (6)	3 (6)
	1 $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3 (7)	3 (7)
(100)	1 HF	4 (4)	4 (4)
	1 HCl	5 (5)	5 (5)
	1 $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3 (4)	3 (3)
(011)	1 HF	3 (4)	3 (4)
	1 HCl	3 (4)	3 (4)
	1 $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2 (3)	2 (3)
(101)	1 HF	5 (5)	5 (5)
	1 HCl	4 (4)	4 (5)
	1 $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	4 (4)	4 (4)

#### 3.1. (010)

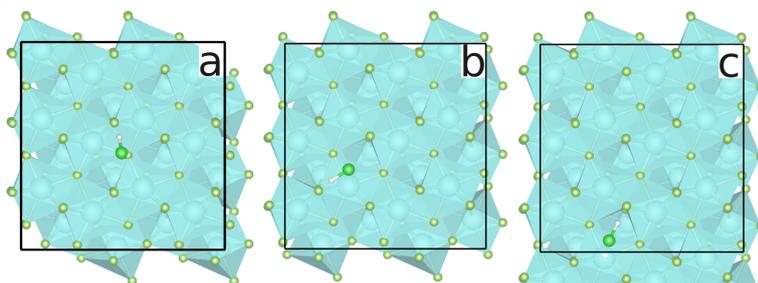
##### 3.1.1. HF



**Figure S2.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (010)-1HF in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$  bulk unit cells. Two  $\text{YF}_3$  structures were done for structural isomer c and five for structural isomer e. Three  $\text{HoF}_3$  structures were done for structural isomer c and two for structural isomer e.

## 3.1.2. HCl

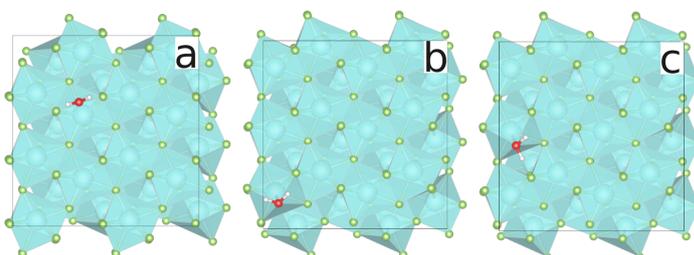
86



**Figure S3.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (010)-1HCl in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$  bulk unit cells. Three structures were done for structural isomer **b** and two for structural isomer **c**.

3.1.3. H<sub>2</sub>O

87



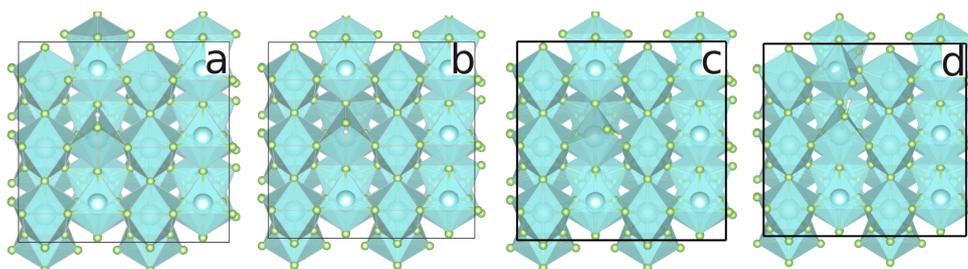
**Figure S4.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (010)-1H<sub>2</sub>O in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$  bulk unit cells. Three structures were done for structural isomer **b** and **c**.

## 3.2. (100)

88

## 3.2.1. HF

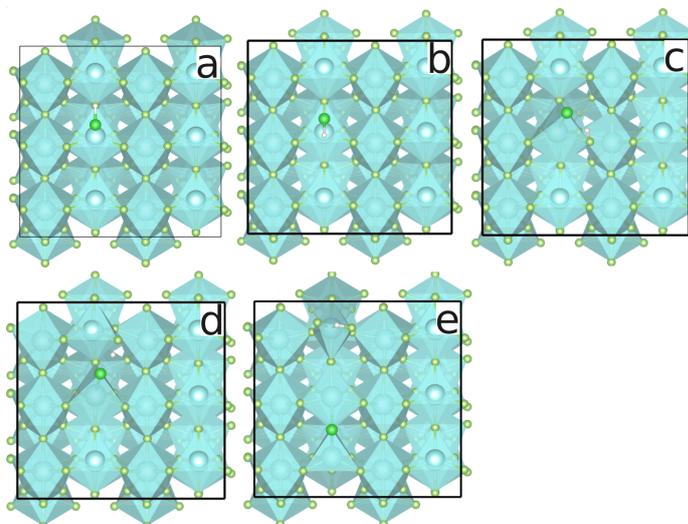
89



**Figure S5.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (100)-1HF in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$  bulk unit cells.

## 3.2.2. HCl

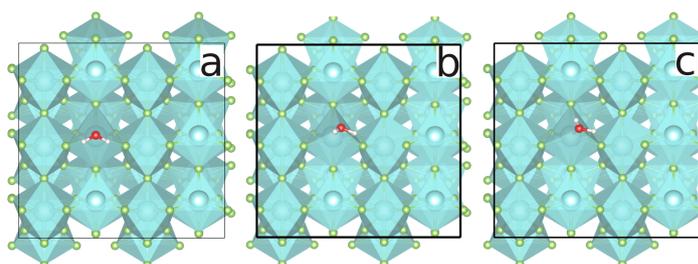
90



**Figure S6.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (100)-1HCl in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$  bulk unit cells.

