

**A Holistic View on the Interactions between Electron-deficient systems:
Clustering of Beryllium and Magnesium Hydrides and Halides.**

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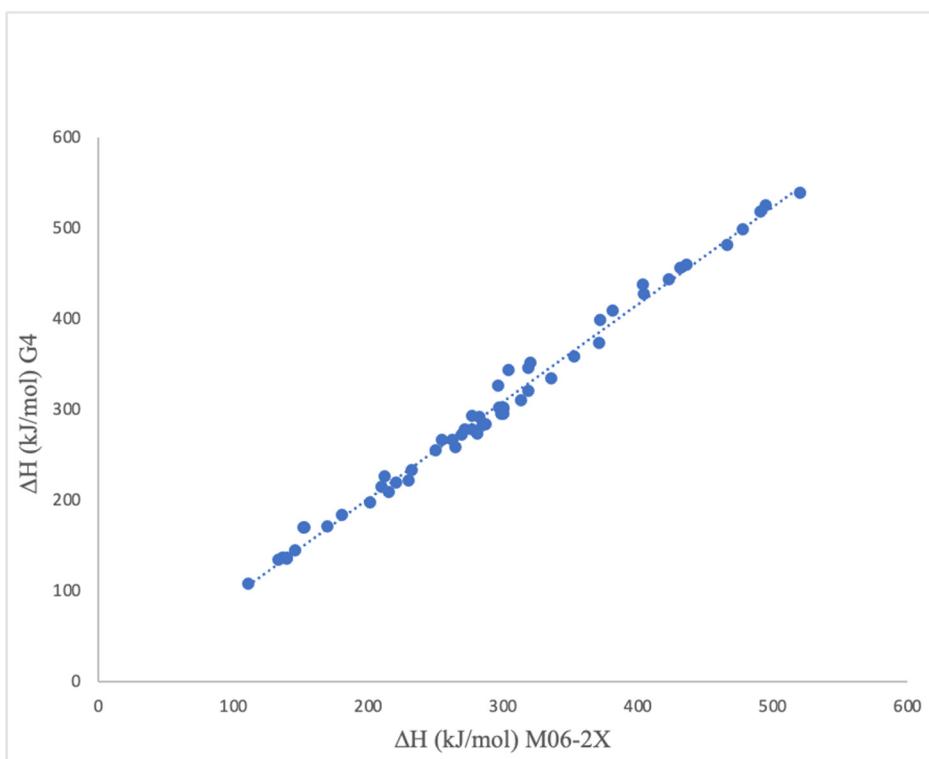


Figure S1. Correlation between the interaction enthalpies calculated at the G4 and M06-2X levels of theory for BeBeX_4 , MgMgX_4 , BeMgX_4 , BeBeBeX_6 , MgMgMgX_6 , BeBeMgX_6 , and BeMgMgX_6 ($X = \text{H}, \text{F}, \text{Cl}$) clusters ($\Delta H \text{ G4} = 1.0735$ $\Delta H \text{ M062X} - 13.890$; $R^2 = 0.991$).

