

Mitsubishi Electric Announces Construction of World's Highest (173 m) Elevator Testing Tower

Mitsubishi Electric Corporation President and CEO, Tamotsu Nomakuchi, has announced that construction has begun on a new elevator testing tower at the company's Inazawa Works in Japan. At some 173 meters, it will be the tallest such tower in the world, and will help further strengthen and expand the company's elevator business.

Construction of the tower commenced on Dec 26th, 2005, and is scheduled for completion in May 2007.

In addition to being used to develop the technologies used in ultra high-speed elevators in the 1200 m/min class as well as high-capacity elevators, the new testing tower will allow the company to further R&D on the comfort of the ride, lower noise/vibration levels, safety and other aspects of quality and reliability. Furthermore, it is planned for the tower to be used as a research facility for the cutting-edge technologies upon which future elevator concepts will be based.

Purpose in Constructing the New Testing Tower

As high-rise construction has been increasing recently in countries around the world, the demand for elevators has been rising, and with it so has the demand for even better quality and reliability – more comfort, lower noise/vibration levels and more safety - in high-speed elevators.

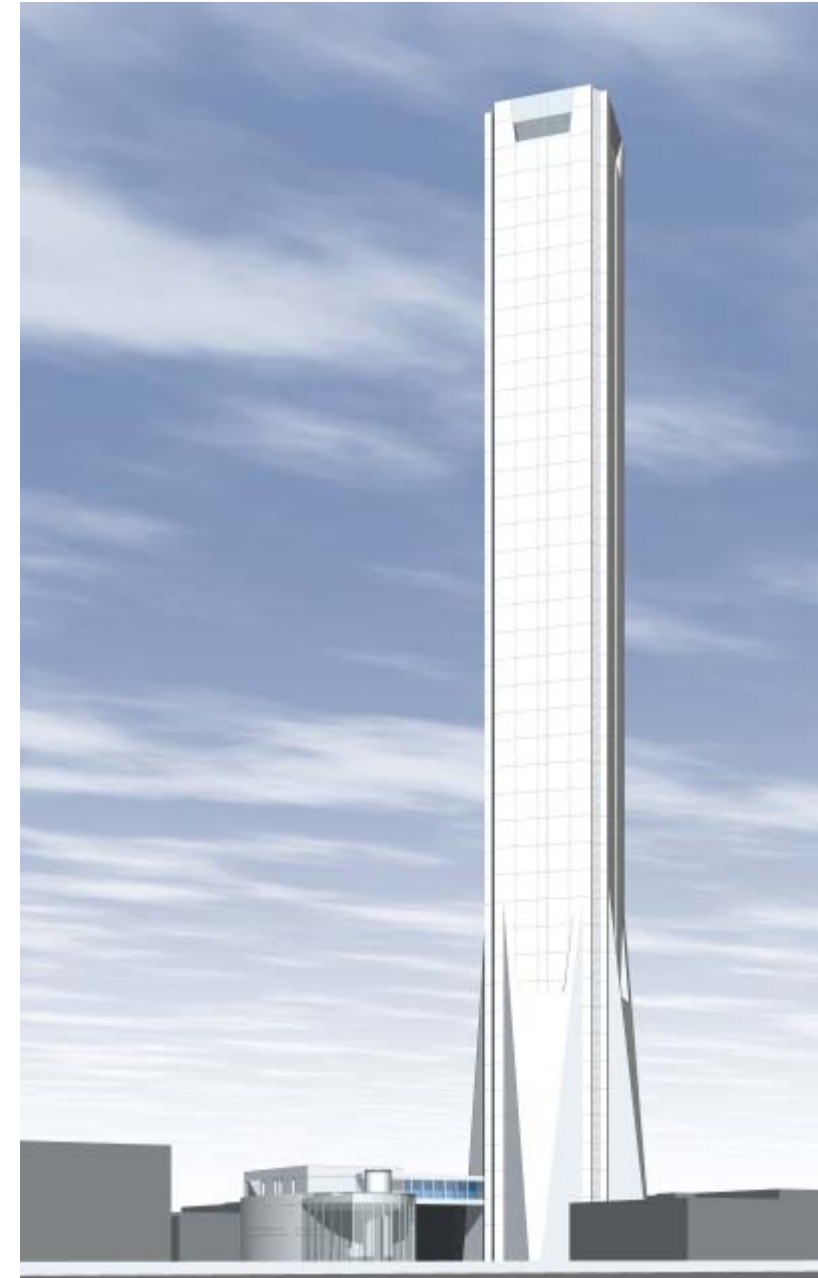
Inazawa Works, Mitsubishi Electric's "mother" factory for its worldwide elevator business, is tasked with developing and manufacturing highly competitive, cutting-edge products. Along with its eleven production centers in eight other countries, it delivers those products to the global market.

The current testing tower stands at 65 meters, and was built in 1965. To date, Mitsubishi Electric has had to use this tower to develop high-speed elevators, such as the ones installed at Ikebukuro Sunshine 60 (600 m/min) in 1978 and at Yokohama Landmark Tower (750 m/min) in 1993, which were the fastest elevators in the world at the time of installation.

With construction of the new testing tower, Mitsubishi Electric will be able to speed up development of cutting-edge products, such as ultra high-speed elevators in the 1200 m/min class and high-capacity elevators that can carry a great number of people at one time. The tower will also strengthen the company's ability to develop technologies that can bring improvement to quality and reliability in terms of comfort for the passengers, reduced noise/vibration, and greater safety. Moreover, it will enhance the company's accumulation of cutting-edge technologies and product development capabilities, from which it can generate concepts for elevators of the future.

New Testing Tower Overview

Location	Mitsubishi Electric Corporation Inazawa Works Compound (1 Hishi-machi, Inazawa City, Aichi Prefecture)
Construction Area	440m ²
Building Height	173m above ground
Number of Floors	10 floors above ground, 1 floor underground
Area of Attached Wings	Approx. 1,000m ² (Testing facilities, etc.)
Start of Construction	December 26 th , 2005
Completion	Scheduled for May 2007
Total Investment	5 billion yen, including related facilities



[Rendering of New Testing Tower]