3.2.3. H<sub>2</sub>O

91



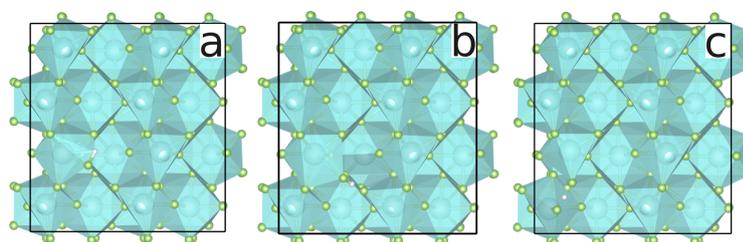
**Figure S7.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (100)-1H<sub>2</sub>O in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 3 \times 2)$  bulk unit cells. Two YF<sub>3</sub> structures were done for structural isomer a.

## 3.3. (011)

92

## 3.3.1. HF

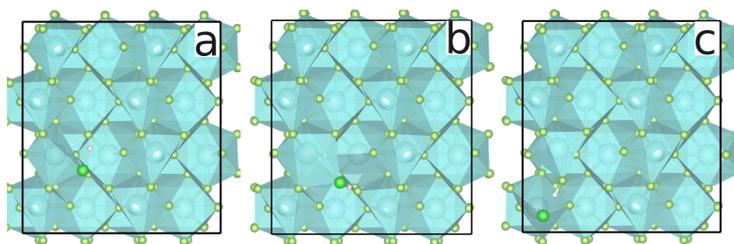
93



**Figure S8.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (011)-1HF in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$  bulk unit cells. Two structures were done for structural isomer c.

## 3.3.2. HCl

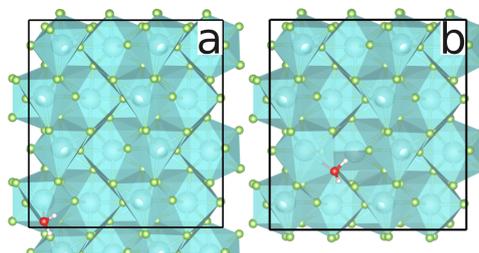
94



**Figure S9.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (011)·1HCl in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$  bulk unit cells. Two structures were done for structural isomer c.

3.3.3. H<sub>2</sub>O

95



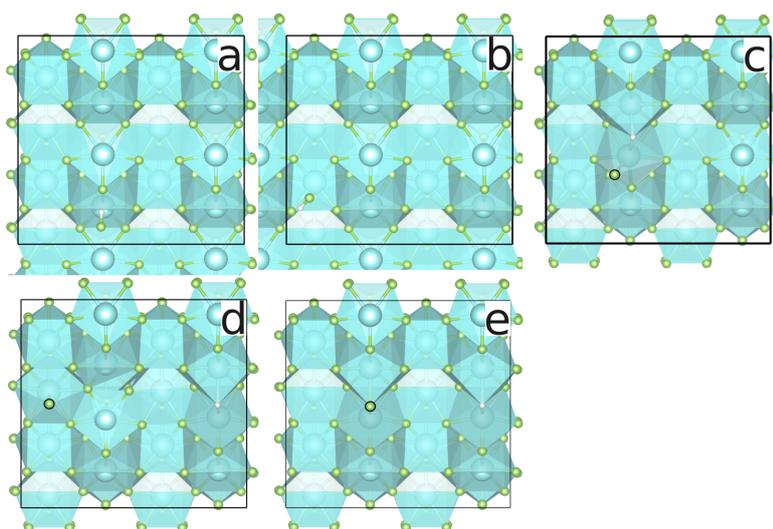
**Figure S10.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (011)·1H<sub>2</sub>O in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$  bulk unit cells. Two structures were done for structural isomer b.

## 3.4. (101)

96

## 3.4.1. HF

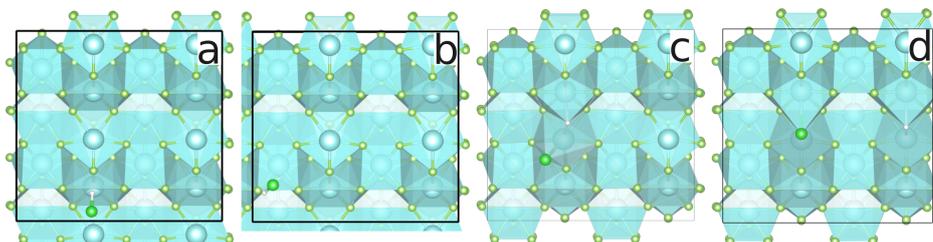
97



**Figure S11.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (101)·1HF in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$  bulk unit cells. The hydride forming configurations c, d and e are called  $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{3\text{\AA}}\text{F}$ ,  $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{3.5\text{\AA}}\text{F}$  and  $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{F}$  within the main paper according to the H–F distance.

