

Flying high with aviation awards

THERE were successes for local companies at the recent Irish Aviation Awards.

Shannon-based company, Aero Inspection International won the Aviation Support Services company of the year award at the Irish Aviation Industry Awards last week. The company was also shortlisted for the overall aviation company of the year award but lost out to Ryanair.

Operations manager Owen Bagnell said, "It's a fantastic acknowledgement of all the hard work everyone on the team has put in. Aviation is really expanding in Ireland and particularly in Shannon, so we are delighted to be at the forefront of this."

Aero Inspection International was founded by Ann and Liam Bagnell in 2004. It inspects aircraft engines with miniature cameras called borescopes, in a similar fashion to keyhole surgery. Initially, it was a two-person operation but now has 15 employees worldwide. In the last three years it has opened a workshop at Dublin Airport and a base in Singapore, which is headed by Asia manager, Peter Bagnell.

The company performs inspections on behalf of the airlines and aircraft leasing companies. It is approved by both the European and American



■ (Back) Aero Inspection International workshop manager Aidan Fields; Asia manager, Peter Bagnell; powerplant manager, Sean Quinn; operations manager, Owen Bagnell; managing director Liam Bagnell and, front, finance director, Ann Bagnell.

aviation safety authorities to certify engine inspections and perform engine blade repairs.

Meanwhile, Air Contractors were named Aircraft Operator of the Year at the event.

The airline operates two B757s on transatlantic routes from Shannon for Aer Lingus and also operate B737 and

ATR42 European cargo services from the airport. Charter flights are also operated from Shannon.

Colin Grant, chief executive of Air Contractors said, "This award is deserved recognition for the hard work, talent and commitment that the Air Contractors team demonstrate

every day in delivering the best possible quality product to our customers. It is always pleasing to be recognised by our peers and winning such a prestigious award is a warranted tribute to the people throughout the airline who are dedicated to our success and the success of our customers."