Hokkaido Sumiden Precision Co., Ltd. **Naie, Sorachi, Hokkaido**

Ensuring that *Monozukuri** Never Stops

Kazuhiro Takakuwa
Section Manager
Plant Engineering & Maintenance Section
Hokkaido Sumiden Precision Co., Ltd.

Masuo Chuudo
President
Hokkaido Sumiden Precision Co., Ltd.

Our company is partnered with Sumitomo Electric Industries. We develop, manufacture, and sell cutting tools, and we mass produce replacement tools with our product line, IGETALLOY. This is a line of cemented carbide cutting tools, used when machining steel or casted material on a lathe or milling machine. Mostly used by automotive, aerospace, and railroad component manufacturers, it has become something *monozukuri* cannot function without.

Our plant is Sumitomo Electric Industries's main facility for manufacturing replacement tools, so if some unexpected problem were to occur, their supply would come to a dead halt. As a result, the production lines of the machine component and automotive manufacturers we directly supply would also be in danger of stopping. In terms of a BCP (business continuity plan), while we have long been taking a number of steps to ensure our speedy recovery even in the event of a disaster, we feel that it is especially important that we take measures to protect our production control and order receiving systems from earthquakes.

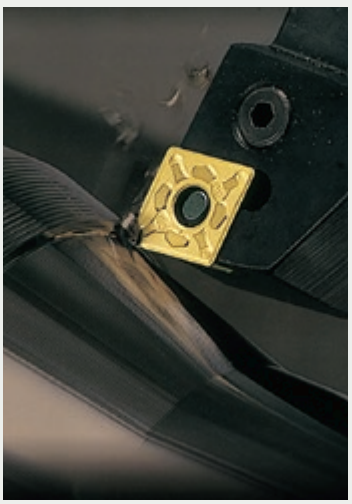
Our company has installed backups so that our core system can be back up within a day after a disaster, running in the condition it was an hour before the disaster struck. This system is implemented throughout our facility. In revising our BCP after our experience with the Great East Japan Earthquake, we built an emergency shelter to ensure our employees' safety, installed seismic isolation devices into its floor, and relocated our backup system server there, as well.

While inland Hokkaido is a region with relatively few earthquakes, our company's headquarters is in Itami in Hyogo Prefecture and suffered great damage during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Having gone through this ourselves, we are acutely aware of the need to be ready for earthquakes. Furthermore, during the Great East Japan Earthquake, an earthquake between magnitude 3 and 4 was recorded in Hokkaido, so we cannot be sure that we are completely secure unless we take some measures.

We chose THK when installing the seismic isolation devices in our emergency shelter because of the mechanical strength of their product against pitching. They brought their Seismic Isolation Simulation Vehicle all the way to us, and we were able to feel for ourselves the reduction of seismic intensity this technology brings. Another factor that increased our trust in THK is that we use many of their products in our tool tip production equipment, which is designed and made in-house.

Our company works with many suppliers, but whereas many of these companies have a clear division between their sales and engineering groups, THK's sales representative followed up on the equipment installation, and even members of upper management came by several times, which reassured us that we were in good hands.

While we have implemented measures to protect our emergency shelter with seismic isolation devices, we have CNC and many other high-precision machines at our plant which are at risk from seismic activity. Vibrations, conveyed along the floor by pumps and compressors, can lead to less accurate output. We can't ship our products if they show even the slightest amount of error, so we plan to put efforts into reducing vibration to maintain a high level of precision. We look forward to seeing how THK further develops the seismic isolation device, which simultaneously conducts base isolation and reduces vibration at a high level of performance.



One of our company's replacement tools being used in a cutting process

Servers in our new emergency shelter, safeguarded by seismic isolation

* Monozukuri *is a Japanese word, often translated as "manufacturing," that suggests a high level of craftsmanship.*