## 3.4.2. HCl

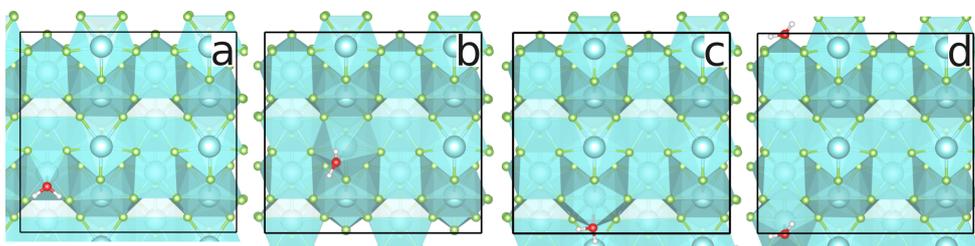
98



**Figure S12.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (101)·1HCl in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$  bulk unit cells. The hydride forming configurations **c** and **d** are called  $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{3.5\text{\AA}}\text{Cl}$  and  $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{Cl}$  within the main paper according to the H–Cl distance. For configuration **d**, two structures were done for  $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{Cl}$ .

3.4.3. H<sub>2</sub>O

99

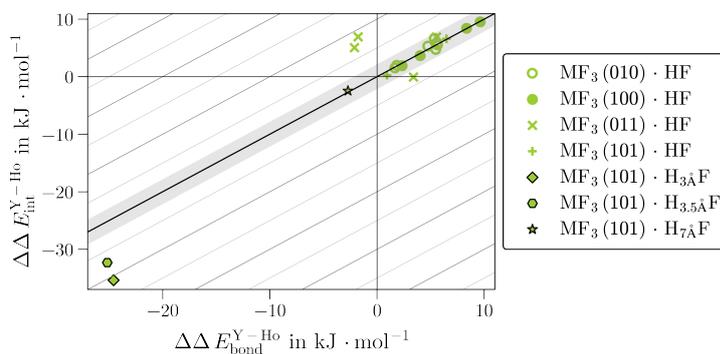


**Figure S13.** Relaxed adsorption structures of (101)·1H<sub>2</sub>O in order of increasing  $|\Delta E_{\text{bond}}|$  viewing onto the surface unit cell (black frame) made from  $(2 \times 2 \times 4)$  bulk unit cells.

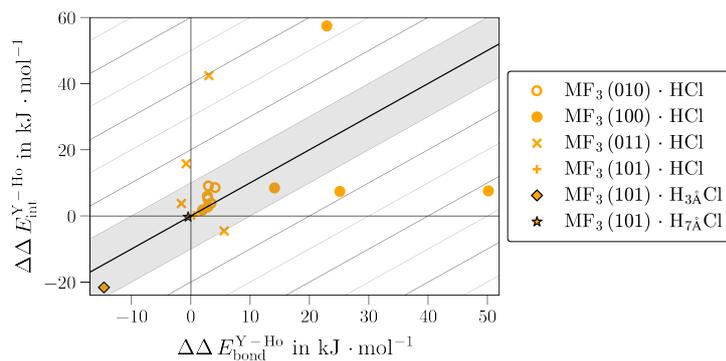
## 4. Effect of Relaxation

100

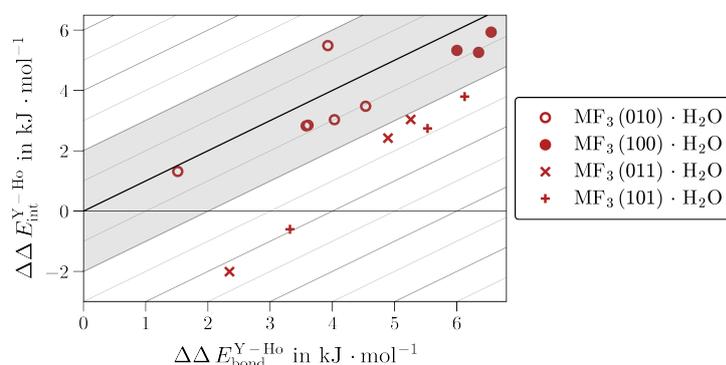
Figures S14–S16 illustrate how the difference in adsorption energy between  $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$  and  $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$  is affected by the relaxation energy of the reactants.  $\Delta \Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$  is defined analogously to  $\Delta \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$  (see Equation 5 of the main paper). The central, black diagonal plots  $\Delta \Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$  against itself. A positive  $\Delta \Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$  (or  $\Delta \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$ ) means that the  $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$  is stronger bound than the respective  $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}$ . Therefore, values within the lower right triangle correspond to an increased difference between the two  $\text{MF}_3$  upon reactant relaxation. 101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106



**Figure S14.** Difference of adsorption energies of  $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{HF}$  and  $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{HF}$  with  $(\Delta \Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$  or without  $(\Delta \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$  relaxed reactants. An area of  $\pm 2 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  is shaded.



**Figure S15.** Difference of adsorption energies of  $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{HCl}$  and  $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{HCl}$  with  $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$  or without  $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$  relaxed reactants. An area of  $\pm 10 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  is shaded.



**Figure S16.** Difference of adsorption energies of  $\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  with  $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$  or without  $(\Delta\Delta E_{\text{int}}^{\text{Y-Ho}})$  relaxed reactants. An area of  $\pm 2 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  is shaded.

