As one way to reform work styles, the JFE Group has been studying the introduction of Robotics Process Automation (RPA) at JFE Steel, JFE Engineering, and JFE Shoji Trade since fiscal 2017. Currently (as of March 31, 2019), we have introduced RPA for approximately 400 operations groupwide and to date have eliminated approximately 40,000 working hours, making a significant contribution to enhanced productivity.

We are applying RPA in a wide range of sectors, from common administrative operations for finance, accounting, general affairs, and human resources to engineering support for manufacturing and design. Going forward, we will continue to introduce RPA across the Group, to promote further innovation in business processes and operational efficiency.

**Introducing RPA—Example 1**

**JFE Steel** Using RPA for reconciliation of order statements for steel sheet products for export

Operational revision: Standardized order statement formats that had previously differed by trading company
Operational efficiency: Using RPA to reconcile order statements with order information registered in the system

**Estimated effect**
Elimination of operational mistakes
Reduction in work hours = 800 hours/year made available for other tasks

**Previous workflow**

1. Print out order statements sent by trading companies
2. Reconcile information registered in J-Smile (sales and order system) with statement
3. Confirm reconcilement results
   - Correct orders as necessary

**After RPA implementation**

1. Robot saves order statements sent by trading companies in designated folder
2. Reconcile information registered in J-Smile (sales and order system) with statement
3. Confirm reconcilement results
   - Correct orders as necessary

**Estimated effect**
In addition to reduction in work hours, checking for transcription and calculation mistakes is unnecessary anymore
Major reduction in work hours = 800 hours/year made available for other tasks

**Introducing RPA—Example 2**

**JFE Engineering** Using RPA for piping design

Use RPA to extract, process, and list huge amounts of data from stress analysis in piping design
Listing up of information required by designers achieves more efficient validation

**Previous workflow**

1. Design change
   - Validation
     - Pass
   - Design change

2. Provide validation checklists for engineers

**After RPA implementation**

1. Robot saves order statements sent by trading companies in designated folder
2. Reconcile information registered in J-Smile (sales and order system) with statement
3. Confirm reconcilement results
   - Correct orders as necessary

**Estimated effect**
Improved accuracy: Automatic check using a robot instead of human eyes eliminates checking mistakes
Reduction in work hours = 100 hours/year made available for other tasks (approx. 30 forms/500 statements/month)

*OCR (Optical Character Recognition/Reader): Technology that uses a scanner or camera to read printed or handwritten text on paper and convert it to an electronic text file.