



Preface

Hidenori Furuta
Corporate Executive Officer, SEVP
Head of Technology Solutions Business & CTO, CIO
Fujitsu Ltd.

Global business is rapidly migrating a service and sharing economy; at the same time, the next wave of technical innovation known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution is sweeping over us thanks to advances in AI, IoT, and other advanced technologies. Against this background, Japan announced its goal of a Super Smart Society (Society 5.0) in January 2016 with the aim of solving key social problems, including Japan's aging society, regional depopulation, the wealth gap, and how to grow the economy. This was followed by "Connected Industries," a new concept framework announced by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in March 2017 to achieve that goal in Japanese industry.

Amidst this major paradigm shift in industry, companies are in need of a digital transformation that achieves maximum use of digital technologies such as AI and creates new added value and novel products and services. Securing skilled personnel and demonstrating leadership will be vital to achieving such a digital transformation and producing results. Furthermore, in addition to technical strength, it will be essential to have an understanding of business and industry and to engage in co-creation with technology partners having a common vision and strategy.

Fujitsu has accumulated extensive knowledge and know-how through the ICT support it has given to many of its customers in the fields of manufacturing and distribution. With the aim of expanding the use and sharing of this knowledge and know-how, the system integration (SI) department was restructured in 2017. This department is playing a leading role in helping our customers transform themselves, and by concentrating the assets of systems engineers (SEs), we are working to fortify the links between industry and business know-how and consolidate solutions and technologies. In this way, we are committed to substantially increasing our knowledge and capabilities and assisting our customers in achieving a digital transformation.

In the field of manufacturing, we began providing "FUJITSU Manufacturing Industry Solution COLMINA," the monozukuri (manufacturing) digital place, in July 2017, which offers services to enhance competitiveness and a platform that connects all kinds of manufacturing information "from design to manufacturing and maintenance." Meanwhile, in the field of distribution, we

began providing “FUJITSU Retail Solution CHANNEL Value,” an information-usage business platform for revolutionizing omni-channel support and linking, and using information and services in a way that crosses traditional business fields and categories.

Going forward, Fujitsu intends to leverage the knowledge and know-how it has cultivated in diverse business fields and the advanced digital technologies it possesses as a foundation for forming and fortifying a global ecosystem in collaboration with partners throughout the world and for creating new solutions and services on a global scale. We also seek to create new added value together with our customers as true technology partners to survive this paradigm shift in industry.

With a focus on manufacturing and distribution, this issue introduces Fujitsu’s initiatives and practices for creating new added value and supporting customers in their digital transformation by using advanced digital technologies to connect people, things, information, and knowledge. The technologies and development of human resources supporting these efforts are also described. I sincerely hope our readers find the articles in this issue informative and useful, and I look forward to everyone’s support and feedback.