

# Iton Seine

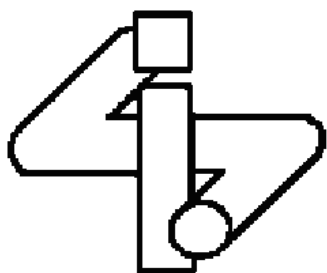
**ITON SEINE**  
Bonnieres Sur Seine



FORNI ELETTRICI



## The history



In August 1914, after Germany's sudden invasion of Belgium, industrialist Louis Piret took refuge in France, where he settled in the Paris region and decided to set up a manufacturing activity of his own.

He bought some acreage of land in Bonnières on the banks of the Seine and in February 1916 began working pack iron for the army. By 1918 the works, which was now called Usines Métallurgiques de Saint-Eloi had two reheating furnaces and two rolling mills. It was processing 60 t of iron a day and employed 200 workers.


This activity continued until 1956, when the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community (CECA) led to a considerable rise in the price of scrap on the French market which forced the company to stop its former activities and replace them with a new rerolling process using dismantled French railway tracks as raw material to produce ribbed, deformed bars for reinforced concrete.

The product proved successful both on the French market and abroad. It was made under the name of CRÉLOI (1957) and in October 1961 it was the first deformed steel to be homologated.

When the supply of track for the rerolling process began to wane, a group of French industrialists together with the Compagnie Française des Ferrailles (CFF, the French state railway company) decided to follow the example of the Italian mini-mills and supply Usines Métallurgiques de Saint-Eloi with electric steel.

They therefore set up the company called Iton Seine to build an electric steelworks beside the Usines rolling mill.

The first cast was obtained in 1973 from plant with a production capacity of 70,000 t/year of steel and 60,000 t/year of rolled products.



However, the opening of the new plant coincided with the mid-Seventies crisis which brought the two companies on the brink of bankruptcy.

In 1976 Riva acquired the majority share of Iton Seine in which the CFF kept a 20% share. The company absorbed Usines Métallurgiques de Saint-Eloi and continued its steelmaking and rolling activities employing 225 workers.

In 1978 -when production had reached approximately 100,000 t/year- the plant was fully renovated. In particular the old, labour-intensive rolling mill was changed. A wharf was also built on the bank of the Seine for the direct loading and un-loading of ships with a tonnage of up to 2,000 t.

The subsequent introduction of technological innovations raised production levels further, both of steel and of reinforcing bars, the production of which has trebled in the last fifteen years.

In the last fifteen years production has trebled.

