

PEOPLE
IN BUSINESS

Making air travel less of a bumpy ride

By Carol Hayes

Aviation is in definitely in Peter Bagnell's blood – his father worked for Aer Lingus for 30 years and his sister studied aeronautical engineering.

“Aviation has always strongly featured in my home life – hence my attraction to it in the first place, I suppose,” said Bagnell, manager of Aero Inspection.

The Limerick-based company, which inspects aircraft engines, was set up in 2004 and is currently setting up an office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

“The recession is a testing time for all businesses. That's why we have to be proactive and have expansion plans on the table. We have confidence in the skills of our engineers.

“The fact that we are expanding, coupled with the high demand for our services, shows our company's strength,” said

**Peter
Bagnell**

Company:
Aero Inspection

Position: manager

Location: Mungret,
Co Limerick



Peter Bagnell

Bagnell. He added that, because air traffic was at an all-time high, airlines were under pressure to ensure aircraft safety was at an optimum level and that aircraft inspections were carried out on a regular basis.

“As airlines park or ‘rest’ their aircraft, engine inspection usually takes place – normally via a method called boroscoping,” said Bagnell. “This, basically, is the process where an aircraft engine is inspected without removing it

foreign objects can be removed without having to disassemble a complete engine, saving hours and sometimes days.”

A native of Limerick, Bagnell attended the University of Limerick, gaining an honours degree in science, and is currently undertaking an MA in business management at the same institution. While at college, he worked for Aero Inspection on a part-time basis, and he joined the company in a full-time capacity in June 2008.

In its first year of business, Aero Inspection handled 20 inspections, and is expected to reach its target of 50 inspections by next year. A typical inspection usually costs in the region of €2,500.

Aero Inspection is approved by the Federal Aviation Authority in the US and the Irish Aviation Authority. Its clients include Aer Lingus, Air Algeria, Air Atlanta Iceland, Babcock & Brown and Boeing Capital Corporation.

from the aircraft. A qualified engineer uses an electronic apparatus that has a camera on the end, which is placed into portholes in the engine, sometimes only millimetres wide, to take videos of the inside of the engine to identify if there are any foreign objects, damage, leaks and so forth.

“With time constantly a factor for airlines, we offer a service called boreblend, whereby