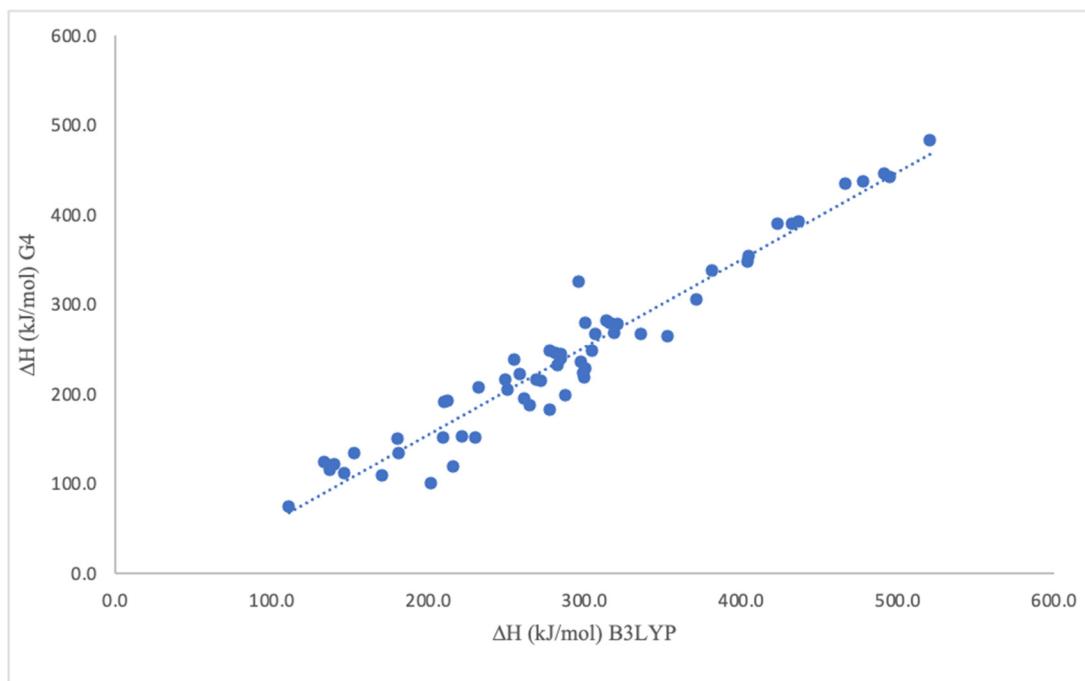


Figure S2. Correlation between the interaction enthalpies calculated at the G4 and B3LYP levels of theory for BeBeX₄, MgMgX₄, BeMgX₄, BeBeBeX₆, MgMgMgX₆, BeBeMgX₆, and BeMgMgX₆ (X = H, F, Cl) clusters (ΔH G4 = 0.9777 ΔH B3LYP - 40.213; R^2 = 0.9399).

Table S1. LMO-EDA analysis for the BeBeX₄, MgMgX₄ and BeMgX₄ (X = H, F, Cl) dimers (all values in kJ·mol⁻¹)

a) Hydrides

	Energies (kJ·mol ⁻¹) of the different components			% of the attractive components to the total E		
	BeBeH ₄	MgMgH ₄	BeMgH ₄	BeBeH ₄	MgMgH ₄	BeMgH ₄
Electrostatic	-425.1	-376.6	-384.4	34.5	39.4	35.4
Exchange	-388.7	-301.5	-342.7	31.5	31.6	31.6
Repulsion	972.6	738.9	841.6			
Polarization	-351.1	-218.0	-293.0	28.5	22.8	27.0
Dispersion	-69.0	-59.4	-64.8	5.6	6.2	6.0
Total E	-261.4	-216.6	-243.4	34.5	39.4	35.4

b) Fluorides

	BeBeF ₄	MgMgF ₄	BeMgF ₄	BeBeF ₄	MgMgF ₄	BeMgF ₄
Electrostatic	-494.2	-498.0	-497.9	42.4	56.9	48.3
Exchange	-263.0	-157.2	-211.6	22.6	18.0	20.5
Repulsion	823.9	521.7	673.2			
Polarization	-311.9	-146.1	-235.8	26.8	16.7	22.9
Dispersion	-95.4	-73.3	-85.6	8.2	8.4	8.3
Total E	-340.7	-352.9	-357.6	42.4	56.9	48.3

c) Chlorides

	BeBeCl ₄		BeMgCl ₄	BeBeCl ₄		BeMgCl ₄
Electrostatic	-355.5		-343.8	30.3		35.0
Exchange	-322.0		-249.4	27.5		25.4
Repulsion	900.9		705.7			
Polarization	-386.9		-292.8	33.0		29.8
Dispersion	-107.2		-95.0	9.1		9.7
Total E	-270.5		-275.3			

