**Patrick Edmond**

**Group Strategy Director, and Managing Director of the International Aviation Services Centre, Shannon Group plc**

Following several years of traffic decline, Shannon Airport was separated from the DAA in 2013, and since its independence has been successfully growing its passenger traffic, welcoming 22% more passengers in 2015 compared to two years before, and contuing steady growth. It is one of only two European airports to offer US customs and border preclearance facilities for commercial airlines and is the only airport outside the Americas able to also provide this service to private and corporate aircraft.

Shannon Group plc, formed in 2014, is a commercial semi-state company responsible for Shannon Airport, the adjacent Free Zone business park and aerospace industry cluster, and a range of leading tourist attractions in the region.

Patrick is responsible for the Group’s strategic projects, as well as for expanding Shannon’s International Aviation Services Centre, an aerospace industry cluster in which over 50 aviation firms already employ about 1600 people. Ireland’s National Aviation Policy recognises the importance of this cluster and also designates Shannon as a centre of excellence for business aviation and as a centre for air cargo development, two areas of particular focus for the airport.

Patrick is an Engineering graduate of Trinity College Dublin and also holds an MSc in Air Transport Management from Cranfield University as well as an MBA from Purdue University. He has over 20 years experience in strategy, consultancy, aircraft leasing, and airlines.

