

JFE Steel's DX Promotion Vision

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Abstract:

JFE Steel's DX promotion vision is to achieve a 7% increase in DX-related sales by FY2025. This vision is based on the company's strategy to expand its DX business and improve its operational efficiency. The vision is supported by the company's strong financial performance and its commitment to innovation and digital transformation.

1. Introduction

Rapid and deepening change are under way in the

three pillars to support the promotion of DX, and aim to maximize them through the synergy among them. The three pillars are introduced below.

2.1 First Pillar: IT System Reform

Until now, JFE Steel has operated its core system in a legacy environment, which is characterized by high reliability and other features, considering the ripple effect if an abnormality occurs. On the other hand, because legacy environments are built based on the standard of each manufacturing plant, there have been challenges in utilizing data assets, such as the lack of system configuration options and functional scalability, which make it difficult to utilize advanced digital technologies.

Therefore, the first pillar supporting the promotion

of DX is IT structural reform, which means building an open platform to realize a flexible, change-tolerant IT structure, and integrating and migrating aging legacy systems to that platform. Figure 2 shows an image of this effort. As shown in the center of Fig. 2, there are three areas to move to an open platform, and the transition is made by the appropriate method, depending on the characteristics of the area:

- (1) ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning), which is applied to areas that can be standardized, such as management-related systems.
- (2) Restructuring of systems in strategic areas after re-evaluating and redefining business processes.
- (3) Migration of areas that have already been con-

2.1.1 内部クラウド環境のDX

Based on its cloud-first policy, JFE Steel contracted a new platform, the J-OS cloud, which is a dedicated internal private cloud and has been in operation since April 2016. The J-OS cloud provides an environment for the operation of internal core systems and data storage and is available from all JFE Steel sites. A hybrid cloud environment is also built, making it possible to utilize advanced digital technologies on the public cloud while ensuring safety by connecting this environment to the public cloud via an API (Application Programming Interface). The core systems will be gradually transferred to this environment, and an open environment will be implemented in the entire company during the period of the 8th Mid-Term Plan. Moving to a highly scalable open platform will make it possible to respond more quickly and flexibly to changes.

2.1.3 鋼材の品質向上

The core item of JFE Steel' steel work will also

that cannot be seen in reality and predict the future state. Steady operation can be realized by feeding back the result of health monitoring and anomaly prediction to operational action in the real process, and productivity improvement can be expected by relieving bottleneck in process. In addition, process innovation through virtual experiment and technology accumulation and work style reform through mechanization of knowledge and expertise can also be expected.

JFE Steel had introduced CPS at all its blast furnaces in Japan by FY 2020, and introduced technology that can predict the heat condition in the blast furnace up to 8 to 12 hours ahead, which is important for stable operation, and enable predictive detection of abnormalities that may cause serious trouble in the furnace, which had been difficult in the past. In the 7th Mid-Term Plan, introduction of CPS will be completed in all manufacturing process in addition to the blast

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