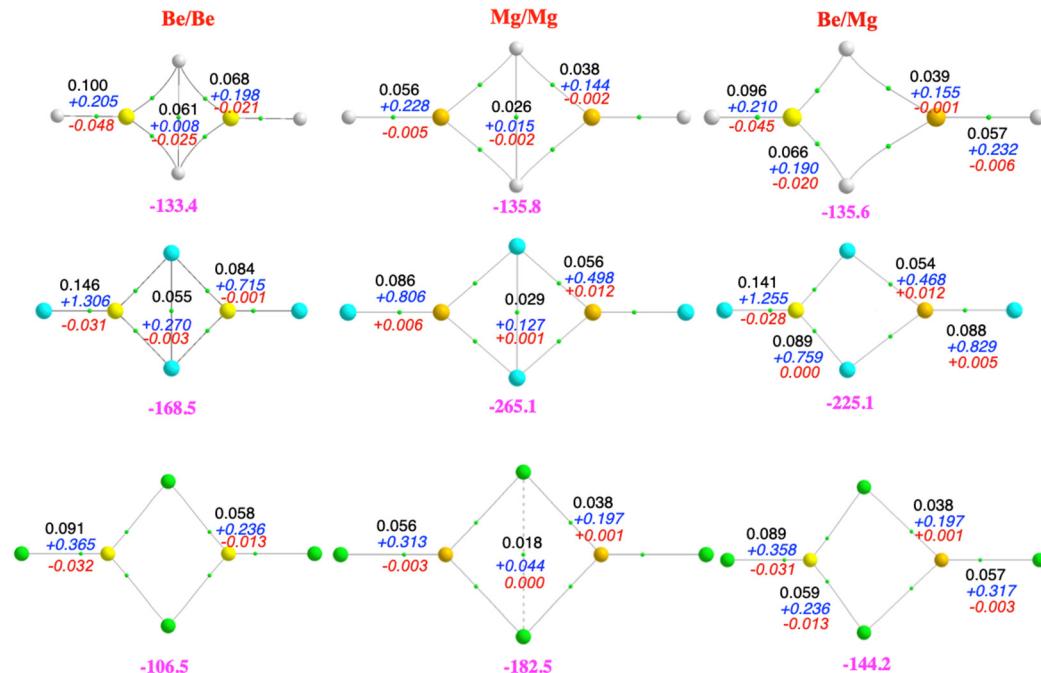


Figure S3. Molecular graphs of the homo and heterodimers involving BeX_2 and MgX_2 ($\text{X} = \text{H}, \text{F}, \text{Cl}$) monomers. The electron density (black), its Laplacian (blue italic) and the energy density (red italic) at the bond critical points (BCPs) are in

a.u. The numbers in magenta are the stabilization enthalpies in $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$.

Table S2. AdNPD orbital list for the BeBeX_4 , MgMgX_4 and BeMgX_4 dimers

Be₂H₄:

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

- # 1 Occ: 1.9918 Atom: 1Be 2H
- # 2 Occ: 1.9918 Atom: 4Be 5H
- # 3 Occ: 1.9642 Atom: 3H 4Be 6H
- # 4 Occ: 1.9642 Atom: 1Be 3H 6H

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 7.9119

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.088505

Mg₂H₄:

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

- # 1 Occ: 1.9959 Atom: 1Mg 3H
- # 2 Occ: 1.9959 Atom: 4Mg 6H
- # 3 Occ: 1.9894 Atom: 1Mg 2H 5H
- # 4 Occ: 1.9894 Atom: 2H 4Mg 5H

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 7.9707

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.030936

BeMgH₄:

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

- # 1 Occ: 1.9975 Atom: 4Mg 5H
- # 2 Occ: 1.9895 Atom: 1Be 3H
- # 3 Occ: 1.9925 Atom: 1Be 2H 6H
- # 4 Occ: 1.9562 Atom: 1Be 4Mg 6H

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 7.9357

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.064916

Be₂F₄:

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

- # 1 Occ: 1.9964 Atom: 2F
- # 2 Occ: 1.9964 Atom: 5F
- # 3 Occ: 1.9951 Atom: 3F
- # 4 Occ: 1.9951 Atom: 6F
- # 5 Occ: 1.9909 Atom: 5F
- # 6 Occ: 1.9909 Atom: 2F
- # 7 Occ: 1.9867 Atom: 3F

