

AI Project Analysis from MIT Conference

*Use Case Recommendations for SME
Adoption & Student AI Competitions*

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Introduction

During the AI Startup Program hosted at MIT Media Lab's Bartos Theater, over 80 early-stage ventures showcased their AI-driven innovations across industries such as healthcare, education, finance, and enterprise services. This report categorizes and synthesizes these startups into two key dimensions:

1. **Student AI Competitions** – Projects with educational value and hands-on potential for high school or college-level AI contests.
2. **SME AI Adoption** – Solutions that can be realistically integrated into small and medium-sized enterprises to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and unlock new value.

Start-ups sustainable for High school or college student AI competitions(Ranked alphabetically):

Emilia AI

- **Presenter:** Andres Cajiao
 - **Category:** Service
 - **Student Use Case:** Suitable for students working on LLM prompt engineering; assist frontline workers with vision/audio embodied AI models. can model a “waitstaff AI assistant,” featuring a clear input (image/audio) → output (suggestion/response) workflow that makes the system easy to evaluate.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆ (4/5)
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Aissential

- **Presenters:** Palak Kothari & Abhaya Shukla
 - **Category:** Education
 - **Why Recommended:** Focuses on the education sector, which connects well with students' own experiences. Students can model an AI tutoring assistant that dynamically generates practice questions, explanations, or suggestions based on the user's learning progress. The system features a clear input–output structure, making it easy to implement and evaluate.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆ (4/5)
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AutoPatch+

- **Presenter:** Sree Bhargavi Baliya
 - **Category:** LLM Output
 - **Why Recommended:** Quantifiable evaluation metrics make judging transparent and fair. Moderate difficulty. Students can use the AutoPatch+ framework to reduce hallucination rates in LLMs (like GPT or Gemini), which becomes a core competition challenge.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆ (4/5)
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Azrius Analytics

- **Presenter:** Tim Burns
 - **Category:** Writing
 - **Why Recommended:** Students can develop similar AI writing assistants inspired by this project, using LLMs to summarize web data and insert annotations. Low entry barrier, but harder to objectively score.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆ (3/5)
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BayesSi

- **Presenter:** Kurt Keville
 - **Category:** AI Infrastructure
 - **Why Recommended:** Could be explored as an algorithmic answer to the physical limitations slowing Moore's Law. Hard to demo directly; better suited as a research proposal in hardware optimization or AI chip design contests. Too technical for most undergrads or high schoolers.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★☆☆☆☆ (1/5)
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ChainAim

- **Presenter:** Sathya Krishnasamy
- **Category:** Multi-Model Chaining
- **Why Recommended:** Great for students to learn multi-agent orchestration. They can build websites or apps chaining multiple LLMs/AI models to strengthen individual model capabilities and create visual, high-impact demos.

- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★ (5/5)
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Coral

- **Presenter:** Beatriz Zanforlin
 - **Category:** Education
 - **Why Recommended:** Students can use LLMs and data optimization to build an app prototype that accurately records and recognizes speaking habits. Strong evaluation potential based on recognition accuracy.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆ (3/5)
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CoolCpack LLC

- **Presenter:** Benazir Khan
 - **Category:** LLM Output
 - **Why Recommended:** Allows students to train their own fine-tuned models using specific datasets, then demonstrate results to judges. However, evaluation criteria are less standardized, making judging harder.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆ (3/5)
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Edifii

- **Presenter:** Izzat Jarudi
 - **Category:** Education
 - **Why Recommended:** Students can combine multiple LLMs to build a visualization-rich Q&A platform. Moderate technical complexity makes it suitable for most university students.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆ (3/5)
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Forkyt

- **Presenter:** Tony Solano Jr.
- **Category:** Lifestyle

- **Why Recommended:** A practical, everyday-life project. Students can create an AI that recommends restaurants based on group taste harmonization or learns a user's preferences over time. Low entry barrier, no large datasets needed.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★ (5/5)
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Intelligent Dataworks

- **Presenters:** Keith Steward & Douglas Patten
 - **Category:** Recruitment
 - **Why Recommended:** While difficult to fully replicate real-world hiring, students can build simplified recruitment platforms with features like automatic interview question generation.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆ (3/5)
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Miiflow

- **Presenter:** Catherine Ming
 - **Category:** Model Building
 - **Why Recommended:** Highly flexible; students can quickly build AI workflows from input → model → output and use them to solve competition problems.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★☆ (4/5)
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NewEcom.AI

- **Presenter:** Francois Silvain
 - **Category:** Sales
 - **Why Recommended:** Students can build web demos of AI sales agents that understand and respond to user needs. Evaluation is less standardized.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★☆☆☆ (2/5)
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NVisual