## 5. Averages over Structural Properties

The coordination of an adsorbate towards the surface has been considered a H-bond, if either the angle or distance satisfies at least the criteria of moderate H-bonds with  $A_{\text{X-H} \cdots \text{F}_{\text{surf}}} \geq 130^\circ$  or  $R_{\text{H} \cdots \text{F}_{\text{surf}}} \leq 220 \text{ pm}$  [3].

For the structural properties ( $a$ ) of bond distances and H-bond angle, its arithmetic mean and linearly weighted mean by  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  ( $\bar{a}_E$ ) is given in Table S5 for each surface and over all surfaces. Note that the intra-adsorbate bond length ( $R_{\text{O-H}}$ ) for  $\text{MF}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  is given as the mean over both O–H bonds.

$$\bar{a}_E = \frac{\sum_i (-\Delta E_{\text{int},i} a_i)}{\sum_i (-\Delta E_{\text{bond},i})} \quad (1)$$

**Table S5.** Calculated means of intra-adsorbate bond length ( $R_{X-H}$ ), H-bond angles ( $A_{X-H \cdots F_{\text{surf}}}$ ) and distances ( $R_{H \cdots F_{\text{surf}}}$ ), direct O/F/Cl to metal coordinations ( $R_{X-Y/\text{Ho}_{\text{surf}}}$ ) without weight ( $\bar{a}$ ) or weighted by  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  as given in Equation 1 ( $\bar{a}_E$ ) for all non-hydride forming single adsorptions and without the 7 Å dissociated (100)-HCl structural isomer e; the  $\bar{a}_E$  over all (*hkl*) are plotted in Figure 6 within the main paper:

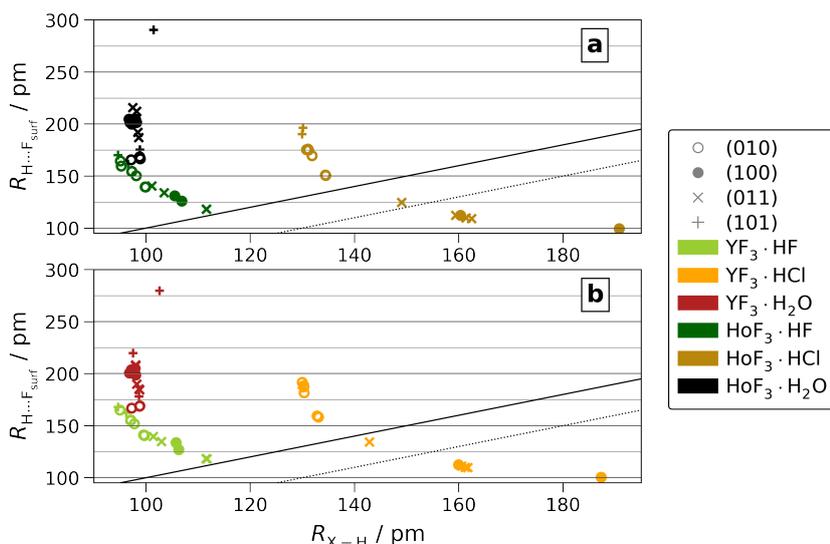
<i>(hkl)</i>	MF <sub>3</sub>	$\bar{R}_{X-H}$ / pm		$\bar{A}_{X-H \cdots F_{\text{surf}}}$ / °		$\bar{R}_{H \cdots F_{\text{surf}}}$ / pm		$\bar{R}_{X-Y/\text{Ho}_{\text{surf}}}$ / pm		
		$\bar{a}$	$\bar{a}_E$	$\bar{a}$	$\bar{a}_E$	$\bar{a}$	$\bar{a}_E$	$\bar{a}$	$\bar{a}_E$	
HF	(010)	Y	98	99	159	161	149	146	252	246
		Ho	98	98	156	157	152	149	244	244
	(100)	Y	100	103	159	162	130	130	241	237
		Ho	100	103	160	162	128	128	243	239
	(011)	Y	107	108	169	170	128	126	232	230
		Ho	107	108	169	170	128	126	235	234
	(101)	Y	95	96	151	148	165	165	260	260
		Ho	96	96	154	149	166	165	257	257
	all	Y	100	102	160	164	144	138	246	239
		Ho	100	103	160	162	144	137	242	239
HCl	(010)	Y	131	131	149	151	178	175	321	318
		Ho	132	133	153	155	166	164	310	308
	(100)	Y	149	163	155	156	107	107	289	277
		Ho	148	161	155	156	106	106	293	286
	(011)	Y	157	157	172	173	116	115	278	277
		Ho	158	158	172	173	114	113	279	278
	(101)	Y	130	130	156	154	188	189	—	—
		Ho	130	130	156	153	193	194	—	—
	all	Y	143	151	158	162	151	133	297	286
		Ho	143	152	159	162	147	129	295	288
H <sub>2</sub> O	(010)	Y	98	98	155	156	182	173	262	248
		Ho	98	98	143	142	187	181	245	245
	(100)	Y	97	97	113	113	202	202	241	241
		Ho	97	97	114	114	203	203	244	244
	(011)	Y	98	98	141	142	195	195	241	241
		Ho	98	98	134	135	203	202	245	245
	(101)	Y	99	99	132	137	226	223	241	240
		Ho	98	99	143	144	233	226	244	243
	all	Y	98	98	138	138	198	197	249	243
		Ho	98	98	137	136	199	199	244	244

The non-/weighted averages of  $\bar{R}_{X-H}$  hardly differ ( $\leq 2$  pm) between Y and Ho. Which MF<sub>3</sub>·Ads possesses the smaller  $\bar{R}_{X-H}$  is surface dependent. Only those H-bonds have been included that are either by distance ( $\leq 220$  pm) or by angle ( $\geq 130^\circ$ ) at least within the moderate regime. By that criteria (101)·H<sub>2</sub>O isomer a (see Figure S13 a) is just (hardly) included within YF<sub>3</sub> but (hardly) not in HoF<sub>3</sub>.

