News Release

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

26-D-0919
October 29, 2026

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION (security code: -)

<Affirmation>
Long-term Issuer Rating: AA
Outlook: Stable
CP: J-1+

Rationale

(1) NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION (the "Company") is the core trading company of the NIPPON STEEL Group (the "Group"). NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION ("NIPPON STEEL") increased the investment ratio in the Company in April 2023, and the latter became a consolidated subsidiary of the former. In the core steel business, the Company offers comprehensive services, ranging from raw material procurement to product delivery to customers. It also operates such business segments as industrial supply & infrastructure, foodstuffs and textiles. NIPPON STEEL's current ownership ratio is 80% and the remaining shares are held by MITSUI & CO., LTD. ("MITSUI & CO."). In 2018, the Company partially acquired the iron and steel product business of MITSUI & CO. and also integrated MITSUI & CO.'s subsidiary with the textiles business in 2022 and established MN Inter-Fashion Ltd.

(2) Considering that support from NIPPON STEEL is highly feasible, the ratings strongly reflect creditworthiness of NIPPON STEEL. In addition to recognizing the integration in management and financial operations with NIPPON STEEL, the personal connections are also strong; hence the degree of control and involvement of NIPPON STEEL is judged to be strong. While NIPPON STEEL is seeking to regain its former position of world No. 1 steel manufacturer, the Company is considered to be a partner implementing strategies of respective Group companies as the core trading company of the Group. The Company's significance for the business management is high. As for the performance perspective, for the fiscal year ended March 2022 (FY2021) onward, it has been maintaining a certain profit level with sound financial position. Based on the above, JCR has affirmed the ratings on the Company with a Stable outlook.

(3) In recent years, the Company has been actively promoting collaboration measures, utilizing the trading and distribution functions, with the Group's respective companies and is expected to continue playing an important role toward enhancing competitiveness of the Group's entire supply chain into the future. FY2025, ordinary profit decreased 8.6% year-on-year to 49.0 billion yen, marking a profit decrease for the first time in five fiscal years, but it has been consistently securing around 50 billion yen of ordinary profit since FY2021. It is highly likely that profit will grow for FY2026. Steel prices are expected to rise, and it has also been making progress in capturing semiconductors and energy-related demand. The industrial supply & infrastructure and foodstuffs businesses are also steadily performing.

(4) The Company maintains a sound financial position as a steel trading firm. At the end of FY2025, the equity ratio was 37.2% and net DER was 0.6x, largely improved respectively from 25.7% and 1.4x at the end of FY2021, the latest bottom. This is attributable to progress in accumulation of profits in capital and reducing working capital. Going forward, an increase in working capital requirement along with rising steel price and capital investment / business investment for capturing new demand and expansion of overseas business can be expected; however, JCR considers the Company can flexibly respond to these.

Masayoshi Mizukawa, Yosuke Sato

Rating

Issuer: NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION

<Affirmation>
Long-term Issuer Rating: AA Outlook: Stable
CP: J-1+
Maximum: JPY 120 billion

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Rating Assignment Date: October 26, 2026

The assumptions for the credit ratings and the definitions of the rating symbols are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/).

Outline of the rating methodology is shown as "JCR's Rating Methodology" (October 1, 2024), "Iron & Steel" (June 15, 2022) and "Rating Methodology for Group Companies of Corporate Group" (September 1, 2022) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/).

The rating stakeholder participated in the rating process of the aforementioned credit ratings.

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JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION
Rating Publication Date:	October 29, 2026

1 The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.

2 The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.

3 The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

A) Business Bases

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to its issuer's business bases - how they can be maintained/ expanded into the future and thereby secure earnings and cash flows in adequacy and in a sustainable way.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the degree of the issuer's indebtedness and loss absorption capacity in terms of equity capital. Also notable is that a financial institution might see a significant loss of financial grounds as a result of changes in value of the assets under its possession.

