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PRODUCT AND SALES CONTRACT DESIGN IN

REMANUFACTURING

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**ABSTRACT** 

We develop and analyze an economic model of remanufacturing to address two main

research questions. First, we explore which market, cost, and product type conditions

induce a profit-maximizing firm to be a remanufacturer, given a separate (secondary)

remanufactured goods market. Such markets exist for consumer goods, where

"newness" is a differentiating factor. Second, we describe what effect profitable

remanufacturing has on the environment. Our stylized modeling framework for

analyzing these issues incorporates three components: lease contracting, product

design, and remanufacturing volume. To operationalize this framework, we model

and solve for the optimal decisions of two firm types: a non-remanufacturer, which

we call a traditional firm, and a remanufacturer, which we call a green firm. We

describe conditions under which remanufacturing is (and is not) profitable, and

demonstrate that under certain cost and market conditions remanufacturing has

negative consequences for the environment. Our results have implications for firms

and policy makers who would like to choose remanufacturing as a strategy to

improve profitability and environmental performance, given the existence of

conditions under which neither might occur.

Keywords: product design; remanufacturing; green consumerism; durable goods;

economic modeling

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