The H-bond angles also hardly differ between the two metals for MF<sub>3</sub>·HF, as well as MF<sub>3</sub>·HCl with a maximum difference of 4°. Interestingly for adsorptions of H<sub>2</sub>O, the weighted averages for (010) and (011)·H<sub>2</sub>O are 14° and 7° wider for YF<sub>3</sub> than for HoF<sub>3</sub>, while no such difference is observed for (100) and even the opposite for non-hydride forming (101)·H<sub>2</sub>O. The F–H···F<sub>surf</sub> distance is equivalent for YF<sub>3</sub> and HoF<sub>3</sub>. For (010), however, the respective Cl–H···F<sub>surf</sub> distance is significantly shorter in HoF<sub>3</sub>. This is supported by the little bit wider H-bonds angles.

## 6. H-Bond Dissociated Structures

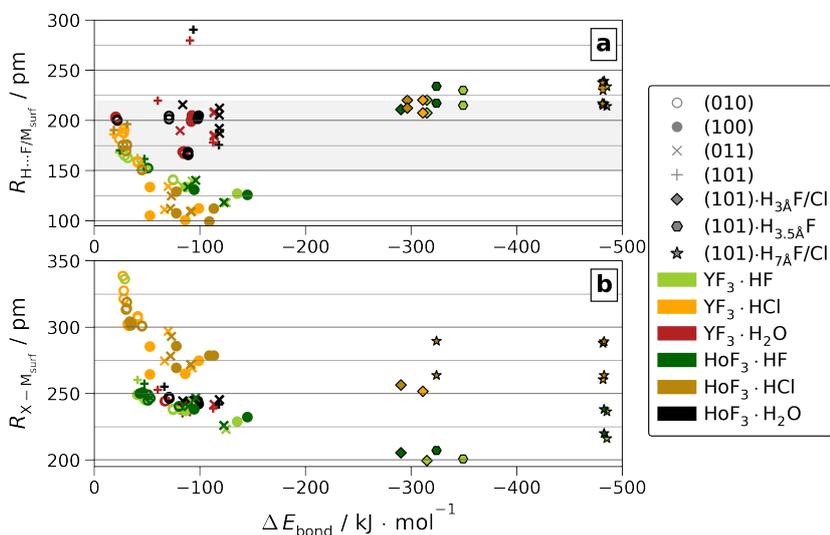
Adsorbates have been classified as H-bond dissociated if the distance within the adsorbate molecule is at least by 30 pm larger than the H-bond distance to a surface. This cutoff is illustrated in Figure S17 as dotted line.



**Figure S17.**  $R_{\text{H}\dots\text{F}_{\text{surf}}}$  vs.  $R_{\text{X-H}}$  for  $\text{HoF}_3$ -Ads (a) and  $\text{YF}_3$ -Ads (b) for all non-hydride forming adsorptions but the 7 Å wide H-bond dissociated (100)·HCl.  $R_{\text{H}\dots\text{F}_{\text{surf}}} = R_{\text{X-H}} - \Delta R_x$  pm is highlight for  $\Delta R_x = 0$  (solid line) and  $\Delta R_x = 30$  (dotted line).

