chemical activation

When some of the energy required for a reaction is provided by a preceding exothermic chemical reaction there is said to be chemical activation. For example, in the scheme:



$$\chi^* \longrightarrow \Upsilon + Z$$

some or all of the energy required for X to decompose is provided by the first reaction.

Source:

PAC, 1996, 68, 149 (A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)) on page 158