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# 8 Occ: 1.9867 Atom: 6F
# 9 Occ: 1.9993 Atom: 1Be 3F
# 10 Occ: 1.9993 Atom: 4Be 6F
# 11 Occ: 1.9992 Atom: 1Be 3F
# 12 Occ: 1.9992 Atom: 4Be 6F
# 13 Occ: 1.9986 Atom: 1Be 2F
# 14 Occ: 1.9986 Atom: 1Be 5F
# 15 Occ: 1.9986 Atom: 4Be 5F
# 16 Occ: 1.9986 Atom: 2F 4Be

```

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 31.9295

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.070317

Mg₂F₄

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

```

# 1 Occ: 1.9992 Atom: 3F
# 2 Occ: 1.9992 Atom: 5F
# 3 Occ: 1.9980 Atom: 2F
# 4 Occ: 1.9980 Atom: 6F
# 5 Occ: 1.9964 Atom: 2F
# 6 Occ: 1.9964 Atom: 6F
# 7 Occ: 1.9949 Atom: 3F
# 8 Occ: 1.9949 Atom: 5F
# 9 Occ: 1.9944 Atom: 3F
# 10 Occ: 1.9944 Atom: 5F
# 11 Occ: 1.9991 Atom: 1Mg 3F
# 12 Occ: 1.9991 Atom: 4Mg 5F
# 13 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 2F 4Mg
# 14 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 1Mg 6F
# 15 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 1Mg 2F
# 16 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 4Mg 6F

```

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 31.9600

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.040214

BeMgF₄

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

```

# 1 Occ: 1.9992 Atom: 6F
# 2 Occ: 1.9962 Atom: 5F
# 3 Occ: 1.9962 Atom: 2F
# 4 Occ: 1.9952 Atom: 3F
# 5 Occ: 1.9946 Atom: 6F
# 6 Occ: 1.9942 Atom: 6F

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# 7 Occ: 1.9919 Atom: 5F
# 8 Occ: 1.9919 Atom: 2F
# 9 Occ: 1.9998 Atom: 1Be 3F
# 10 Occ: 1.9996 Atom: 1Be 3F
# 11 Occ: 1.9993 Atom: 1Be 3F
# 12 Occ: 1.9991 Atom: 4Mg 6F
# 13 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 1Be 2F
# 14 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 1Be 5F
# 15 Occ: 1.9974 Atom: 2F 4Mg
# 16 Occ: 1.9974 Atom: 4Mg 5F

```

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 31.9498

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.049794

Be₂Cl₄

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

```

# 1 Occ: 1.9950 Atom: 2Cl
# 2 Occ: 1.9950 Atom: 5Cl
# 3 Occ: 1.9945 Atom: 3Cl
# 4 Occ: 1.9945 Atom: 6Cl
# 5 Occ: 1.9859 Atom: 5Cl
# 6 Occ: 1.9859 Atom: 2Cl
# 7 Occ: 1.9835 Atom: 3Cl
# 8 Occ: 1.9835 Atom: 6Cl
# 9 Occ: 1.9995 Atom: 1Be 2Cl
# 10 Occ: 1.9995 Atom: 4Be 5Cl
# 11 Occ: 1.9984 Atom: 1Be 2Cl
# 12 Occ: 1.9984 Atom: 4Be 5Cl
# 13 Occ: 1.9973 Atom: 1Be 6Cl
# 14 Occ: 1.9973 Atom: 1Be 3Cl
# 15 Occ: 1.9973 Atom: 3Cl 4Be
# 16 Occ: 1.9973 Atom: 4Be 6Cl

```

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 31.9028

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.096778

Mg₂Cl₄

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

```

# 1 Occ: 1.9987 Atom: 3Cl
# 2 Occ: 1.9987 Atom: 6Cl
# 3 Occ: 1.9983 Atom: 5Cl

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```

# 4 Occ: 1.9983 Atom: 2Cl
# 5 Occ: 1.9943 Atom: 3Cl
# 6 Occ: 1.9943 Atom: 6Cl
# 7 Occ: 1.9880 Atom: 2Cl
# 8 Occ: 1.9880 Atom: 5Cl
# 9 Occ: 1.9856 Atom: 2Cl
# 10 Occ: 1.9856 Atom: 5Cl
# 11 Occ: 1.9995 Atom: 1Mg 2Cl
# 12 Occ: 1.9995 Atom: 4Mg 5Cl
# 13 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 1Mg 6Cl
# 14 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 1Mg 3Cl
# 15 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 4Mg 6Cl
# 16 Occ: 1.9989 Atom: 3Cl 4Mg

```

Total occupation number in above orbitals: 31.9243

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.075740

BeMgCl₄

---- AdNDP orbital list ----