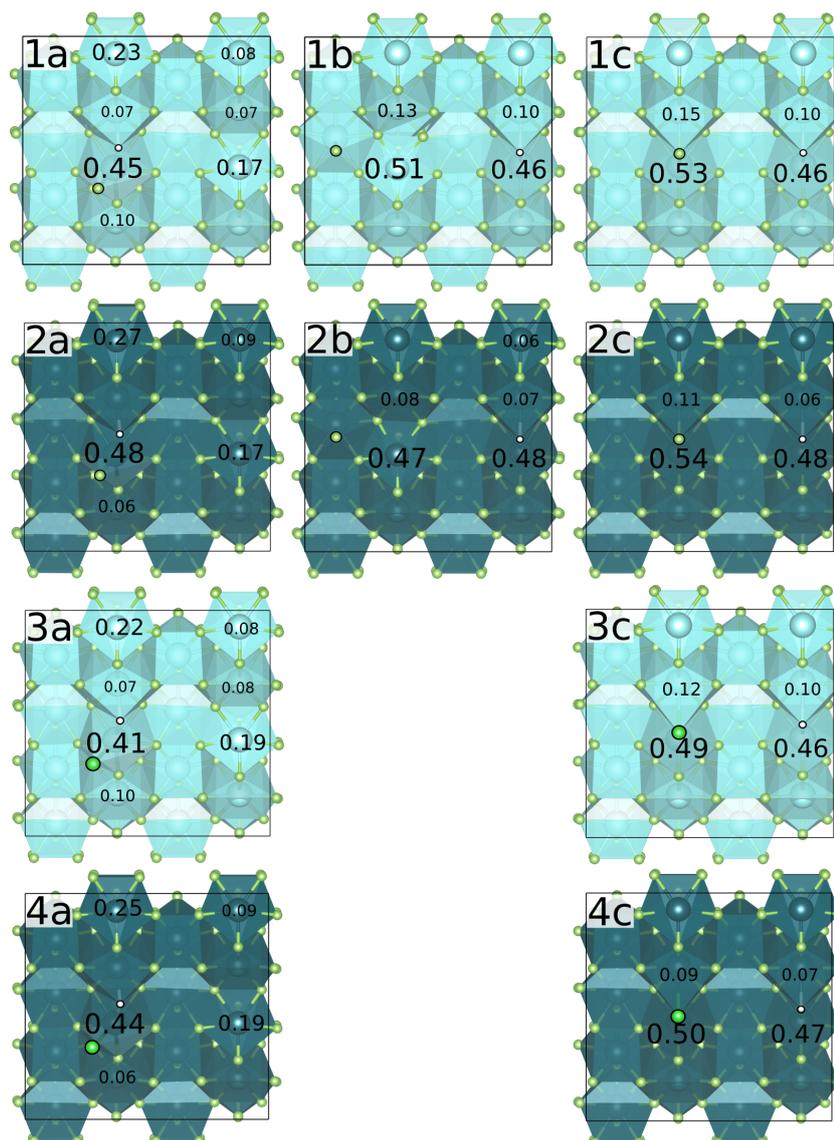
## 7. Hydride Forming Dissociated Structures

Figure S18 gives a version of Figure 6 b and c of the main paper including the hydride forming adsorptions of (101)·HF/HCl. Their negatively charged hydrogen forms no H-bond to  $\text{F}_{\text{surf}}$  but directly coordinates to  $\text{M}_{\text{surf}}$ . Thus, the distances of hydrogen towards the surface given in Figure S18 a are  $R_{\text{H}\dots\text{M}_{\text{surf}}}$  for the hydride forming adsorptions, while for any other, these are  $R_{\text{H}\dots\text{F}_{\text{surf}}}$ , as in the main paper.



**Figure S18.** Coordination distances towards the surface by the adsorbate for H ( $R_{\text{H}\dots\text{F}/\text{M}_{\text{surf}}}$ , a) and X = O/F/Cl ( $R_{\text{X-M}_{\text{surf}}}$ , b) vs.  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  for all single adsorptions.

Figure S19 gives the changes in partial Bader charges of  $\geq 0.05$  e upon adsorption for all metal centers. The partial charges of all  $\text{F}_{\text{surf}}$  remain unchanged compared to the bare surface. Upon hydride formation, the surface metal partial charges are increased by 0.4–0.5 e for each of the two  $\text{M}_{\text{surf}}(\text{II})$  (next to) coordination sites for (101)· $\text{H}_{7\text{Å}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$  (and (101)· $\text{H}_{3.5\text{Å}}\text{F}$ ). In (101)· $\text{H}_{3\text{Å}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$ , with the halide and hydride coordinating to the same  $\text{M}_{\text{surf}}(\text{II})$ , again increased by 0.5 e, the remaining charge is split over two further  $\text{M}_{\text{surf}}(\text{II})$ .



**Figure S19.** Changes in partial Bader charges ( $\geq 0.05$  e) of  $M_{\text{surf}}$  upon adsorbate dissociation for  $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{3\text{\AA}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$  (a),  $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{3.5\text{\AA}}\text{F}$  (b) and  $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$  (c) for  $\text{YF}_3\cdot\text{HF}$  (1a–1c),  $\text{HoF}_3\cdot\text{HF}$  (2a–2c),  $\text{YF}_3\cdot\text{HCl}$  (3a–3c) and  $\text{HoF}_3\cdot\text{HCl}$  (4a–4c).

