Smartphone has improved the way to connect people in long-distance relationship (LDR) by text-message, video-call, social media, etc. However, transferring a non-verbal language such as body-language, emotion, and sense of touch is still hardly achieved. In order to address this problem, we present a soft hand-held social robot, called -“Emot”- which is an interactive interface that extends the human interaction to 3D space beyond the smartphone screen.

The whole body made of silicone covers the smartphone and use it as a controller. Emot expresses 7 basic human emotions based on the context of text messages with its moving soft arms actuated by shape-memory alloy (SMA), eyes on the touchscreen that keep trying to eye contact with the user, and its cheek color. Also, pressure sensors embedded in the soft body enables the user to control the smartphone application interface and the arm motion to share it with other who also has the Emot.