

pre-reactive complexes

Weakly bound complexes with a potential minimum that precedes the activation barrier along the reaction path. In contrast with the van der Waals complexes, which fall apart reversibly into their constituents, the pre-reactive complexes may undergo a vigorous reaction to form different products.

Source:

PAC, 1999, 71, 1919 (*Glossary of terms used in theoretical organic chemistry*) on page 1958