



SINCE 1894

ALTERNATIVES TO OIL

Ever since 1924, Berliet and then Renault Trucks have been working on solutions using alternative energies to petrol. From electric to wood-powered engines, the truck with the diamond emblem has always displayed a spirit of invention.



“A litre of oil, a litre of blood”. Right in the midst of the war, this army slogan from 1917 illustrates how the question of fuel supplies was already of vital importance. The first innovative responses to this issue came from Berliet. In 1924, the Vénissieux factory supplied the town of with a mortuary truck. The truck was silent since it ran on electricity. Its range of 40km at a speed of 22 kph was sufficient to cope with a funeral!

THE WOOD-POWERED GAS GENERATOR

“Wood-powered trucks” were the other alternative. Following tests on a car in 1923, it was Berliet who produced a range of 500 “gas generator” trucks for the French army. A wood-fired burner supplies the engine with energy. The gas generator reached its peak during the Second World War. As trains were being requisitioned and there were fuel shortages, wood affirmed itself as the alternative solution. From 1940, the Vénissieux factory produced 4,000 gas generator trucks and 10,000 kits for transforming traditional trucks to enable them to run on wood.

NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY

During the thirty years of strong economic growth following the end of World War II, petrol was king. It was not until the turn of the 21st century that innovative energy solutions came back to life, with Renault Trucks now taking over the role of forerunner. In 2007, the Renault Premium Hybrys Tech concept truck illustrated the efficiency of hybrid engines. In 2010, the Renault Maxity Electric was introduced as a



light, easy to handle and non-pollutant solution for local distribution. Today Renault Trucks is distributing a complete line of full-electric trucks with zero emission on operation – the Renault Trucks Z.E. range- together with an offer of CNG vehicles.