C) Liquidity Positions

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the adequacy of the issuer's cash and other sources of repayment (liquidity positions).

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The likelihood of debt payment is affected one way or the other by the issuer's related parties such as parent company, subsidiary, guarantor, and the government of the issuer's business domicile, etc. - by their own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer.

E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuer's discretion, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same issuer in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by laws, etc.

4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

  A) Audited financial statements presented by the rating stakeholders

  B) Explanations of business performance, management plans, etc. presented by the rating stakeholders

9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(l) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the audit by an independent auditor, the warranty made by the issuer, the publication by the issuer, some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.
- If the credit rating is an Indication, please see the report for Indication.

10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR receives payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of public or private credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

A) Business Bases

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases, since its revenue, etc. may improve or deteriorate by the change in its business management policies, clients' preferences, competitive situation, or a technological innovation. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the business bases is large.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its debt/ capital or vice versa and thereby makes its individual debt payment liability less or more bearable and its loss absorption capacity into the future decreased or increased. Also, the changes in the quality of asset under the issuer's holding may affect the credit rating, since such changes could raise or lower the likelihood of future loss of the issuer's financial grounds. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the financial grounds and/ or asset quality is large.

C) Liquidity Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's financial management policy or in the relations with fund procurement sources and the change thereby makes its liquidity positions improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's parent company or subsidiary, guarantor or other provider of credit enhancement, or the government of the issuer's business domicile, or other related parties' own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer, and the change thereby makes its business bases, financial grounds and/ or liquidity positions improve or deteriorate, and/ or making the effectiveness of guarantee and other credit enhancement improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts caused by the improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's financial condition. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large. Also, in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, the credit rating is subject to alteration if and when the likelihood of such non-payment is projected to increase or decrease. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

F) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a rise/ fall in the general economy and/ or the markets inducing the issuer's revenues/ expenses to increase/ decrease and vice versa, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

G) Various Events

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as change in the issuer's major shareholders, M&A and other organizational change, accident, violation of the law, litigation, legal/ regulatory change, natural disaster, etc., which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's business bases, financial grounds, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

12 Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/

13 Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

A) Business Bases

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's business bases and powers of earning or cash flow generation, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases on some drastic change in the operational environments, etc.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's financial grounds and asset quality. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but

possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's financial grounds and/ or asset quality on some drastic change in its business bases.

C) Liquidity Risks

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in its financial management policy or relations with fund procurement sources, etc.

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's parent company or subsidiaries, guarantor or other providers of credit enhancement, the government of the issuer's business domicile or other related parties' status and stance of support/ assistance for the issuer. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if there is a major change on the part of related parties, such as replacement, disappearance, some drastic improvement/ deterioration of financial grounds/ balances, etc.

E) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of general economy and markets. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

14 Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

・ The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

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The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	October 27, 2017	A	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	November 19, 2018	A	Positive
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	November 25, 2019	A+	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	January 18, 2021	A+	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	December 23, 2021	A+	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	December 22, 2022	#A+	Positive
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	April 14, 2023	AA-	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	November 15, 2023	AA	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	November 18, 2024	AA	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	Issuer(Long-term)	November 4, 2025	AA	Stable
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	October 27, 2017	J-1	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	November 19, 2018	J-1	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	January 15, 2019	J-1	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	November 25, 2019	J-1	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	January 18, 2021	J-1	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	December 23, 2021	J-1	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	December 22, 2022	#J-1	Positive
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	April 14, 2023	J-1+	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	May 30, 2023	J-1+	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	November 15, 2023	J-1+	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	November 18, 2024	J-1+	
NIPPON STEEL TRADING CORPORATION	CP	November 4, 2025	J-1+	

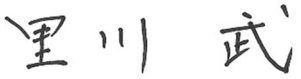
Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Takeshi Rikawa, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.

B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.

C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.



Takeshi Rikawa
General Manager of Corporate Rating Department I

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