



## Chinese Firm Replaces Half Of Workers With Robots To Sort 200,000 Packages Per Day

Just 2 weeks ago, GE CEO Jeff Immelt told us that “This notion of the war of the robots happening in the short term, that’s more of a Silicon Valley vision than the real world.” This story is part of a rash of stories out of China about massive robot-replacement that prove that Immelt is either an idiot or a liar. □ TN Editor

A viral video showing an army of little orange robots sorting out packages in a warehouse in eastern China is the latest example of how machines are increasingly taking over menial factory work on the mainland.

The behind-the-scenes footage of the self-charging robot army in a sorting centre of Chinese delivery powerhouse Shentong (STO) Express was shared on *People’s Daily’s* social media accounts on Sunday.

The video showed dozens of round orange Hikvision robots - each the size of a seat cushion - swivelling across the floor of the large warehouse in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

A worker was seen feeding each robot with a package before the machines carried the parcels away to different areas around the sorting centre, then flipping their lids to deposit them into chutes beneath the floor.

The robots identified the destination of each package by scanning a code on the parcel, thus minimising sorting mistakes, according to the video.

The machines can sort up to 200,000 packages a day and are self-charging, meaning they can operate around the clock.

An STO Express spokesman told the *South China Morning Post* on Monday that the robots had helped the company save half the costs it typically required to use human workers.

They also improved efficiency by around 30 per cent and maximised sorting accuracy, he said.

“We use these robots in two of our centres in Hangzhou right now,” the spokesman said. “We want to start using these across the country, especially in our bigger centres.”

Although the machines could run around the clock, they were presently used only for about six or seven hours each time from 6pm, he said.

Manufacturers across China have been increasingly replacing human workers with machines.

[Read full story here...](#)