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PSA Peugeot Citroën registered more patents than any other company in France in 2009, with a total of nearly 1,300

PSA Peugeot Citroën has for the third consecutive year confirmed its place as the leading patent applicant in France. According to the ranking released today by the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), the Group registered 1,265 patents in 2009, some 304 more than in 2008.

Despite a difficult economic context, PSA Peugeot Citroën is preparing for the future and allocating the resources needed to best respond to the challenges facing the automotive industry.

The Group's number-one position reflects its intense innovative activity as well as the commitment of its technicians and engineers to this dynamic.

These new patents further strengthen a portfolio of innovations that serve the Group's aims, particularly its ambition to be one step ahead on carbon-efficient vehicles and automotive design.

Covering the vehicle as a whole, the patents reflect the Group's strategic innovation areas:

- Lower CO2 emissions, through engine control and pollution reduction
- Attractive vehicles with innovative interiors
- Safety, through still more efficient braking systems

"The Group considers this commitment to innovation as one of its advantages and a real potential for differentiation," said Marc-Duval Destin, Vice President, Advanced Research and Engineering.

The Group devoted €2.1 billion to R&D in 2009, equivalent to 5.6% of revenues for the automotive division.