

# Boardroom Questions



**Robotics** 

How can businesses transform existing transactional processes with Robotic Process Automation (RPA)?



# US\$13 Trillion

economic value of Artificial Intelligence (AI) over the next decade; 70% corporate AI adoption by 2030

McKinsey Global Institute, 2018

# 30-50%

full time employee cost savings from usage of RPA in conjunction with Al; 10-25% with RPA alone

Morgan Stanley, 2018

# 42%

of global CEOs expect to see significant ROI on RPA investments within 1-3 years

2018 Global CEO Outlook, KPMG

### What is Robotic Process Automation?

#### **Intelligent Automation (IA)**

**Robotic Process Automation** 

Cognitive Automation (including Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence)

# Class 1: Rules



Automation based on documented process rules

#### Class 2: Learning



Recognize patterns from unstructured data; automation based on accuracy ratings

# Class 3: Reasoning



Hypothesis – based reasoning; automation based on confidence ratings

RPA leverages digital technologies to **augment or automate tasks**. These technologies have the ability to transform functions and entire organizations, which could reduce costs by up to 75% in some areas while **improving speed**, **accuracy**, **quality control** and freeing employees to focus on higher value activities

# What are the opportunities?

RPA has already been effectively used in call centers and back-office, transactional business services. Organizations today are focusing new efforts on higher-skilled roles within the legal, medical, finance and accounting, procurement and supply chain functions.

Increased use of IA overall and RPA in particular are **making service delivery location strategies less important** as digitization and automation do not need to be placed in specific geographic regions to potentially increase businesses' profitability. Morgan Stanley estimates that **80% of business process outsourcing activity is automatable** and **30% information technology outsourcing is automatable at a cost savings of 30%** 

### **Boardroom Questions**

- 1 What processes have undergone RPA? What is the RPA vision for our business and the strategy for implementation? How are efforts coordinated and prioritized?
- (2) What implications will the RPA strategy have on people with regards to numbers, retraining and communications? Are expectations on job losses and retraining potential realistic? Are adequate change management programs defined and in place?
- What more can we do to enhance RPA, for example, move more of our systems to cloud, integrate Al with D&A efforts?
- What are the projected **savings** in accuracy, efficiency and resources? Have the calculation methods been vetted, tested and promoted?
- (5) How is RPA being **linked to Al** and other IA efforts and what are the benefits? Are overall RPA and Al efforts **coordinated**?
- 6 Are we measuring our customers' and suppliers' views on RPA from their user experience? Where do we need to improve? What is working, what is not and who is responsible for addressing?

# Questions for senior management

- 1 What is the **strategy for RPA? Who leads** effort overall? How are corporate, functional, divisional and geographic strategies being co-ordinated and integrated?
- 2 Are we proactively redesigning functions and processes that will be impacted by RPA? Do we understand what roles will be partially, fully or nominally automated? How will we redeploy fractionally automated roles?
- (3) What is the **feedback from our clients and suppliers** since we transitioned to using RPA and subsequent upgrades, and how have we addressed them?
- (4) Have our risk procedures been updated to consider the changes since we implemented RPA?

- (5) What measures are in place for **cyber security** and have they been reviewed?
- 6 How are we retraining staff impacted by RPA? Is our change management program effective? How do we develop transition strategies to manage workforce disruption and support people in re-skilling for new roles?
- Prior to RPA implementations, do we assess if processes are truly fit for purpose and streamlined? Do we only automate business critical activities and eliminate redundant/ irrelevant tasks?
- (8) As we implement basic RPA, how are we driving towards more value-added RPA (e.g., combined with AI, end-to-end and cross function/process)

### What actions can the Board consider?

- 1 Understand and question where the business is in its RPA journey and IA efforts overall. **Are ROI goals being achieved**? Are they aggressive enough?
- Review at least quarterly to ensure that we are on track and addressing RPA implications from multiple dimensions (e.g., benefits, costs, labor impact, coordination of efforts)
- Start small and targeted and deliver swiftly. Today's organizations should be well beyond pilots and proof-of-concept only efforts
- 4 Continually evolve and execute sourcing strategies. Frequently assess partner performance; monitor market trends and new entrants
- Understand the impact of increased RPA on traditional shared services and outsourcing efforts and revamp efforts accordingly
- 6 Ensure long-term overall IA strategy and goals are in place, are reasonably aggressive and differentiated, and that current/ short term efforts drive towards these longer term strategic goals

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