

Tenet's Defense Launch, LiteParse v2, and Workflow-Native AI Signals

VC Tech Radar

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A sparse funding set still surfaced a \$2M pre-seed and an equity-based co-founder search, while the stronger signals came from workflow-specific AI startups, a new PDF parsing stack, robotics-model research, and watermark-evasion work. The market read-through is faster open-model convergence, broader in-company software creation, and continued demand for AI products with tight domain logic and human control.

Funding & Deals

- **A six-person venture disclosed a \$2M pre-seed.** A CTO described a current six-person startup that raised a **\$2M VC-backed pre-seed**. The CTO says he previously worked as an engineer and principal engineer at several startups, including one unicorn, and had founded two prior companies; the CEO is described as the more seasoned operator in this startup format. [1]
- **FountainData is solving for GTM before launch.** The technical founder says FountainData is **pre-revenue** and **pre-MVP**, with its core ML pipeline, UI/UX, and product spec already in place, and is offering a GTM co-founder **15–20% equity** with a standard four-year vest and one-year cliff. The product reads App Store and Google Play reviews, semantically clusters complaints, ranks them by severity and trend velocity, generates evidence-backed tickets for Jira, Linear, or GitHub, and monitors whether complaints fall after fixes ship. The founder's wedge is closing the loop from complaint to ticket to verified fix, rather than stopping at dashboards. [2]

Emerging Teams

- **Repliva has the clearest operating traction in the batch.** The founder comes from ecommerce and Shopify, and is building a native Shopify AI customer support app that ingests inbound emails, pulls order, tracking, returns, refunds, customer history, and policy context from Shopify, and drafts replies for human review. It is already running on the founder's own store doing about **\$80k/month** in sales, with time savings cited as the main benefit. [3]
- **Tenet Industries is a defense team to watch.** YC says Tenet is building **low-cost, mass-producible defense systems**, starting with **strike drones**, and frames the company as the F-150 for defense versus primes building Bugattis and Ferraris. The founders listed on the launch are **@hpafrisk, @falkemil_, and @0xfabian_**. [4, 5]
- **Runik AI is testing AI-generated business systems for SMBs.** The founder, who runs a small company in Chile, built the product after frustration with spreadsheets, expensive CRMs, and complex ERPs. The tool creates tables, kanban boards, calendars, dashboards, and reports from a plain-language description in about **2 minutes**; after **8 months** it has around **70 users, 25 industry templates**, MCP connections to ChatGPT and Claude, and is still free while the founder collects feedback. [6]
- **AskBI is an early signal in SMB analytics copilots.** The founder built a natural-language BI tool that connects to BigQuery, Snowflake, Salesforce, PostgreSQL, Google Sheets, Excel, and CSV, then returns charts plus AI-generated insights. Current product features include encrypted credential storage, in-memory processing, shareable links, and a report library. The more investable learning is around trust: schema cleaning improved NL-to-SQL results the most, wrong chart choice damaged user confidence even when the data was right, and non-technical users focused more on the AI narrative than the chart itself. [7]

AI & Tech Breakthroughs

- **LiteParse v2 is notable agent infrastructure.** LlamaIndex says it rewrote LiteParse in Rust as native Python and Node packages, and claims it is the world's fastest PDF parser and more accurate than open-source model-free alternatives such as pymupdf and pypdf. The technical core is a grid projection algorithm that groups fragments into lines, identifies left, center, and right anchors, snaps text items to those anchors, handles flowing paragraphs separately, and renders structured text without LLMs. The parser supports **50+ document types** and can be installed directly inside AI agents. [8, 9]
- **Wall-OSS-0.5 adds a useful data point in VLA training design.**

X-Square-Robot’s report describes a **4B VLA** with a **3B VLM backbone** and a Mixture-of-Transformers layout trained with multimodal cross-entropy, action-token cross-entropy, and continuous flow matching from step zero. The key empirical claim is that, after the first few thousand steps, flow matching contributes only about **5%** of the update signal reaching the backbone, while action-token cross-entropy drives most of the adaptation. The report also describes a residual vector-quantizer action tokenizer shaped by visual-action alignment and a distributed Muon variant, DMuon, to reduce overhead. [10]

- **reverse-SynthID challenges assumptions about watermark robustness.** A solo developer says he reverse-engineered Google’s SynthID watermarking system using **200 sample images** and built an open-source seven-stage attack pipeline. Reported results were about **16% evasion** on v2 and roughly **91%** removal of the watermark’s spectral signature at near-zero quality loss; the GitHub repo had **4.1K stars** at the time of the post. [11]

Market Signals

- **Open models are being framed as closing faster on closed systems.** Bindu Reddy argues open-source AI will catch up rapidly because open models are getting more usage and training data, frontier improvements are becoming incremental, and models like **Kimi 2.6** are already very close to SOTA. She adds that Kimi 2.6 already outperforms **Flash 3.5**. [12]
- **AI is broadening who can build software inside companies.** Reddy argues software creation is moving from **10 million** builders to **8 billion**, and says her own sales and marketing teams have already built and use their own SaaS apps, removing the need for expensive CRM, sales, or marketing tools. [13]
- **The company pattern in this batch is workflow-native AI, not generic chat.** The products here cluster around business system generation, Shopify-specific support drafting, SMB BI, and app-review-to-ticket automation rather than horizontal assistants. [6, 3, 7, 2]
- **Trust and human control are still adoption gates.** Repliva keeps humans on final customer replies, AskBI says chart choice and explanatory narrative heavily shape trust and is still working through user concerns around data uploads and SMB pricing, and Runik remains free while its founder learns what users actually need. [3, 7, 6]

Worth Your Time

- **Tenet YC launch** — YC’s launch page for the company building low-cost, mass-producible defense systems and listing its founders. [5, 4]

- **LiteParse v2 thread** — Jerry Liu’s explanation of the grid projection algorithm behind LiteParse v2. [9]
 - **reverse-SynthID GitHub** — the repository for the seven-stage watermark attack pipeline; the post says it had more than 4.1K stars. [11]
 - **Wall-OSS-0.5 report** — the report on X-Square-Robot’s 4B VLA / 3B VLM setup. Companion resources: GitHub and Hugging Face. [10]
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Sources

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2. r/startups post by u/No_Wealth_1630
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