

TWO WORLDS

Character Breakdowns

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CONFIDENTIAL

SERIES REGULARS

MARK DOWELL — Lead

Screen time: All 8 episodes, ~45% of runtime **Age:** Late 20s to early 30s **Ethnicity:** Open

Physical: Medium build, weathered hands. The kind of face that tans unevenly from fieldwork. Dresses in layers — thermal base, flannel, work boots. Not conventionally heroic-looking. He looks like a grad student who went straight to fieldwork and never came back.

The Role: Mark is the moral center of the show. He's a geologist — he sees the world in strata, in data, in the slow accumulation of evidence. Quiet. Methodical. When he speaks, it's because he's already run the analysis. His defection is not impulsive — it's the most rational act of his life, the conclusion of a systematic assessment that took months.

Performance Requirements:

- Carry long sequences of solo observation (Mars surface, Europa ocean) with minimal dialogue
- Convey scientific wonder and moral horror simultaneously — the joy of discovery contaminated by the knowledge of what comes next
- Physical: pressure suit work, underwater sequences (Eps 5-8), wire work
- Chemistry required with: Sonder (cross-species bond, performed through gesture and light), James (brotherhood fracturing), Lena (old friends who've become strangers)

Arc: Company geologist → independent scientist → the man who says no → defector → the man who teaches an alien civilization how to fight back → martyr. The performance should feel like watching someone's conscience catch up with their intelligence.

Type: An actor who makes stillness feel like calculation and wonder feel like grief. Intelligence conveyed through restraint. The kind of presence where you believe every word because he only says what he's verified.

Audition Scenes:

1. The core sample discovery (Ep 1) — alone on Mars, holding living crystal, the realization
2. "They solved Fibonacci sequences" (Ep 4) — pleading with the classification committee
3. The defection interior monologue (Ep 5) — suiting up, the inventory, the decision articulated silently

LENA VASIK — Series Regular

Screen time: All 8 episodes, ~20% of runtime **Age:** Late 20s to early 30s **Ethnicity:** Eastern European heritage (Slavic)

Physical: Sharp features, precise posture. Dresses in structured business wear — Geneva-appropriate, nothing wasted. Small frame, large presence. She enters a room and people orient toward her without knowing why.

The Role: Lena is the most dangerous character in the show because she understands everything and acts anyway. She's not a villain — she's a systems engineer operating a machine she didn't build but runs brilliantly. She grew up in Beckley, West Virginia, watching her town die when the mine closed. She will never be poor again. That wound drives every decision, including the ones that destroy civilizations.

Performance Requirements:

- Carry boardroom and committee scenes with quiet authority — the power is in what she doesn't say
- Convey the internal contradiction: she knows the Europeans are sentient; she writes the classification anyway
- Chemistry required with: Mark (old friends, now on opposite sides), James (complicated loyalty), Brandt (professional respect masking mutual corruption)

Arc: KAIC strategist → classification architect → the person who authorizes escalation → the person who designates her oldest friend as an enemy combatant → resigned, disappeared, unreachable. The performance should feel like watching someone choose their wound over their conscience, decision by decision.

Type: An actor who conveys brilliance as operational precision. The kind of presence that makes institutional power feel personal. Stillness that reads as control, not passivity.

Audition Scenes:

1. The DSRC analysis (Ep 1) — reading the framework, seeing the designed flaw, not objecting
2. Signing the European classification (Ep 4) — steady hand, the Alps outside the window
3. "You're lying" (Ep 5) — the phone call with James, hearing everything in the silence

JAMES OKORO — Series Regular

Screen time: All 8 episodes, ~30% of runtime **Age:** Early 30s **Ethnicity:** Black (Nigerian heritage)

Physical: Military bearing that's permanent — even in civilian clothes, he stands like a soldier. Well-built, maintained by discipline. His father's photograph is always nearby. Uniform is always correct.

The Role: James is the tragedy of institutional loyalty. He's not stupid — he's principled in a way that the institution exploits. He believes the chain of command exists because individual judgment fails under pressure. He's right about that in general and catastrophically wrong about it here. His arc is the slow, agonizing recognition that the system he serves is using his integrity to commit atrocities.

