

December 23, 2024

JX Advanced Metals Corporation

## **Strengthening Human Resource Development in Quality Management**

Introducing a Global Standard Human Resource Development Program  
to Double the Number of Professional Internal Quality Auditors

JX Advanced Metals Corporation (President: Hayashi Yoichi; "the Company") has decided to introduce the Organization Employing Auditors (OEA) program provided by the International Register of Certificated Auditors (IRCA), a leading global evaluation and registration body for auditors, with the aim of strengthening human resource development in quality management.

In our Long-Term Vision 2040, the JX Advanced Metals group aims to contribute to the development and innovation of society as a global leader in advanced materials. To achieve this, we are updating our approach to quality. Through years of business activities, our group has strived to maintain and improve the quality of our products.<sup>1</sup> However, in the field of advanced materials, which we position as the core of our growth strategy, product life cycles are short, and market demands are becoming increasingly complex and diverse. Therefore, to differentiate our technology and create markets, it is necessary to continually improve the entire business process, from product design and development to post-sales customer service. To this end, the Quality Control Department, established in 2018 within the Technology Group, is at the core of pursuing the ideal form of a Quality Management System (QMS) that focuses on business rather than just products, and promoting its continuous improvement.

Our group believes that internal quality audits are important alongside third-party audits for the continuous improvement of QMS. As part of this effort, we are working to develop personnel with knowledge equivalent to or greater than that of third-party auditors regarding global QMS standards.<sup>2</sup> The OEA program provided by IRCA, which we have recently introduced, is the only program in the world that supports the development of QMS professionals with globally recognized competencies. Under this program, we aim to double the number of professional internal quality auditors by 2027 through further advancements in human resource development.

Going forward, our group will continue to contribute to the development and innovation of society as a global leader in advanced materials by continuously improving QMS and providing high-functionality, high-performance products and services that meet market demands.

1. Here, "products" refers to the characteristics of manufactured products (dimensions, chemical composition, electrical properties, durability, appearance, etc.).
2. As of December 2024, our company had a total of 11 auditors registered with IRCA's international standards (2 Lead Auditors, 2 Auditors, 4 Internal Auditors, and 3 Associate Auditors). We consider Auditors and above as "professional audit personnel."

### About the International Register of Certificated Auditors

IRCA is a leading global evaluation and registration body for management system auditors. Established in the UK in 1919, it has been involved in defining the competencies and training standards for quality professionals for over 100 years, under the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI, formerly the Institute of Quality Assurance). IRCA was established in 1984 as a division of CQI to evaluate and register management system auditors. Evaluations and registrations by IRCA are conducted based on global standards, and auditors registered by IRCA are the only ones globally recognized.