- **Presenter:** Dillon Johnson
 - **Category:** Vision
 - **Why Recommended:** Excellent for training AI to detect construction material defects (location, size, type). Accuracy and speed can be clearly scored.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★ (5/5)
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SeeAir

- **Presenter:** Piers MacNaughton
 - **Category:** Vision
 - **Why Recommended:** Students can build computer vision models for energy efficiency prediction based on house photos. Environmental/economic topics tend to attract student interest.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆ (3/5)
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VeriSci AI

- **Presenter:** Rajeshwari Subramanian
 - **Category:** LLM Output
 - **Why Recommended:** Students can build models that interpret scientific papers into plain language. Requires prompt/LLM tuning and style control.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆ (4/5)
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XStyle AI

- **Presenter:** Michelle Zhang
- **Category:** Lifestyle
- **Why Recommended:** Easy to demo with input-output modeling—students input user profiles + wardrobe image sets, and output outfit recommendations or visual mockups.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆ (3/5)

Start-ups sustainable for Reference use cases for SMEs exploring AI adoption(Ranked Alphabetically):

Aikreate

- **Presenter:** Mireia Torello
 - **Category:** Education
 - **Why Recommended:** The use of AI language tools can greatly assist new company staff training and improve social media operations.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)
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Emilia AI

- **Presenter:** Andres Cajiao
 - **Category:** Services
 - **Why Recommended:** Saves labor and improves customer response efficiency. As an AI tool that understands user needs using LLMs, it strongly meets SME demands, especially for restaurants looking to save costs while improving user satisfaction.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(3/5)
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Aissential

- **Presenters:** Palak Kothari & Abhaya Shukla
 - **Category:** Education
 - **Why Recommended:** Suitable for K12 tutoring organizations, providing AI-assisted learning for students. However, not very useful outside the education industry.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)
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AutoPatch+

- **Presenter:** Sree Bhargavi Balija
- **Category:** LLM Output

- **Why Recommended:** Helps SMEs that rely on LLMs reduce hallucinations and improve output accuracy—especially beneficial in fields like law or medical Q&A. Not recommended for SMEs unrelated to LLMs.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)
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Achievers Astra AI

- **Presenter:** Nikunj Doshi
 - **Category:** Education
 - **Why Recommended:** Assists educational/training companies in automating instruction and personalizing student progress, greatly reducing human resource load. Not useful for non-education industries.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★★(5/5)
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Azrius Analytics

- **Presenter:** Tim Burns
 - **Category:** Writing
 - **Why Recommended:** Useful for journalism and legal consulting SMEs to increase writing efficiency by summarizing and annotating information via AI tools. Limited use for other industries.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)
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Bystro AI

- **Presenter:** Alex Kotlar
 - **Category:** Biology
 - **Why Recommended:** Helps biotech and research SMEs by answering domain-specific questions and analyzing clinical data, reducing time wasted on manual interpretation.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)
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Coral

- **Presenter:** Beatriz Zanforlin
 - **Category:** Education
 - **Why Recommended:** Useful in HR training within SMEs and in improving communication skills for educators or coaches.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)
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CoolCpack

- **Presenter:** Benazir Khan
 - **Category:** LLM Output
 - **Why Recommended:** Many SMEs in training or research need document-based Q&A. This no-code AI platform lowers the tech barrier and provides scalable support.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★(5/5)
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CustomGPT.ai

- **Presenter:** Alden Do Rosario
 - **Category:** LLM Output
 - **Why Recommended:** A no-code private GPT system helps SMEs in research, finance, and tech access and summarize internal data efficiently.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★☆(4/5)
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Devdock

- **Presenters:** Melbin Thomas, Taranjeet Singh
- **Category:** Data Processing
- **Why Recommended:** Enables fast, secure preprocessing for AI model training, saving time and computational cost for SMEs in model development.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★☆(4/5)

Edifii

- **Presenter:** Izzat Jarudi
- **Category:** Education
- **Why Recommended:** Understands student goals through data analysis and offers clear development plans. Useful for tutors and education SMEs to improve planning.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)

Forkyt

- **Presenter:** Tony Solano Jr.
- **Category:** Lifestyle
- **Why Recommended:** Creative AI concept that supports small restaurants in customer engagement through preference learning. Indirectly promotes the restaurant.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)

Go and Slay

- **Presenter:** Eduardo Moreira
- **Category:** Education
- **Why Recommended:** Helps SMEs in international trade train staff in professional English, significantly cutting time and cost in traditional language training.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)

Historia Health

- **Presenter:** Lina Chen
- **Category:** Healthcare
- **Why Recommended:** Suitable for medium-sized healthcare SMEs with high device compatibility needs. Legal sensitivity limits use in some settings.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)

