

Drivers of Nissan's electric Leaf report problems

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Japanese auto giant Nissan on Monday said customers in the United States and Japan had [reported problems](#) restarting their all-electric Leaf vehicles after switching the motor off.

"Some customers have reported problems restarting the car after it has stopped," a Nissan spokesman told AFP.

"We are studying the cause of the problem," the spokesman said, adding that the fault posed no accident risk.

Nissan's launch of the Leaf in [Japan](#) and the United States in December was seen as a bet on drivers' readiness to embrace the first globally mass-produced electric car.

The Leaf -- short for Leading Environmentally-friendly Affordable Family car -- enjoyed a crescendo of industry buzz in the build-up to its launch and was the first electric vehicle to win European Car of the Year.

The Japanese automaker received 6,000 pre-sale orders in Japan and 20,000 in the United States.

[Nissan](#) and its French partner Renault have staked their future on [electric vehicles](#) and plan to launch several models by 2014 to meet rapidly rising demand for more environmentally-friendly methods of transport.

They have invested four billion euros (\$5.7 billion) in the programme.

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