## 8. Partial Charges

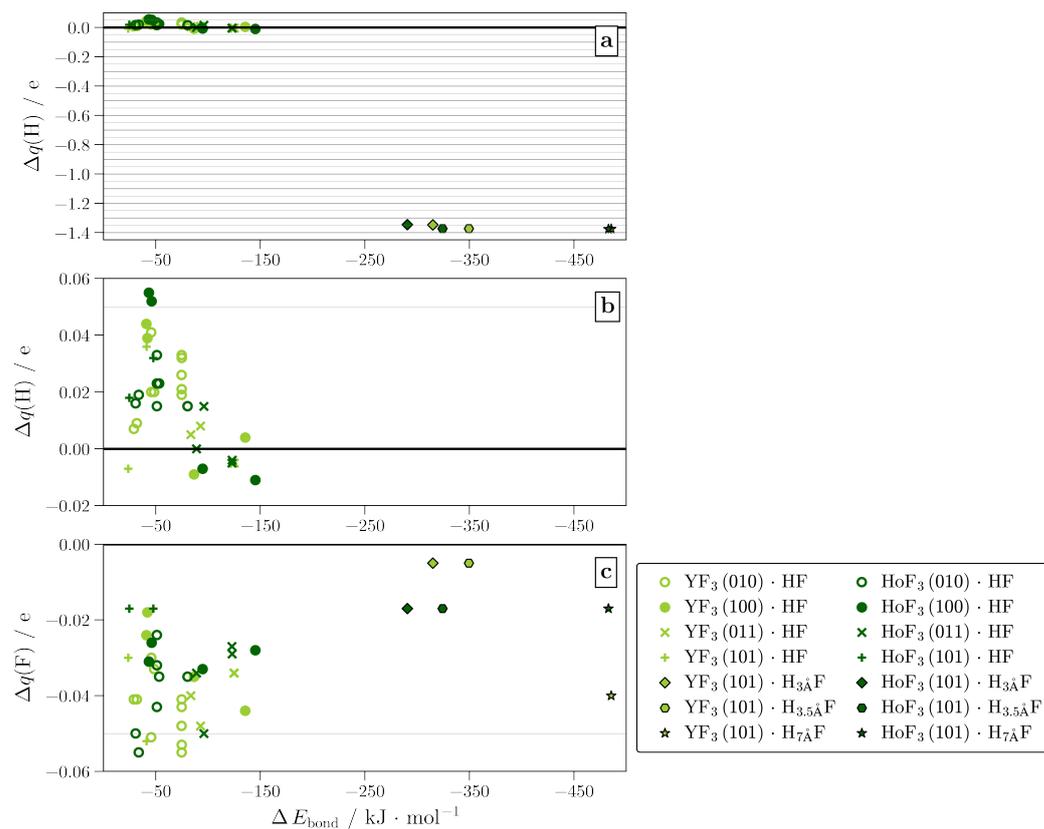
The partial charges of the adsorbed structure, as well as their differences compared to the free molecule are given in Figure S20–S23. See the main paper Figure 7 for the final partial charges of HF and HCl adsorptions.

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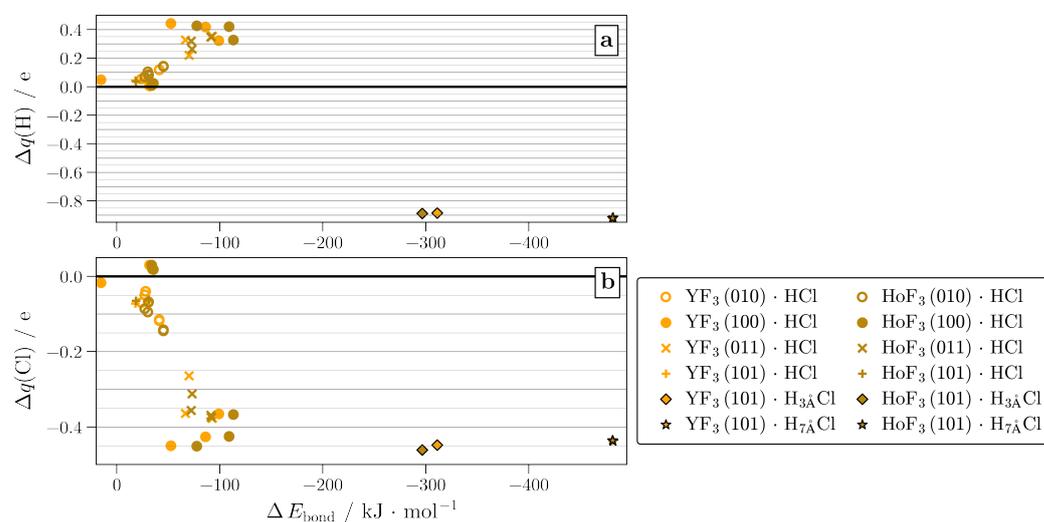
144