```

# 1 Occ: 1.9983 Atom: 5Cl
# 2 Occ: 1.9967 Atom: 3Cl
# 3 Occ: 1.9967 Atom: 6Cl
# 4 Occ: 1.9948 Atom: 2Cl
# 5 Occ: 1.9888 Atom: 3Cl
# 6 Occ: 1.9888 Atom: 6Cl
# 7 Occ: 1.9874 Atom: 5Cl
# 8 Occ: 1.9871 Atom: 2Cl
# 9 Occ: 1.9996 Atom: 4Mg 5Cl
# 10 Occ: 1.9994 Atom: 4Mg 5Cl
# 11 Occ: 1.9994 Atom: 1Be 2Cl
# 12 Occ: 1.9987 Atom: 1Be 3Cl
# 13 Occ: 1.9987 Atom: 1Be 6Cl
# 14 Occ: 1.9985 Atom: 1Be 2Cl
# 15 Occ: 1.9976 Atom: 3Cl 4Mg
# 16 Occ: 1.9976 Atom: 4Mg 6Cl

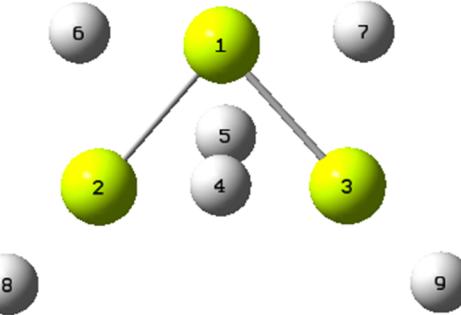
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Total occupation number in above orbitals: 31.9282

Residual valence electrons of all atoms in the search list: 0.071941

Table S3. Wiberg bond indexes for Be_2X_4 , Mg_2X_4 , BeMgX_4 ($\text{X} = \text{H}, \text{F}, \text{Cl}$)

Cluster	Bonds	Wiberg indexes
Be_2H_4	Be-H	0.600 / 0.228
Mg_2H_4	Mg-H	0.518 / 0.154
BeMgH_4	Be-H	0.570 / 0.274
	Mg-H	0.536 / 0.126
Be_2F_4	Be-F	0.256 / 0.125
Mg_2F_4	Mg-F	0.109 / 0.055
BeMgF_4	Be-F	0.242 / 0.146
	Mg-F	0.111 / 0.052
Be_2Cl_4	Be-Cl	0.445 / 0.268
Mg_2Cl_4	Mg-Cl	0.315 / 0.152
BeMgCl_4	Be-Cl	0.434 / 0.300
	Mg-Cl	0.320 / 0.148

Table S4. Interatomic distances in the cycles A of Be_2X_4 and Mg_2X_4 ($\text{X} = \text{H}, \text{Cl}$). All values are in Å. The atoms numbering is shown in the attached figure.


Be ₂ X ₄ and Mg ₂ X ₄ / Cycle A		
X = H		
Atoms involved	1-2 and 1-3	2-3
Be-Be distances	1.860	2.416
Mg-Mg distances	2.603	3.124
Atoms involved	1-6 and 1-7 / 2-6 and 3-7	2-4 and 3-4 / 2-8 and 3-9

Be-H distances	1.386 / 1.553	1.581 / 1.320
Mg-H distances	1.756 / 1.984	1.988 / 1.687
Atoms involved	4-5	
H-H (in Be cycle)	1.972	
H-H (in Mg cycle)	2.295	
X = Cl		
Atoms involved	1-2 and 1-3	2-3
Be-Be distances	2.280	3.167
Mg-Mg distances	2.924	3.739

