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The nature and the history of the Wankel engine are described briefly and the present status of its development, manufacture and maintenance is reviewed. The modifications required for operation in hovercraft, particularly conversion to high flash point fuels and marinisation, are discussed. The possible grouping of Wankel engines to provide higher power units is described and particular installations for Hovermarine HM2 and Cushioncraft CC-7 hovercraft are set out and discussed.

It is concluded that the emergence of the Wankel engine is important for hovercraft and the engine's development is now so rapid that it should be continuously under review. Recommendations are made for the conversion of the larger type Wankel engines to operate on high flash point fuels and for work jointly sponsored by the British and German governments on the development of the Daimler-Benz M 950 engine for hovercraft application. A full design investigation of the HM2 hovercraft conversion to use Wankel engines and waterjets is also recommended.