

Active Mass Driver System

The Active Mass Driver System is comprised of earthquake sensing devices that activate hydraulic pumps, which in turn cause jacks to move a suspended mass to counteract a building's motion arising from earthquake or strong wind forces. This concept has been installed in the Kyobashi Seiwa Building in Tokyo, Japan, and has performed well in actual earthquake and wind incidents. The Kyobashi Seiwa Building is an eleven story, 32.8 meter tall structure with plan dimensions of 4.01 meters by 12.44 meters. Its earthquake motions and building vibrations are detected by sensors located at the basement level, at strategic floors of the building, and at sites external to the building. The detected signals are transmitted to and analyzed by a computer, and signals are then sent to hydraulic jacks at the top of the building. These jacks drive counter weights, thereby creating counter forces that suppress the building's vibrations.

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