Seismic isolation in action: Protecting servers

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Our old building was built to survive a level-6-minus earthquake (measured on the Japanese scale), and the new one is designed to withstand a level-7 quake. When it was built we decided to have a seismic isolation device installed under the entire floor of the transmission room, where we keep our server computers and critical transmission equipment. The aim is to prevent any disruption of telephone, Internet, or cable television service to 70,000 households in the cities of Toyohashi, Tahara, and Shinshiro, even in the event of a chain of earthquakes in the Tokai, Tonankai, and Nankai regions.

There were three things that led us to select THK's seismic isolation device. First, through simulations of three major earthquakes that had previously occurred—the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the 2007 Niigata-Chuetsu-Oki Earthquake, and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake—we were able to ascertain the effective range of motion once the devices were installed. Second, the devices consist of individual modules that can be freely configured, which appealed to us. Third, they could easily accommodate our transmission cables.

The THK sales representatives and technicians we met all conveyed real enthusiasm for their seismic isolation products. They stayed on site throughout the installation work, despite the midsummer heat, and showed a determination not just to sell their products but to seriously take care of the customer's needs.

THK develops its own products, and they have the flexibility to address a customer's specific needs. I hope they'll offer even more guidance on construction methods in the future and keep finding more customers for their seismic isolation equipment, to help alleviate natural disasters here in earthquake-prone Japan.

The entire transmission room floor is protected by seismic isolation devices.