

Feature section: THK supports society

Protecting important assets during earthquakes

(Photo, left and center: House of Mr. Hiroshi Soutome and Mrs. Keiko Soutome, right: SHIZUOKA DAIICHI TELEVISION)

Seismic isolation system for servers offers security



Osamu Matsuda

Manager
Engineering Department,
Corporate Planning Office
SHIZUOKA DAIICHI TELEVISION
CORPORATION

SHIZUOKA DAIICHI TELEVISION broadcasts TV programs to roughly 3.8 million citizens of Japan's Shizuoka Prefecture.

In the August 2009 Shizuoka Earthquake, the server running our important enterprise system was twisted out of shape and suffered other damage. It was then that I realized that broadcasting would face serious difficulties in a major disaster such as the yet to be experienced Tokai Earthquake, and so I took the plunge and ordered a seismic isolation system for our servers.

At the discussion stage, we were also considering the seismic isolations systems of other manufacturers, but:

- (1) THK holds the top share worldwide in linear motion systems, and its basic technology a high level of reliability,
- (2) Their seismic isolation systems utilize a unique rolling technology, and

- (3) The THK sales people are very convincing with their very sophisticated sales approach and strong confidence in their products.

In view of the above considerations, we decided in September 2010 to have THK products installed.

The Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011 registered a seismic intensity of 4 in Shizuoka City. At the time, rolling motions that I have never before experienced continued for some time. All that happened was that the server racks moved gently in a horizontal direction, and the seismic isolation table shifted by about 5 cm. The seismic isolation systems had done their job right after being introduced. The servers did not suffer any damage, and we could sense the stability that was provided by the seismic isolation system.