

FAQs and further information about Microcosm Games Ltd.

What is Microcosm Games Ltd?

Microcosm Games is a Cardiff-based community gaming business founded in October 2007 by Clint Oldridge, Sam Roads and Michael Borgendahl.

What does it do?

The company makes games that excite and enthrall. It works hard to appeal to a wide-ranging demographic, young and old, male and female. Microcosm Games passionately believes that the UK is home to some of the best game-creating talent in the world and that more should be done to champion and support this thriving industry.

Who is in the team?

Roads and Oldridge have been in business together since the mid-1990s running the 'play-by-mail' company Game Systems International Ltd. Borgendahl is a long-standing associate and is formerly a director of the telecoms business Aspiro. The company is also fortunate to have as a non-executive director Ian Livingstone, founder of Games Workshop and of the *Fighting Fantasy* series. The company's founders also have a long-standing relationship with the University of Glamorgan and collaborate with it on numerous research and development projects.

Why is the games industry so important?

The UK media often comments that manufacturing is dead or that the UK isn't producing anything any more, but they seem to overlook the fact that we have a first-class computer games industry here in the UK. The games industry is bigger than the movie business, it is a massive and growing market, and the UK is doing very well. The UK is third in the world behind only the USA and Japan and we should be proud of our achievements and supportive of businesses in this area.

What is *The One Ring*[™]?

The One Ring[™] is an exciting new turn-based game, based on *The Lord of the Rings*[™] trilogy of books by J.R.R Tolkien, created by Microcosm Games under license by Middle-earth Enterprises f/k/a Tolkien Enterprises.

Where can I play *The One Ring*[™]?

Currently the game is available on Facebook® Platform and Microcosm Games is looking at the possibility of expanding to other social networking sites.

What makes *The One Ring*[™] different from other social network applications?

Many applications on sites such as Facebook are quite basic in nature. However, with *The One Ring*[™] Microcosm Games has set out to raise the bar. The company has employed a team of 25 accomplished voice actors, artists, writers and programmers and has put the game through extensive beta-testing before its launch in October 2009.

What sort of game is *The One Ring*™?

In *The One Ring*™ players get to choose their own *The Lord of the Rings* character (Aragorn, Frodo, Gandalf or Gimli), and then go on a journey across Middle-earth landscapes battling against wicked goblins and odious trolls in a quest to destroy The One Ring. However, unlike many online games, *The One Ring*™ is turn-based, meaning that players can play at their own pace. And unlike the book, in this encounter evil might win.

Can I play *The One Ring*™ for free?

Yes it is free to play, but you might want to enhance your play through small payments; this is known as a 'freemium service'. Providers of freemium services understand that internet users are initially wary about making payments online, but will do so once they value and trust the site the application they are using.

What is *Push the Button*?

Push the Button is a quick, simple and highly-addictive game for Facebook® Platform. Players score points by posting buttons and pushing their friends' buttons, and compete in weekly and all-time leaderboards.

Where can I play *Push the Button*?

The game is available on Facebook® Platform.

What next for Microcosm Games?

The company is currently working on other games as it expands the business, and intends to recruit more staff and partners. The company already has excellent associates, continues to build new relationships as it looks to future success, and is always keen to discuss ideas and projects with talented and ambitious people.

The One Ring, The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings and the names of the characters, events, items and places therein, are trademarks of The Saul Zaentz Company d/b/a Middle-earth Enterprises f/k/a Tolkien Enterprises and are used, under license, by Microcosm Game Systems International Ltd.

Facebook® is a registered trademark of Facebook Inc.