145

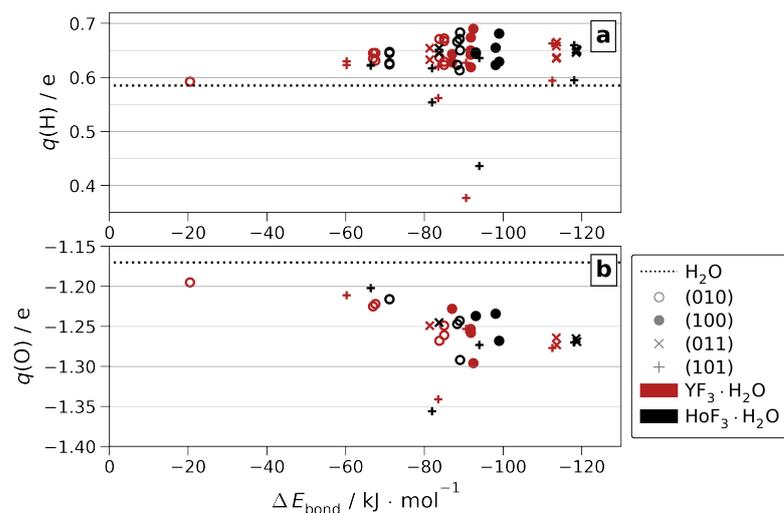
146



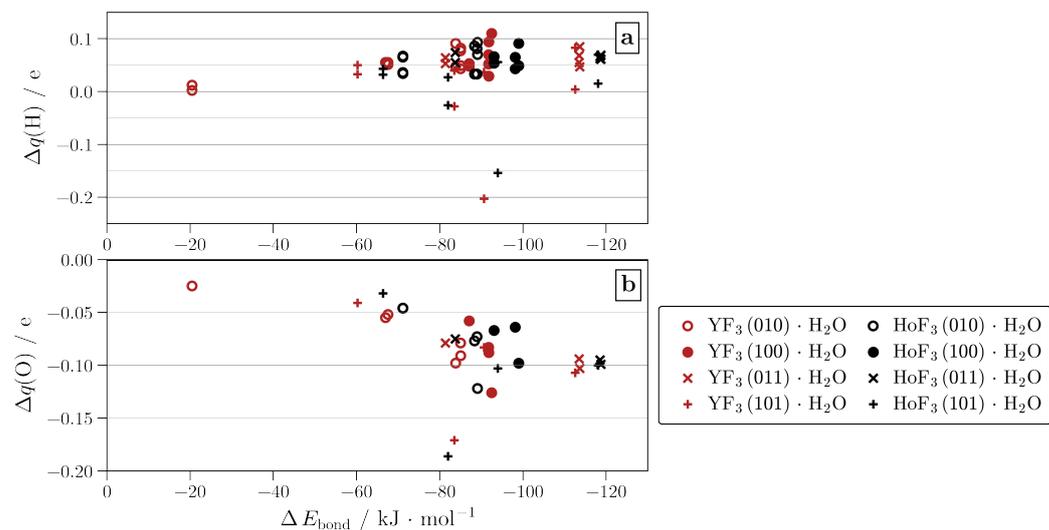
**Figure S20.** Change of partial Bader charges of HF adsorbed onto YF<sub>3</sub> or HoF<sub>3</sub> ( $\Delta q(\text{H})$  a with zoom b and  $\Delta q(\text{F})$  c) vs. molecular HF.



**Figure S21.** Change of partial Bader charges of HCl adsorbed onto YF<sub>3</sub> or HoF<sub>3</sub> ( $\Delta q(\text{H})$  a and  $\Delta q(\text{Cl})$  b) vs. molecular HCl.



**Figure S22.** Partial Bader charges of molecular  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (dotted line) and adsorbed onto  $\text{YF}_3$  or  $\text{HoF}_3$  ( $q(\text{H})$  a and  $q(\text{O})$  b).



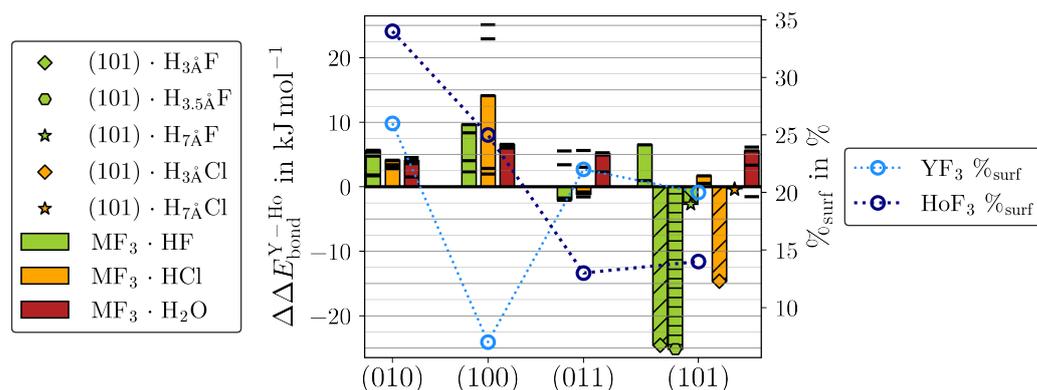
**Figure S23.** Change of partial Bader charges of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  adsorbed onto  $\text{YF}_3$  or  $\text{HoF}_3$  ( $\Delta q(\text{H})$  a and  $\Delta q(\text{O})$  b) vs. molecular  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

## 9. Y vs. Ho Surface Dependence of Adsorption Energy

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Figure S24 gives the difference in  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  between  $\text{YF}_3$  and  $\text{HoF}_3$  with the surface abundance ratios used to calculate the surface-weighted  $\Delta \Delta E_{\text{bond, \%}}^{\text{Y-Ho}}$  of main paper Figure 8. 148

$$\Delta \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{Y-Ho}} = \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{YF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}} - \Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{\text{HoF}_3 \cdot \text{Ads}} \quad (2) \quad 149$$



**Figure S24.** The difference in  $\Delta E_{\text{bond}}$  between  $\text{YF}_3$  and  $\text{HoF}_3$  ( $\Delta\Delta E_{\text{bond}}^{Y-Ho}$ ) (see Equation 2) is given for all single adsorptions (black lines). The bar plots highlight the respective strongest adsorbed structures. The hydride forming adsorptions of  $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{3\text{\AA}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$  (upward stripes),  $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{3.5\text{\AA}}\text{F}$  (horizontal stripes) or  $(101)\cdot\text{H}_{7\text{\AA}}\text{F}/\text{Cl}$  (downward stripes) are given separately. The surface abundance ratios ( $\%_{\text{surf}}$ ) for the ideal crystals are taken from [4].

## References

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