

# 60 SECONDS WITH AN ENTREPRENEUR... LAURA GARCIA-CABEROL

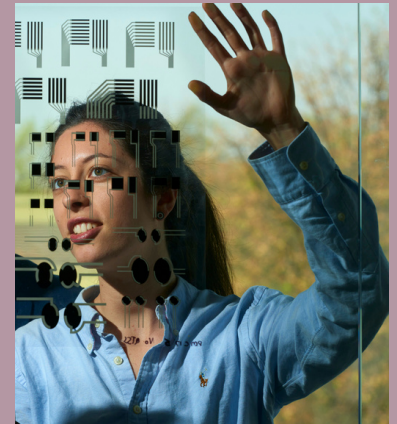
**Role:** COO

**Company Name:** TouchLab

**Sector:** Robotics

**Base:** Edinburgh

**Purpose:** Giving machines the power of human touch



**Tell us a bit about your business?** Touchlab is a deep-tech electronic skin (e-skin) and robotics company based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Our ambition is to revolutionise robotics by giving machines a human sense of touch. We already have clients including a FTSE 100 company in the warehousing sector and the company who make the world's most dextrous robot hands. We are also proud to be finalists in the global ANA Avatar XPrize competition and soon having our robot Avatar piloted by nurses in a hospital.

**How did you come up with your business idea?** My cofounder Zaki was developing e-skin for his PhD and I joined him as a designer. He was doing the tech and I was doing the integration.

**How did you come up with your business name?** We did a big brainstorming session with Zaki and when we had 3-5 finalists we asked several friends and family. Touchlab was my favourite!

**What's been your biggest challenge to date?** Scaling. From getting funding during a pandemic to hiring for very specialised roles and finding the right location in Scotland.

**How has SE (or any other support organisation in the Scottish ecosystem) helped you on your journey?** Scottish EDGE was one of the first institutions to believe we could make robot Avatars in Scotland and compete in an international arena.

**What's been the highlight of the last year for you?** Seeing the tech developing from ideas to real products and with that, more people believing in us.

**What's your favourite thing about being an entrepreneur?** How different life looks from week to week.

**What's the best piece of advice you ever received?** Great things come to the ones that work hard and wait and put your own oxygen mask first.

**Who has been your biggest supporter?** Zaki and I are a good team and we have had lots of friends and family believing in us.

**How do you care for each other's wellbeing at work?** We are all good friends out of work and try to balance work and personal life as much as possible. Also we have an unspoken rule of having lunch all together and pause even if it's just for a bit.

**How do you start your day?** Storming out of the house because I wanted to stay 10 extra minutes in bed.

**What do you do for fun after a busy week?** Hiking and camping in the Highlands or travelling.

**Any office pets?** I wish!

**What's your best tip for achieving a good life/work balance?** Having a gym buddy.

**Is there anything on your business bucket list?** I want to see robots with electronic skin in our day to day lives and Avatars helping in overloaded hospitals.

**Where can we find out more about your business?** [www.touchlab.io](http://www.touchlab.io) / [@TouchLabL](https://twitter.com/TouchLabL)