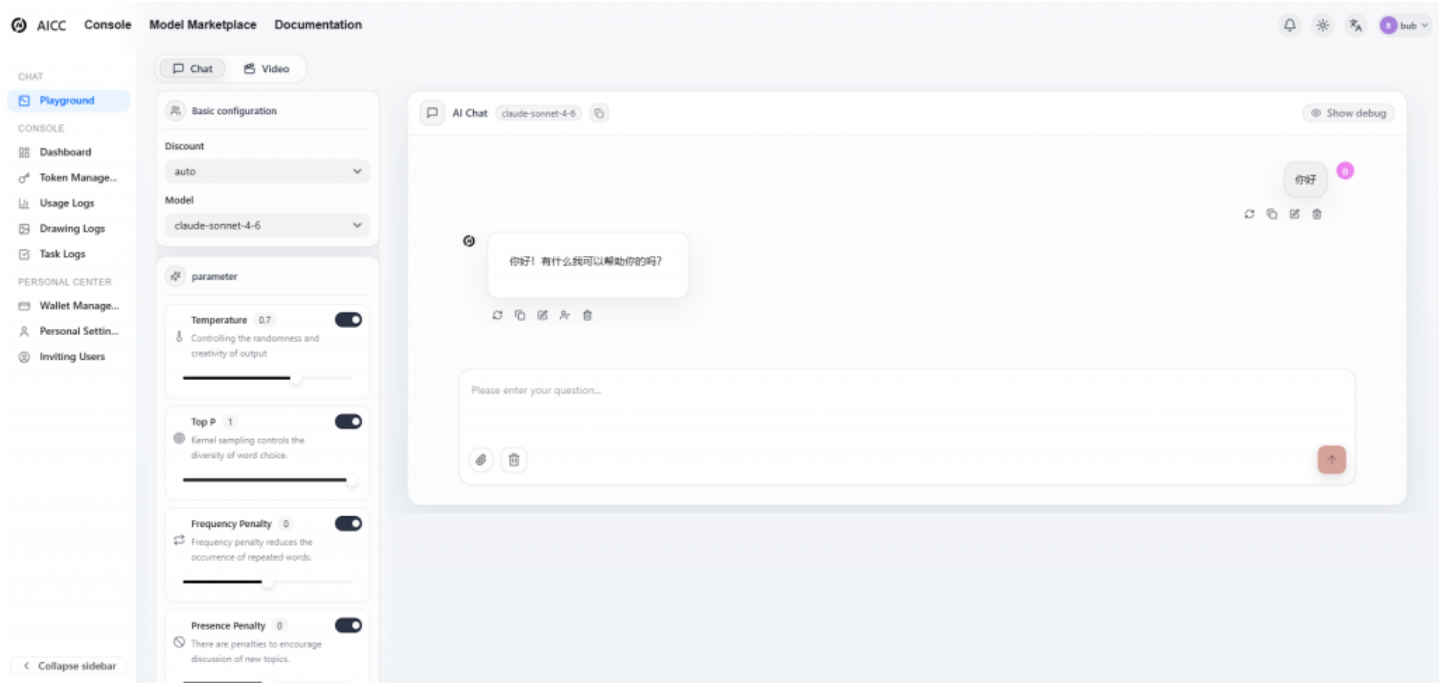
AICC Reports SMEs Now Access Enterprise-Grade AI at One-Tenth the Cost Through Multi-Model Platforms



Singapore, Singapore Jul 28, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - Unified API platforms democratize access to 300-plus AI models as token costs fall 67 percent year-over-year

Small and medium-sized enterprises are gaining access to the same artificial intelligence capabilities used by large corporations, as multi-model aggregation platforms drive costs down to one-tenth of traditional single-provider pricing, according to AICC, a unified AI API platform processing more than 90 million daily requests.

Global AI API market revenue reached $64.41 billion in 2025 and is projected to exceed $900 billion by 2035, according to Precedence Research. Historically, cost barriers limited enterprise-grade AI to organizations with dedicated infrastructure budgets. The emergence of aggregation platforms has fundamentally altered this dynamic, enabling SMEs to access the same models — GPT-5, Claude, Gemini, DeepSeek — through a single interface at a fraction of the cost.

Data from AICC's 2026 AI API Infrastructure Report, based on analysis of 2.4 billion API calls, shows enterprise token costs declined 67 percent year-over-year. The blended cost per million tokens dropped from $18.40 to $6.07, with SMEs on multi-model platforms achieving effective rates as low as $1.80 per million tokens through intelligent task routing.

"A startup with a $500 monthly AI budget can now run the same models that cost enterprises $5,000 monthly just two years ago," said the AICC research team. "The economics of AI have shifted from a barrier to an equalizer."

The cost reduction stems from three converging trends. First, open-source models captured 38 percent

of enterprise token volume in Q1 2026, up from 11 percent a year earlier, creating downward pricing pressure. Second, intelligent routing directs simple tasks to cost-efficient models while reserving frontier models for complex reasoning — reducing blended costs by 30 to 80 percent. Third, aggregation platforms leverage volume to negotiate below-retail pricing unavailable to individual buyers.

For SMEs, the practical impact is substantial. A 10-person company using AICC can access 300-plus models including OpenAI, Google, Anthropic, and DeepSeek through a single OpenAI-compatible API, eliminating the engineering overhead of managing multiple provider integrations. The platform handles billing, key management, and failover — tasks that previously required dedicated DevOps resources.

Deployment speed has also improved. Teams using multi-model infrastructure deploy production AI applications in a median of 3.6 weeks, compared with 11.2 weeks for single-provider setups — a threefold reduction that accelerates time to market for resource-constrained SMEs.

The democratization extends beyond cost. AICC's unified interface provides SMEs with access to model comparison tools, performance benchmarks, and automated routing that previously required in-house machine learning expertise. This lowers the technical barrier to AI adoption, allowing non-technical teams to select and deploy appropriate models for their specific use cases.

"AI should not be a luxury reserved for Fortune 500 companies," the report states. "The infrastructure now exists for any business, regardless of size, to compete on intelligence."

As token costs continue to fall and model availability expands, SMEs are positioned to capture the same AI-driven productivity gains that large enterprises have realized over the past two years. The combination of multi-model routing, aggregated pricing, and simplified integration has created a new baseline for competitive AI access.

About AICC

AICC is a unified AI API aggregation platform providing access to more than 300 artificial intelligence models through a single OpenAI-compatible interface. Founded in Singapore, the platform serves over 10,000 active users processing 90 million daily API requests across chat, video, image, voice, code, and embedding model categories. For more information, visit www.ai.cc.

Media Contact

AICC

*********@ai.cc

https://www.ai.cc

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