Table S5. LMO-EDA analysis for the BeBeBeF₆ trimers (all values in kJ·mol⁻¹)

	Energies (kJ·mol ⁻¹) of the different components			% of the attractive components to the total E		
	Cycle A	Cycle B	linear	Cycle A	Cycle B	linear
Electrostatic	-993.4	-873.7	-991.6	39.7	40.5	41.9
Exchange	-652.8	-470.5	-540.3	26.1	21.8	22.8
Repulsion	1934.2	1468.7	1672.5			
Polarization	-608.6	-604.3	-638.3	24.3	28.0	27.0
Dispersion	-250.6	-208.3	-196.5	10.0	9.7	8.3
Total E	-571.1	-688.0	-694.2			

Table S6. Relative stabilities (kJ·mol⁻¹) for the MgF₂ trimers obtained by different theoretical approaches.

	GA/DFT ^a	M06-2X	G4
Linear	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hexagonal cycle	40.2	56.9	54.1
cycle	32.2	20.7	29.4
cycle	43.1	13.8	25.4

Table S7. MBIE analysis of linear heterotrimer complexes formed by BeX_2 and MgX_2 ($X = \text{H}, \text{F}, \text{Cl}$). All values in $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$.

Ternary complex	$E_{\text{R}}(\text{A})$	$E_{\text{R}}(\text{B})$	$E_{\text{R}}(\text{C})$	$D^2E(\text{AB})$	$D^2E(\text{AC})$	$D^2E(\text{BC})$	$D^3E(\text{ABC})$	E_{total}
BeBeMgH_6	58.5	110.2	32.7	-262.8	8.6	-247.0	-33.2	-333.0
BeMgBeH_6	67.4	57.2	67.4	-240.5	-0.3	-240.5	-4.0	-293.2
BeMgMgH_6	67.2	62.0	37.8	-241.6	-0.3	-214.6	-8.3	-297.8
MgBeMgH_6	31.6	117.5	31.6	-247.1	11.2	-247.3	-31.5	-333.8
BeBeMgF_6	82.6	172.4	42.6	-347.7	-1.9	-364.7	0.4	-416.4
BeMgBeF_6	86.6	80.7	86.6	-358.0	-2.4	-358.0	0.5	-464.1
BeMgMgF_6	86.2	81.5	43.1	-359.8	-2.6	-355.2	0.5	-506.3
MgBeMgF_6	40.9	176.1	40.9	-365.3	0.6	-365.3	4.8	-467.2
BeBeMgCl_6	80.3	168.3	39.7	-276.8	-0.5	-2821	7.9	-263.1
BeMgBeCl_6	88.6	77.0	88.6	-276.9	-1.9	-276.9	0.4	-301.1
BeMgMgCl_6	88.5	81.2	44.5	-277.5	-2.5	-276.0	1.3	-340.4
MgBeMgCl_6	39.3	175.9	39.3	-282.1	-1.0	-282.1	10.8	-299.7

