activation

This word is used in different senses:

1. Input of external energy into a chemical system is said to bring about activation of the system.

2. An added substance that increases the rate of a catalysed reaction is known as an activator, and the effect is called activation.

If v_0 is the rate of the catalysed reaction in the absence of the activator, and v is the rate in its presence, the degree of activation ε_a is defined by:

$$\varepsilon_a = (v - v_0)/v_0 = (v/v_0) - 1$$

3. When some of the energy required for a reaction to occur is provided by a previous exothermic chemical reaction there is said to be chemical activation.

See *chemical activation, catalysis*.
See also *activator, inhibition*.

1996, *68*, 151