

Zynga buys social game maker A Bit Lucky

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Zynga's Bill Jackson said the acquisition was part of a move to expand into new categories of play with "mid-core, multi-platform" games.

A multi-player "Solstice Arena" title being worked on by A Bit Lucky will launch as a Zynga offering.

A Bit Lucky was founded by Frederic Descamps and Jordan Maynard, and the studio's staff of slightly more than 20 people includes veterans of

[game](#) companies such as Trion Worlds and Xfire.

"After exploring various options and talking to a lot of interested partners, Jordan and I are convinced Zynga is the best choice for us," Descamps said in an email.

"At Zynga we met people like us: passionate, hardcore [game developers](#) animated by a strong entrepreneurial spirit," he continued. "It was a true meeting of the minds."

Developing richer, more sophisticated games for the array of Internet-connected devices is part of a move by Zynga to be less dependent on [Facebook](#), where it rose to stardom with hits such as "FarmVille" and "Poker."

Zynga recently hired "Mortal Kombat" series co-creator John Tobias to be part of its San Diego studio.

Industry veteran Soren Johnson, who has worked on titles such as "Spore" and "Civilization IV" working on a stealth project in Zynga's studio in Baltimore.

Zynga in March launched its own online playground at zynga.com.

Zynga shares were down three percent at \$3.08 at the close of trading Monday on the Nasdaq exchange. Zynga went public in December at \$10 per share.

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