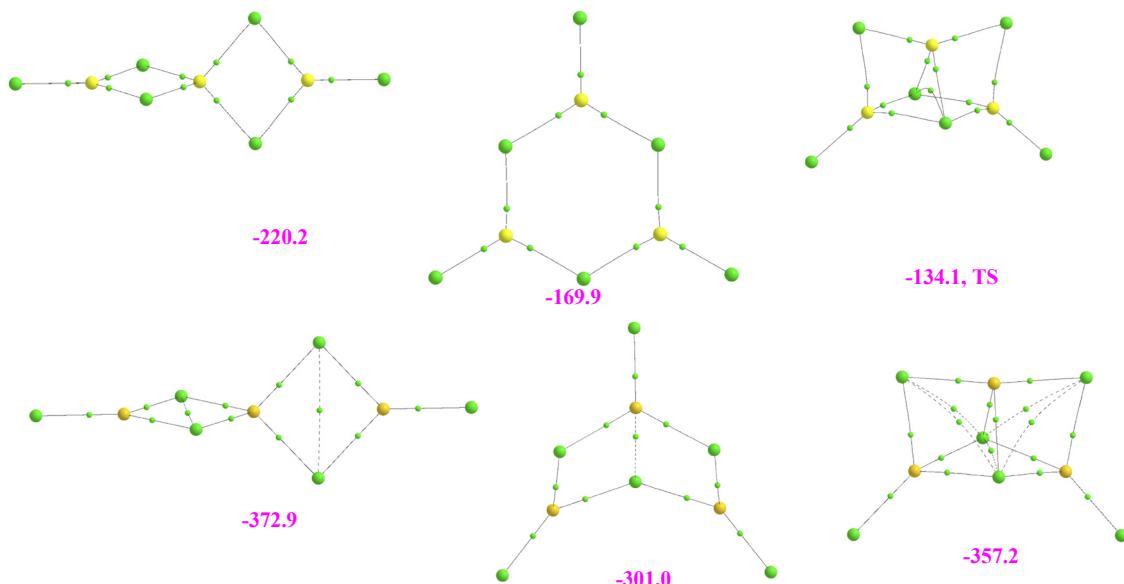


Figure S4. Bond paths and stabilization enthalpies ($\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$) for the BeCl_2 and MgCl_2 homotrimers.

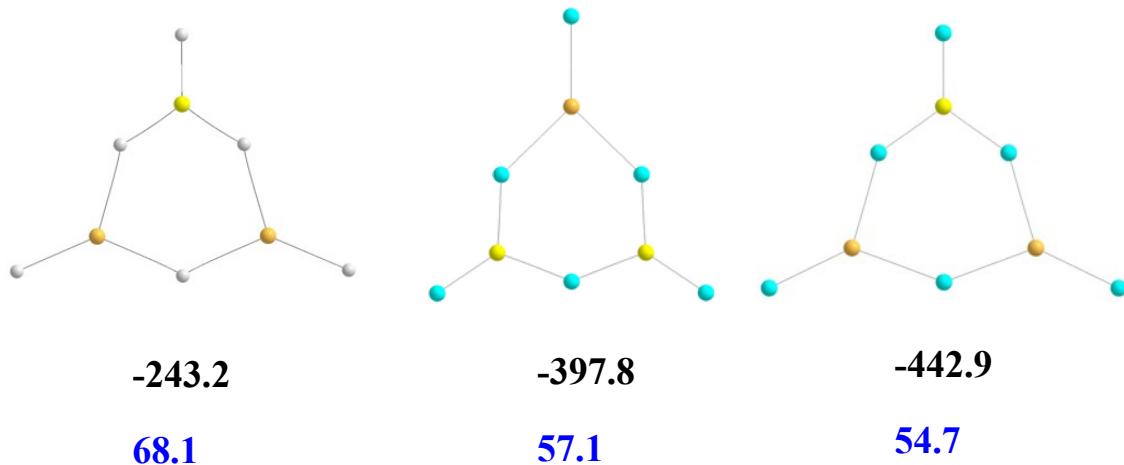


Figure S5. Bond paths for the stable hexagonal heterotrimers BeCl_2 and MgCl_2 homotrimers, showing their stabilization (black) and relative enthalpies (blue) with respect to the corresponding linear heterotrimer in $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$.

Table S8. MBIE analysis of BeBeMgH_6 and BeMgMgH_6 heterotrimer complexes. All values in $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$.

BeBeMgH_6								
Ternary complex	$E_R(\text{A})$	$E_R(\text{B})$	$E_R(\text{C})$	$\Delta^2E(\text{AB})$	$\Delta^2E(\text{AC})$	$\Delta^2E(\text{BC})$	$\Delta^3E(\text{ABC})$	E_{total}
linear	58.5	110.2	32.7	-262.8	8.6	-247.0	-33.2	-333.0
Cycle E	18.1	89.47	54.4	-143.41	-115.49	-182.33	-59.1	-338.36
BeMgMgH_6								
Ternary complex								
linear	67.2	62.0	37.8	-241.6	-0.3	-214.6	-8.3	-297.8
Cycle C	36.5	60.2	60.2	-152.8	-152.7	-147.5	-45.8	-341.9

Table S9. Molecular graphs of cycles C-G of $\text{BeX}_2\text{BX}_2\text{MgX}_2$ and $\text{BeX}_2\text{MgX}_2\text{MgX}_2$ ($\text{X} = \text{F}, \text{Cl}$) and their stabilization enthalpies (bold numbers). In blue their relative stabilities with respect to the corresponding linear trimer are also given. All values in $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$.