Performance Requirements:

- Military command authority that feels earned, not performed
- Convey the internal collapse of a belief system — not through breakdown but through accumulating stillness
- Physical: military operations, underwater tactical sequences, combat

- Chemistry required with: Mark (brotherhood that survives betrayal), Lena (loyalty weaponized), his father's photograph (the absent presence)

Arc: Security commander → enforcer → the man who watches a juvenile Europan die and can't sleep → the man who files a false report to protect his friend → the man who lets Mark go → fired, desk-bound, watching Europa set from a parking lot window. The performance should feel like watching a good man discover he's been the instrument of evil.

Type: An actor with natural military authority who can carry the weight of institutional betrayal. The kind of presence where following orders looks like strength until it doesn't.

Audition Scenes:

1. The EMP deployment on Mars (Ep 2) — following orders, the lithotrophs withdrawing beneath his feet
2. The juvenile Europan's death (Ep 4) — watching the mourning display, 500 organisms pulsing deep red
3. The false report (Ep 5) — writing "missing, presumed environmental casualty," knowing it's a lie

RECURRING

SONDER — Recurring (Eps 3-8)

Performance type: Motion capture / practical creature / VFX composite

Description: Europan elder. 2.5 meters. Blue-green mantle with gold accents. Eight manipulator limbs. Large, dark, reflective eyes. Scarred manipulator limb. Moves with deliberate grace — every motion has purpose.

The Role: Sonder is the person on the other side of the glass. The elder of a civilization that has existed for forty thousand years, who watches a species arrive and begin destroying everything, and who chooses — carefully, slowly, rationally — to trust the one human who seems to see them.

Performance Requirements:

- Convey intelligence, dignity, patience, grief, and love through movement and light alone
- No dialogue — all communication is through chromatophore patterns (VFX) and physical gesture
- The relationship with Mark must feel earned: cautious observation → mathematical exchange → trust → family

Key Moments:

- First appearance at the viewport (Ep 3) — studying Mark with attention that has no terrestrial parallel
- *Same* (Ep 5) — the word that means "we are the same," projected in light
- Incorporating Lume's colors (Ep 6) — grief performed as permanent chromatic change
- Final chromatic history (Ep 8) — 200,000 Europan's telling their story one last time

GENERAL ADISA MOYO — Recurring (Eps 6-8)

Age: 50s **Ethnicity:** African

Physical: Gray at the temples. Lean, economical movement. Speaks softly. Never raises his voice. Doesn't need to.

The Role: Moyo is not a villain. He's a professional who does what he's tasked to do, thoroughly and efficiently. He replaces Hayes, who was hesitant and conflicted. Moyo has no conflicts. That's the horror.

Type: An actor who conveys authority through quietness. The kind of presence where "yes, sir" feels inevitable.

DR. ELIAS BRANDT — Recurring (Eps 1-4)

Age: Late 50s **Ethnicity:** Open (European)

The Role: KAIC's Chief Science Officer. Chairs the classification committees. He's not corrupt in the obvious sense — he's a reasonable man in a system designed to produce unreasonable outcomes. His reasonableness is the tool.

Type: An actor who makes institutional complicity feel avuncular.

DR. KIRA OSEI — Guest (Eps 2-3)

Age: 40s **Ethnicity:** West African

The Role: The astrobiologist who votes no. The one person on the Mars classification committee who refuses to sign a document that says "geological process" when the data says "biological network." She's fired for publishing unauthorized research. The system expels its conscience.

Type: An actor who conveys principled defiance without self-righteousness.

STATION COMMANDER HAYES — Recurring (Eps 3-5)

Age: 50s **Ethnicity:** Open

The Role: Station Cousteau's commander before Moyo arrives. Competent but cautious. Buries the report on the juvenile European's death. Not evil — just institutionally captured. The kind of leader who manages crises instead of preventing them.

NOTES FOR CASTING

- **No named talent in this document.** Character descriptions are archetype-based.

- **Diversity is structural, not performative.** The cast reflects the international scope of KAIC and the ISD.
- **The Europeans are not humans in makeup.** Sonder and Lume are motion-capture/VFX performances. The actors playing them need physical expressiveness, not facial recognition.
- **Chemistry reads are essential.** The Mark-James-Lena triangle drives every episode. Cast them together or don't cast them at all.