

**Social Robot Research Study Participant Information Sheet**

UTS HREC REF NO. ETH18-3158

**Study Location:** Sydney Startup Hub, near reception desk**Dear Participant,**

You are invited to take part in a Social Robot Research Study. Our aim is to understand users' feelings and experience during human robot interactions. There are no right or wrong answers, we just try to understand people's prevailing preferences and priorities when interacting with a social robot. This research has been approved by the UTS Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval Number: UTS HREC REF NO. ETH18-3158).

**What is this research study about?**

The purpose of this study is to investigate how a social robot may improve the experience for founders at the Sydney Startup Hub. The information provided from the research will assist us in understanding and creating a framework of user experience for human-robot interaction.

**Who is conducting this research?**

We are a collaborative research team from the Innovation and Enterprise Lab (also known as The Magic Lab), Centre for Artificial Intelligence at the Faculty of Engineering and IT, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia.

**What does it involve and how long does it take?**

Once you have agreed to take part in the study, you are invited to register and select how you would like the robot to interact with you (5-7 minutes). After interacting with the robot you are invited to provide feedback and vote on two proposed use cases for the robot at Sydney Startup Hub (5-7 minutes). Finally, you are invited to answer an online survey regarding your experiences interacting with the robot (7-10 minutes).

**Why is it at Sydney Startup Hub?**

In the past, studies with social robots were held mostly within laboratories. This can mean we don't develop a complete picture of how people actually feel about a robot being in their everyday environment. Sydney Startup Hub is a dynamic and vibrant community that has many people working and visiting the location, providing an ideal environment for feedback.

**Do I have to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether you decide to take part in the research, or not. If you decide to participate, we will thank you for your choice and invite

you to register and interact with the robot, then answer an online survey regarding your experience. There are no right or wrong answers, we just try to understand people's prevailing preferences and priorities. You can change your mind at any time and you are free to say no to participating in this research at any time without consequences. You may stop and leave at any time without explanation.

### **Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part.

#### **Inclusion criteria:**

- Proficient in English (Speaking, Reading, and Writing)

#### **Exclusion criteria:**

- Under 18 years of age

### **Are there any risks/inconvenience?**

We don't expect this study to cause any harm or discomfort, however if you experience feelings of distress as a result of participation in this study you can let the researcher know and they will provide you with assistance. There is very minimum inconvenience involved in this research, the main item being the time invested by any participant taking part. Any risks associated with collection of data will be minimised by strictly adhering to standard privacy regulations. Additionally, we request informed consent at the robot application level, only store data as templates (text files containing vectors of numbers) not raw data, and password protect the robot on a private, secured network.

### **What will happen to information about me?**

We plan to publish our findings in journals and/or conference proceedings. In any publication or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified. Audio recorded during interaction with the robot will be transcribed in a non-identifying manner. Additionally, we will seek your approval before taking any photos or videos of your interaction with the robot.

### **What if I have concerns or a complaint?**

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this study please contact Dr Jonathan Vitale at (02) 9514 1940 or send an email to [jonathan.vitale@uts.edu.au](mailto:jonathan.vitale@uts.edu.au). If you have any

further queries regarding your participation which cannot be resolved by the research team, please contact the UTS Research Ethics Officer on (02) 9514 9772; or email ([Research.ethics@uts.edu.au](mailto:Research.ethics@uts.edu.au)).

We thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Innovation and Enterprise Research Lab Team