<i>Fluorides</i>	BeBeMg			BeMgMg		
C		-342.5 112.4			-426.6 71.0	
D		-360.6 94.3			-466.0 31.6	
E		TS			-437.3 60.3	
F		-372.4 82.5			-455.0 42.6	
G		-398.4 56.5			-423.0 74.6	
<i>Chlorides</i>						
C		-197.1 97.5			-283.3 50.5	
D		TS		Does not exist^a		

E		-207.7 86.9		-277.5 56.3
F	Does not exist^a			-289.8
G		-241.0 53.6	Does not exist^a	44.0

^a These structures are not stable as they collapse to the global minimum.

Table S10. MBIE analysis of heterotrimer complexes for fluorides and chlorides.
All values in $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$.

Ternary complex	$E_{\text{R}}(\text{A})$	$E_{\text{R}}(\text{B})$	$E_{\text{R}}(\text{C})$	$\Delta^2E(\text{AB})$	$\Delta^2E(\text{AC})$	$\Delta^2E(\text{BC})$	$\Delta^3E(\text{ABC})$	E_{total}
BeBeMgF ₆ _linear	82.6	172.4	42.6	-347.7	-1.9	-364.7	0.4	-416.4
BeMgBeF ₆ _linear	86.6	80.7	86.6	-358.0	-2.4	-358.0	0.5	-464.1
BeMgMgF ₆ _cyc_hexagonal	94.2	44.6	50.5	-139.2	-224.0	-195.8	-81.6	-451.4
BeBeMgF ₆ cycle E	39.5	171.0	86.6	-184.4	-171.1	-353.9	83.0	-329.2
BeBeMgF ₆ cycle C	27.8	176.7	176.6	-209.9	-209.5	-367.9	57.3	-348.9
BeMgMgF ₆ _linear	86.2	81.5	43.1	-359.8	-2.6	-355.2	0.5	-506.3
MgBeMgF ₆ _linear	40.9	176.1	40.9	-365.3	0.6	-365.3	4.8	-467.2
BeMgMgF ₆ _cyc_hexagonal	94.2	44.6	50.48	-139.2	-224.0	-195.8	-81.6	-451.4
BeMgMgF ₆ cycle E	21.9	182.5	84.8	-232.4	-188.5	-367.2	54.1	-444.6
BeMgMgF ₆ cycle C	51.1	92.6	92.4	-207.2	-207.2	-336.4	80.9	-433.9
BeBeMgCl ₆ _linear	80.3	168.3	39.7	-276.8	-0.5	-282.1	7.9	-263.1
BeMgBeCl ₆ _linear	88.6	77.0	88.6	-276.9	-1.9	-276.9	0.4	-301.1
BeBeMgCl ₆ _cyc_hexagonal_NP	126.6	63.7	62.1	-89.9	-291.3	-63.7	-31.4	-223.9
BeBeMgCl ₆ cycle E	54.2	151.4	73.0	-167.1	-149.0	-264.9	90.0	-212.3
BeBeMgCl ₆ cycle C	14.0	158.2	157.9	-162.7	-162.5	-278.2	72.0	-201.4
BeMgMgCl ₆ _linear	88.5	81.2	44.5	-277.5	-2.57	-276.0	1.3	-340.4
MgBeMgCl ₆ _linear	39.3	175.9	39.35	-282.1	-1.0	-282.1	10.8	-299.7
BeBeMgCl ₆ _cyc_hexagonal_NP	133.7	48.3	87.7	-116.7	-292.0	-117.2	-50.0	-306.2
BeMgMgCl ₆ cycle E	14.9	166.5	77.5	-182.7	-149.3	-275.6	66.0	-282.7
BeMgMgCl ₆ cycle C	65.6	76.9	76.9	-168.5	-168.5	-258.1	86.8	-288.8