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| **ANNEX VII – ADVANCE PAYMENT GUARANTEE FORM** |

*To be completed on paper bearing the letterhead of the financial institution*

For the attention of

**CTAO ERIC**

Via Piero Gobetti 93/3

40129 Bologna

Italy

(hereinafter the ‘contracting authority’)

Subject: Guarantee No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Financing guarantee for the repayment of advance payment under contract CTAO-ERIC/RFP/2025/02 “Design, Manufacturing, Transport, and Commissioning of an Intermediate Containerized Data Centre at the CTAO-South Site in Chile”. We the undersigned, *name, and address of financial institution*, hereby irrevocably declare that we guarantee as primary obligor, and not merely as surety on behalf of *contractor's name and address* (hereinafter referred to as “the contractor”), the payment to the contracting authority of *indicate the amount of the advance payment,* corresponding to the advance payment as mentioned in Article 10.2 of the contract concluded between the contractor and the contracting authority (hereinafter referred to as ‘the contract’).

Payment shall be made without objection or legal proceedings of any kind, upon receipt of your first written claim (sent by registered letter with confirmation or receipt) stating that the contractor has not repaid the pre-financing on request or that the contract has been terminated. We shall not delay the payment, nor shall we oppose it for any reason whatsoever. We shall not under any circumstances benefit from the defences of the security. We shall inform you in writing as soon as payment has been made.

We accept notably that no amendment to the terms of the contract can release us from our obligation under this guarantee. We waive the right to be informed of any change, addition or amendment of the contract.

We note that the guarantee will be released in accordance with Article 15.3 of the contract, and in any case at the latest at the expiry of 18 months after the implementation period of the contract.

The law applicable to this guarantee shall be that of Italy.

The guarantee will enter into force and take effect on payment of the advance payment to the contractor.

Done at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| [*Signature*]  [*Function at the financial institution/bank*] |  |

*Stamp of the financial institution/bank providing the guarantee*