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Eric von Hippel

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Eric von Hippel : Free Innovation (MIT Press) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Free Innovation (MIT Press):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly engaging !!By Georg von KroghFree innovation is an audacious and powerful read !!This brilliant book provides an extensive analysis of a generally assumed,yet rarely researched manifestation of human creativity.It offers a logical account of two paradigms: free innovation and producer innovation.von Hippel shows convincingly how these complement each other resulting in both increasedproducer profits and social welfare. The book offers solid analysis anchored in very rich data.This book is a must-read for students, managers and policy-makers seeking to bothunderstand and influence innovation in society

and the economy. Georg von Krogh (ETH, Zurich) Yash Raj Shrestha (ETH, Zurich) 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A seminal book By Nikolaus Franke "Free innovation" is Eric von Hippel's third book. The first ("The Sources of Innovation", 1988) introduced the revolutionary idea that users, not only firms innovate. Pioneering work. The second ("Democratizing Innovation", 2005) provided a building block for the evolving new research field of "open and user innovation" in the era of the internet and inspired scholars, managers, and policy-makers worldwide. The long awaited third book now integrates the vast extant research in this field into a new framework, the "free innovation paradigm". Anyone who wants to get information about the present and particularly about the future of innovation, about innovation management, and innovation policy should study this book. Similar to the first two, also this book is clear, well-structured, full of great examples, and manages to integrate complex and diverse findings into a crisp and clear line of argumentation. It is also fun to read. Definitely, this is a seminal book as it appears only once in a decade. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer This is the brand new book by Eric von Hippel which turned out to be by far one of the best and most inspiring books on innovation I have ever read. Eric von Hippel is considered to be one of the leading scholars in the field of innovation and well-known for developing the concepts of user innovators and lead users. I can't think of a more revolutionary author in modern innovation theory. "Free Innovation" offers an integrative background for anyone interested in the free innovation paradigm. The reader will gain a thorough and thoughtful summary of recent theoretical and empirical insights on the nature as well as the economic impact of household innovations, developed by consumers during their unpaid discretionary time. After this book, you will have a different or fresh view on the sources and diffusion of innovative product solutions. Specifically, you will learn more about how to effectively accomplish a division of labor between free innovators and commercial producers in the Internet era, enabling each to do what they are best at and increasing social welfare. Overall whether you are an academic a practitioner you will find this book both extremely useful and inspiring. Absolutely recommendable!

In this book, Eric von Hippel, author of the influential Democratizing Innovation, integrates new theory and research findings into the framework of a "free innovation paradigm." Free innovation, as he defines it, involves innovations developed by consumers who are self-rewarded for their efforts, and who give their designs away "for free." It is an inherently simple grassroots innovation process, unencumbered by compensated transactions and intellectual property rights. Free innovation is already widespread in national economies and is steadily increasing in both scale and scope. Today, tens of millions of consumers are collectively spending tens of billions of dollars annually on innovation development. However, because free innovations are developed during consumers' unpaid, discretionary time and are given away rather than sold, their collective impact and value have until very recently been hidden from view. This has caused researchers, governments, and firms to focus too much on the Schumpeterian idea of innovation as a producer-dominated activity. Free innovation has both advantages and drawbacks. Because free innovators are self-rewarded by such factors as personal utility, learning, and fun, they often pioneer new areas before producers see commercial potential. At the same time, because they give away their innovations, free innovators generally have very little incentive to invest in diffusing what they create, which reduces the social value of their efforts. The best solution, von Hippel and his colleagues argue, is a division of labor between free innovators and producers, enabling each to do what they do best. The result will be both increased producer profits and increased social welfare -- a gain for all.

Free Innovation lays out the central role that individuals and groups interacting socially, without prices or property, play in exploring the very frontiers of innovation. Innovation is the most important aspect of growth, and Eric von Hippel is one of the handful of scholars in the world who have ever had a genuinely original and fundamental point to make about it. No one who hasn't read this book can claim to be serious about innovation research, policy, or practice. (Yochai Benkler, Berkman Professor of Entrepreneurial Legal Studies, Harvard Law School) Free Innovation is a tour de force. It is a continuation of a long stream of important scholarship by Eric von Hippel that puts the proactive role of users and communities center stage in the innovation process. Eric has been ahead of his time as the internet economy is making his frameworks increasingly relevant in the global system of innovation. (David Teece, Faculty Director, Institute for Business Innovation, University of California, Berkeley) Eric von Hippel is a visionary innovation scholar who has helped policymakers around the world understand modern innovation processes much more deeply. In Free Innovation he offers a powerful and effective template to increase the welfare of nations through more sophisticated and relevant free and user innovation policies. I predict it will have a strong impact both within the European Union and worldwide. (Carlos Moedas, European Union Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation) Eric von Hippel brilliantly describes a new innovation paradigm for the internet age. Free Innovation will have a strong and lasting effect on research, management, and public policy. (Dietmar Harhoff, Director, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich) Companies that find ways to work with free innovators will develop better products and services and also create more loyal customers. Eric von Hippel describes, with powerful frameworks and rich examples, what is happening in the real world and how corporations can profit. (Jim Euchner, Vice President, Global Innovation, Goodyear Tire Rubber Company; MIT Innovation Lab) The

invaluable insights and solutions described in *Free Innovation* must be recognized and supported by all consumer goods producers serious about sustainable growth. Our company uses these methods with great commercial success. (Bernadette Piacek-Llanes, Vice President of Innovation, Technology, and Quality, General Mills; MIT Innovation Lab)

About the Author Eric von Hippel, the T. Wilson (1953) Professor of Technological Innovation at the MIT Sloan School of Management, is a leading research scholar on the economics and management of free, open, and distributed innovation.