

# Corporate Members

## Regie Nationale des Usines Renault

Regie Nationale des Usines Renault produces and markets automobiles all over the world. France's largest industrial group, Renault exports more than half its production—57 percent—to 150 countries. It has constructed a distribution network that spans five continents.

Twenty-seven assembly and production plants have been set up in such countries as Spain (Valladolid—341,000 vehicles a year), Belgium (Haren—173,000), Argentina (Cordoba—70,000), Mexico (Ciudad Sahaguh—25,000) and Turkey (Bursa—12,000).

### Product Range

Renault's principal interest is automobiles, particularly private cars and small industrial vehicles. It produces 1,900,000 cars per year. By the end

of 1980, Renault was the sixth largest automobile manufacturer in the world. A total of 11 plants operate in France and 27 abroad—in Europe, Africa, America, Asia and Australia. The company's main production unit is Regie Nationale des Usines Renault, located in Billancourt, France.

The company's second concern is commercial vehicles, three tons and over: trucks, truck trailers, vans, buses and coaches. Renault Vehicules Industriel (RVI), Lyon, France, is the principal production center for these vehicles.

The Societe des Automobiles Alpine Renault, located in Dieppe Cedex, France, is the Renault subsidiary that manufactures series and sports cars. Renault sports cars have performed successfully in many international races.

In addition to these vehicles Renault manufactures farm and forest machinery, including a complete range of tractors; a range of low- and medium-powered engines used for industry, public works, pleasure and fishing boats; pumping and generating sets; and carrier transports, as well as machine tools, bearings, steel, cast iron and industrial rubber.

### Historic Origins

Renault was born inauspiciously in 1898, in a family garden shed in Billancourt, France, where 21-year-old Louis Renault built the first 'direct-drive-transmission' automobile. A few months later, on October 1, 1898, he and his brothers, founded the Societé Renault Frères (Renault Brothers Company) with a capital of 60,000 francs.

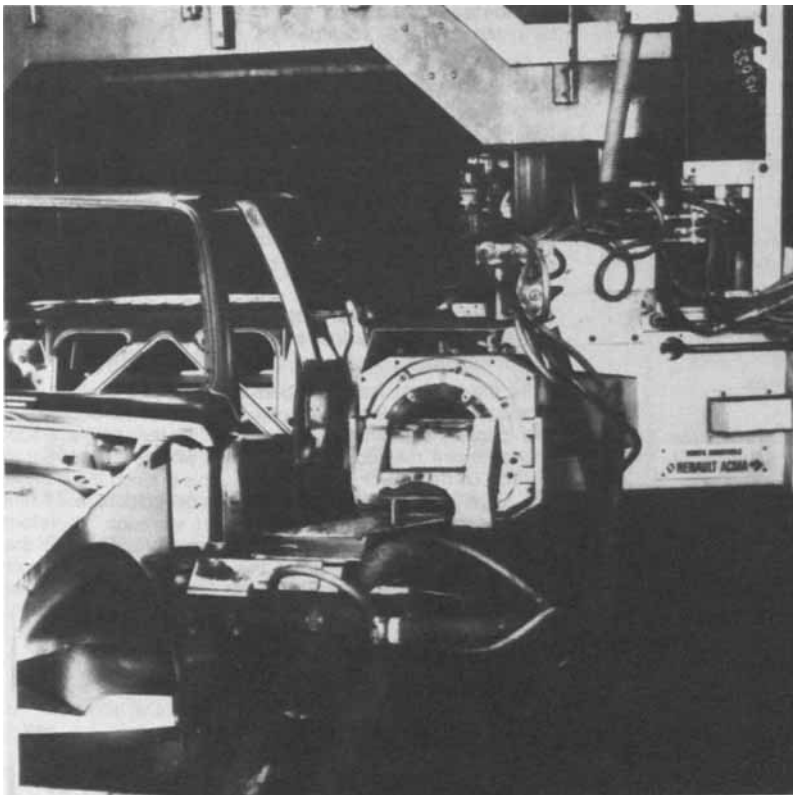
The Renault Company was firmly established as an automobile manufacturer when its vehicles were exhibited at the World Exposition in Paris in 1900 and at the first Automobile Show at the Grand Palais in 1901.

Renault was nationalized in 1945 and became the Regie Nationale des Usines Renault. At the end of the year 1900, the plant had produced 179 cars annually. By 1981 the company's annual production in France and throughout the world had risen to over two million.

### Global Concerns

Renault strives to strengthen the international market by boosting exports and participating in international industrial cooperation. Its vehicles are designed to fit every function, every budget and every country. The economical 'Le Car' has been very popular in the United States.

Renault also strives to contribute decisively to the earth's economic growth and development. At Rueill and Lardy Technical Research Centers, among the best equipped in Europe, some 3300 specialists design and develop new automobile models and improve the existing line, adapting it to comply with the requirements of different international markets. These technicians work to improve safety as well as reduce fuel consumption.



A Renault welding robot on a Renault 18 assembly line