Intelligent Dataworks

- **Presenters:** Keith Steward & Douglas Patten
- **Category:** Recruitment
- **Why Recommended:** Enables SMEs without HR to automate hiring processes. Cannot replace HR entirely but boosts efficiency.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★(5/5)

Inventic

- **Presenter:** Somil Soni
- **Category:** Finance
- **Why Recommended:** Helps small banks or remittance firms detect fraud and monitor transactions, improving account security and compliance.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)

Kuratek (Kura)

- **Presenter:** Vedant Dalvi
- **Category:** Finance
- **Why Recommended:** Offers efficient and transparent cross-border payment services for manufacturing SMEs, enhancing transaction trust.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)

Lendica

- **Presenter:** Jared Shulman
 - **Category:** Finance
 - **Why Recommended:** Speeds up credit risk evaluation and supports supply chain finance for manufacturing SMEs. Acts as a financial assistant.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★(5/5)
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Moxie AI

- **Presenter:** Alisia Tulsee
 - **Category:** Healthcare
 - **Why Recommended:** Helps small hospitals by offloading patient Q&A tasks to AI, reducing staff burden. Human review required for sensitive outputs.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)
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Light Hope LLC

- **Presenter:** Xiaowen Kang
 - **Category:** AI Education
 - **Why Recommended:** Empowers SMEs by upskilling teams through hands-on AI training programs. Helps reduce reliance on external consultants and accelerates digital transformation.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★(5/5)
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Nethopper.io

- **Presenter:** Chris Munford
 - **Category:** LLM Output
 - **Why Recommended:** Ideal for SMEs with private databases—provides GPT-level interaction while preserving data privacy. Useful for legal, education, and internet firms.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)
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NewEcom.AI

- **Presenter:** Francois Silvain
 - **Category:** Sales
 - **Why Recommended:** Great for e-commerce SMEs to improve customer experience, reduce reliance on human service, and increase conversion.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(4/5)
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NVisual

- **Presenter:** Dillon Johnson
 - **Category:** Vision Systems
 - **Why Recommended:** Useful for SMEs in construction or manufacturing to automate quality control and reduce labor error.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★★☆(4/5)
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Preloved Guru

- **Presenter:** Cecilia Hermawan
 - **Category:** Sales
 - **Why Recommended:** Excellent fit for secondhand fashion SMEs to optimize clothing recommendations and improve inventory turnover.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★☆☆(3/5)
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Skiplay

- **Presenter:** Anthony Martore
 - **Category:** Vision
 - **Why Recommended:** Great for small e-commerce companies to streamline and automate returns while reducing fraud and labor cost.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★☆☆(4/5)
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SkipLegal

- **Presenter:** Harish Parwani
 - **Category:** Legal
 - **Why Recommended:** Helps immigration firms and global hiring SMEs automate complex form processing and case handling via AI, saving time and cost.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★★☆☆(3/5)
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Meshify

- **Presenter:** Marco Cello
 - **Category:** Sales
 - **Why Recommended:** Acts as an AI teammate with fast learning ability—ideal for fast-moving sales/e-commerce SMEs to manage operations and communication.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)
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Synergetics.ai

- **Presenter:** Raghu Bala
 - **Category:** Insurance
 - **Why Recommended:** Accelerates and improves claim processes for small clinics. Also helps small insurance firms reduce manual review workload.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★☆☆☆(2/5)
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Vibie AI

- **Presenter:** Disleve Kanku
 - **Category:** Lifestyle
 - **Why Recommended:** Enables restaurants, gyms, bars to use customer music input and emotion analytics to extend visit time and enhance experience.
 - **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)
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YOUunified AI

- **Presenter:** Eugina Jordan
- **Category:** Control System
- **Why Recommended:** Rapidly builds enterprise control centers for sales/service SMEs, improves inter-department communication, and unifies redundant data flows.
- **Recommendation Score:** ★★★☆☆(3/5)

Summary

This analysis highlights a selection of AI startup projects from the MIT Media Lab conference that demonstrate strong relevance for both student engagement and SME adoption. Projects like *ChainAim*, *Forkyt*, and *AutoPatch+* offer clear pathways for student competitions through their creative use of LLMs and practical demo potential. Meanwhile, tools such as *Light Hope LLC*, *Lendica*, and *Nethopper.io* provide tangible value for SMEs by improving efficiency, reducing costs, and enabling low-barrier AI integration. A common trend across the board is the shift toward no-code solutions and real-world applicability, indicating that early-stage AI ventures are becoming increasingly aligned with operational needs in both educational and commercial contexts.