

Robotic Process Automation in the Manufacturing Industry

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- ✓ The benefits of RPA in Manufacturing
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The manufacturing industry has been an early adopter of automation, especially in the areas that require precision and repetition (think assembly line efficiencies).



Best of breed and specialized hardware/software are commonly used to ramp-up production, drive down costs, and improve quality. LEAN manufacturing removes the waste between process steps; and kaizen, as introduced from Japan, means “change for better”.

Information and data flow are commonly impacted by system changes, updates, and additions. Heavy system and process integration is the hallmark of legacy manufacturing plants and facilities; however, these integrations can become fragile or even fractured as changes move through the facilities – either planned system changes or unplanned (covid-19) impacts make simple things difficult to maintain, much less expand and grow. RPA (Robotic Process Automation) has matured over the past

few years; and can provide the necessary bridge for business continuity - whether planned or unplanned - information/process changes have occurred within your manufacturing business. RPA is the “action” just beyond the intent of the process. This concept applies to attended robots that work as a second set of hands for humans, or unattended robots that handle the mundane back-office or batch information processes to give humans back time to manage critical-thinking activities.

✓ **Logistics / Shipping Management**
Challenging to manage change across 3rd party vendor systems with standard 'legacy' system integrations.

✓ **Service / Maintenance Scheduling**
Disparate systems with limited integrations, multiple data formats, or multi-line geographies create roadblocks for managing parts, schedules and manpower.

✓ **Procurement / Parts Management**
Disparate systems and multiple process silos are navigated to complete the end-to-end claim process manually.

✓ **Employee / Safety Management**
Employee and Safety data are critical to operations but live in many different places/systems that require many manhours of manual updates/synchronization.

The benefits of RPA in Manufacturing



Extend Existing EDI Investments

Heavy integration already exists between internal manufacturing systems, but most of the real investment has been in ironing out the business rules rather than the actual technology cost. Changes in internal and external systems

create a ripple effect of integration work that can be quickly mitigated with RPA, but still leverage the existing business rules and systems (EDI) that are in place.



Quickly Add Vendors

Quickly capture vendor master data and update systems via basic forms and RPA without the heavy integration work typically required for new vendors. Ease the burden of onboarding new vendors/suppliers/carriers while quickly extending and divesting orders to available carriers by shortening the ramp-up and onboarding time.

This has become especially important as Covid-19 has impacted the supply chain in different ways. It is critical to business continuity that gaps are quickly identified and filled to ensure product deliverability with minimal cost/time impact.



Expedite Critical Parts Orders/Inventory

The “critical” parts list and accurate inventories are at the core of manufacturing. Maintaining the Minimum Viable parts in the right quantity will incorporate inputs from many systems and disparate processes, with some of the knowledge not living in an enterprise system. Robots can be instituted to Monitor/Alert when quantities are either trending low or drop below a threshold. Additionally, robots can take proactive actions to move beyond just passive monitoring to actively create orders, verify planned deliveries, and assess cross-region inventories to assist with the material management and systemic planning processes. The robots can help automate “the last mile” of integration typically relegated to human intervention.



Purchase Order and Invoice Process Automation

The Payment/Invoice processes of most industries still include a lot of human handle-time, and manufacturing is not exempt from this issue. Information is commonly passed in eMail channels, paper documents, and structured/unstructured electronic formats. Humans must extract pertinent information and move data between eMails, Spreadsheets, and ERP/CRM systems.

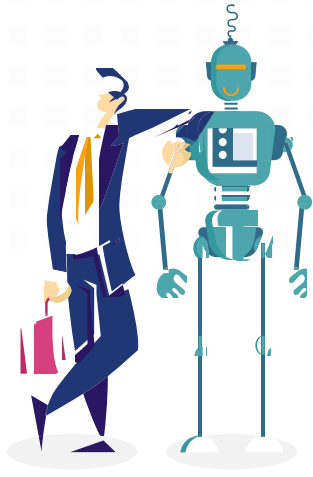
Today, Robots are enhanced with AI and document understanding that allows content to be “read” from semi-structured documents such as Purchase Orders and Invoices based on common contextual terms. This opens the door to take mundane workload away from humans that are needed for more critical tasks, and can be handled with a high degree of confidence via RPA. Multiple system updates, data entry, and business logic to determine if the information is valid are sample benefits Robots will provide.



We had to make investment decisions to support our digitization strategy and Optezo provided a simple way to incorporate RPA without having to hire a specialized team



CIO, Fortune 500 Manufacturer



Top Manufacturing RPA use cases

Let robots handle the tedious and repetitive Manufacturing tasks so your organization can better focus on quality, delivery and profitability

Logistics / Shipping Management

Managing carrier master data, material packaging, pallet/product locations, warehouse planning, and changes across warehouses/regions can be automated even when involving 3rd party vendors and systems.

Service / Maintenance Scheduling

Combining information from scheduled maintenance systems, line performance, service tickets, and SCADA alarms can be correlated and aggregated from the disparate systems; regardless of integration capabilities, data formats, or geography.

Procurement / Parts Management

Alleviate the challenges related to fragmented systems and managing material price changes, vendor performance tracking, critical parts inventory, and communication/synchronization of changes with Robots that can automatically identify and mitigate issues that would impact production capacity, risk quality, or create pricing errors.

Employee / Safety Management

Robots can aggregate data across disparate systems that each have pieces of employee information related to on/offboarding, training, safety incidents, attendance, and access privileges. RPA can remove manual entry, automate updates, and provide general data synchronization.

WHY OPTEZO

Reach RPA at scale quickly and reliably

It's "RPA in a Box"

Engaging with Optezo is easy. Everything you need to successfully build and scale an RPA program is included in one yearly fee.

Fast Track to ROI

Optezo's RPA process catalog will help you quickly identify the right starter processes and your initial bots will be deployed in a matter of weeks.

Secure and Compliant

Optezo's powerful and secure cloud computing infrastructure, built using Microsoft Azure, is architected for data security.

These use cases (and more!) are from the Optezo Process Catalog. The benefits are real. Start now.

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