

# Trailblazing Takeuchi Targets U.S. Success

The creator of the TNF and T-BAGS foundation-building methods, the Hiroshima-based construction firm is constantly updating its technology—and is eager to expand its overseas presence. *By Bernard Thompson*



"Our low-cost technology is suitable for U.S. buildings that are both large-scale and low-story."

**Kinji Takeuchi**, CEO, Takeuchi Construction

A construction company founded in 1990, Takeuchi has established itself as a developer of pioneering methods for laying building foundations.

As it looks forward to its 35th anniversary, the Japanese firm is focused on the continuous evolution of its techniques—and on growing its international reach. "I'm always saying we'd like to expand to the U.S.," says CEO Kinji Takeuchi.

Takeuchi has two flagship technologies: the Tender Net Foundation (TNF) and T-BAGS Seismic Isolation methods. Currently used for low-rise buildings, they are particularly effective

at protecting against earthquake damage—a crucial consideration in Japan, where such natural disasters are common. The techniques also guard against foundation settlement, which occurs when a building sinks into the soil below it.

Shallower than their conventional counterparts, TNF and T-BAGS foundations are more economical and have a lower environmental impact than traditional methods as they require fewer materials and cause less ground damage.

Since releasing TNF, Takeuchi's commitment to R&D has seen it roll out two updated versions, TNF2.0 and TNF-DD; moreover, the company is now developing an iteration of the technology that's suitable for mid-rise buildings.

"We're also developing the T-BAGS Seismic Isolation method," Mr. Takeuchi notes. "We've conducted computer simulations to apply the system to five-story buildings, demonstrating that it functions effectively even in such constructions."

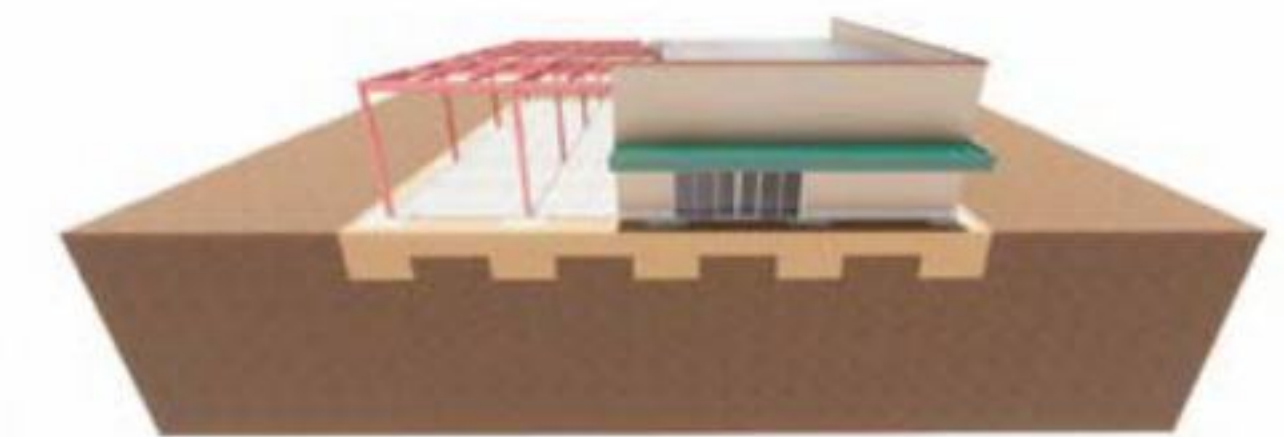
What's more, Takeuchi wants to extend the scope of its methods beyond single buildings. "We'd like to develop earthquake-proofing and settlement-prevention technology for entire blocks," the CEO says. "That'd be a world first."

And as Takeuchi targets overseas expansion, a priority is to establish partnerships in the



Little damage with TNF method

Serious damage with pile system



Structure of TNF system and building

States. "We need local companies involved in developing buildings to gain an understanding of our methods," explains Mr. Takeuchi, who adds that the firm is working hard to spread the word about its trailblazing methods. "This summer, we've been attending international conferences to present our research. There are people who've shown interest in our technology."



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