Mutual-fund company T. Rowe Price Group Inc. has invested in Facebook Inc., according to recently released filings, underscoring traditional investment vehicles' growing interest in hot technology companies.

T. Rowe invested a total of $190.5 million in the social-networking giant, paying $25 a share for stock it distributed across nearly 20 funds, according to the filings. It isn't immediately clear what value that puts on Facebook.

The Baltimore-based mutual-fund company also disclosed an investment of $71.8 million in Zynga Inc. and a total stake of about $35.4 million in Angie's List.

T. Rowe has been more aggressive than most of its mutual-fund peers in building exposure to young technology companies. The investments carry extra risk, because the shares aren't yet publicly traded and can be illiquid. Meanwhile, a rush of interest in the companies has pumped up the companies' valuations, even as they disclose little or no financial data.

The investments, however, are a drop in the bucket for T. Rowe, which is trying to manage that risk by keeping the investments to a small percentage of each fund's holdings. None of the funds has even a full percent of its holdings tied up in Facebook, for example. T. Rowe had $482 billion in assets under management as of the end of 2010.

Investors have been scrambling for a stake in Facebook, which is just seven years old and doesn't publicly report its financial results. In January, Facebook was valued at $50 billion in a deal that raised $1.5 billion from investors such as Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Russian investment firm Digital Sky Technologies, as well as some of Goldman's non-U.S. clients. T. Rowe has long taken aim at new companies. Its New Horizons Fund, which doesn't currently have a stake in Facebook but has invested in companies like Twitter Inc. and Angie's List, is the third-oldest fund at the firm. Born in 1960, the fund is known for making longer-term investments in companies at their early stages, including early investments in Starbucks Corp. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Other T. Rowe funds were early investors in Google Inc. The fund has had a return of 34.67% in the 2010 calendar year, according to Morningstar Inc.
Recent trades on markets that allow investors to buy and sell shares in private companies have put a market value of around $75 billion on the company.

The Facebook investment complements other tech holdings at the firm, including a 2009 stake in Twitter and an investment in Groupon Inc. made late last year. In 2007, T. Rowe made an initial investment in Ning and in 2010 invested in YouKu.com.

**Among the T. Rowe funds now invested in Facebook are the Science & Technology Fund, New America Growth Fund, Media & Telecommunications Fund, as well as broader funds including the Balanced Fund, Global Stock Fund and the Blue Chip Growth Fund. T. Rowe's funds now have a total investment of $86.8 million in Groupon, $66.6 million in Twitter and $114.7 million in YouKu.com, according to the filings.**

T. Rowe declined to comment on how the Facebook shares were purchased. A Facebook spokesman declined to comment.

*Geoffrey Fowler contributed to this article.*

**Corrections & Amplifications**

An earlier version of this online article incorrectly said T. Rowe Price invested $55.4 million in Facebook and $22 million in Angie’s List. The firm invested $190.5 million and $35.4 million, respectively, in the two companies.

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