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Representative Vell Placement

OWEN BYRNE SENIOR TRAVELPOD LABS MANAGER

Spearheading New Innovation Lab at Travel Blogging Pioneer Headquarters

OTTAWA — TravelPod(R), the Web's first site to enable its members to create online travelogues (travel blogs), today announced that Owen Byrne, a co-founder of Digg.com, has joined the company to lead its new technology development department, TravelPod Labs. Byrne is the senior TravelPod Labs manager, where he'll lead efforts to develop new ideas and test home grown concepts designed to pioneer the next generation of leading-edge web technologies.

Byrne is well-known as co-founder and original developer of digg.com, which became one of the leading "social news" websites, ranking as high as 55th in world internet traffic rankings from alexa.com.

"Two long-standing obsessions in my life have been the excitement of travel and the challenge of building world-class scalable websites," said Owen Byrne, senior TravelPod Labs manager. "When I was presented with the opportunity to combine the two at TravelPod, it was like a dream come true."

"We are thrilled to welcome Owen to TravelPod," said Luc Levesque, founder and General Manager of TravelPod. "TravelPod Labs' mission is firmly focused on innovation and experimentation and Owen's proven skills in turning first-mover ideas into scalable technology will help us produce ever more useful and valuable applications to travelers everywhere."

Before co-founding digg.com, Owen Byrne held developer and programming positions at Motorola in the U.K., competitiveness.com in Barcelona, and The Halifax Chronicle-Herald Limited in Canada and also taught management at the University of Manitoba. He holds an A.B.D. from the University of Manitoba, and M.B.A. from Dalhousie University and a B.Sc. from St. Mary's University."

About TripAdvisor's Travelpod

TravelPod.com was released in 1997 when it was introduced as the Web's first site to enable its members to create online travel blogs which revolutionized the way people travel and share their adventures with the world. TravelPod.com remains, as always, a "for the travel community" service.