Jean-Joseph Etienne Lenoir Encyclopedia Article

Jean-Joseph Etienne Lenoir

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Jean-Joseph Etienne Lenoir

1822-1900

Belgian inventor and engineer who developed the first usable internal combustion engine. Lenoir was able to convert a steam engine to run on a coal gas and air mixture, making a practical engine. He later modified his device to run on liquid fuel, similar to today's internal combustion engines. He used his engine to propel a land vehicle in 1860 and a boat in 1886.