

Little Dome C

Beyond EPICA Oldest Ice Drilling Site (75.29917 °S, 122.44516 °E)

Situation Report #1, 17th November 2024

Personnel @LDC:

Lisa Ardoin (ULB), Marie Bouchet (CNRS), Ailsa Chung (CNRS), Danilo Collino (ENEA, Camp Leader), Inès Gay (IPEV), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Manuela Krebs (AWI), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Martin Leonhardt (AWI), Michele Scalet (ENEA), Federico Scoto (CNR), Lison Soussaintjean (UNIBE), Julien Westhoff (UCPH, Chief Scientist), Frank Wilhelms (AWI, PI in the field)

Personnel@Concordia

Barbara Seth (UNIBE)

Weather at LDC 5 pm: sunny; no detailed weather data



This is the first SITREP of the season. The first part of this report summarizes the initial days of activity starting from October 24th from the departure in Europe.

24th October–16th November 2024

29th October 2024

Personnel@MZS: Danilo Collino (ENEA, Camp Leader)

6th November 2024

Personnel@MZS: Danilo Collino (ENEA, Camp Leader), Michele Scalet (ENEA), Federico Scoto (CNR)

7th November 2024

Personnel@DMC: Danilo Collino (ENEA, Camp Leader), Michele Scalet (ENEA), Federico Scoto (CNR)

12th November 2024

Personnel@MZS: Lisa Ardoin (ULB), Marie Bouchet (CNRS), Ailsa Chung (CNRS), Inès Gay (IPEV), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Manuela Krebs (AWI), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Martin Leonhardt (AWI), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Lison Soussaintjean (UNIBE), Julien Westhoff (UCPH, Chief Scientist), Frank Wilhelms (AWI, PI in the field)

Personnel@DMC: Danilo Collino (ENEA, Camp Leader), Michele Scalet (ENEA), Federico Scoto (CNR)

13th November 2024

Personnel@LDC: Danilo Collino (ENEA, Camp Leader), Michele Scalet (ENEA), Federico Scoto (CNR)

Personnel@DMC: Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Martin Leonhardt (AWI)

Personnel@MZS: Lisa Ardoin (ULB), Marie Bouchet (CNRS), Ailsa Chung (CNRS), Inès Gay (IPEV), Manuela Krebs (AWI), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Lison Soussaintjean (UNIBE), Julien Westhoff (UCPH, Chief Scientist), Frank Wilhelms (AWI, PI in the field)

15th November 2024

Personnel@LDC: Danilo Collino (ENEA, Camp Leader), Michele Scalet (ENEA), Federico Scoto (CNR), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Martin Leonhardt (AWI)



Personnel@DMC: Lisa Ardoin (ULB), Marie Bouchet (CNRS), Ailsa Chung (CNRS), Inès Gay (IPEV), Manuela Krebs (AWI), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Lison Soussaintjean (UNIBE), Julien Westhoff (UCPH, Chief Scientist), Frank Wilhelms (AWI, PI in the field)

Danilo Collino departed from Italy on 24th October 2024 and proceeded from Christchurch (NZ) to Mario Zucchelli (MZS) station on 29th October 2024. Federico Scoto and Michele Scalet departed from Italy towards Christchurch (NZ) on 3rd November 2024 and proceeded towards MZS on 6th November 2024. They joined as the advance party and proceeded to Concordia Station (DMC) on 7th November 2024. After acclimatization, they visited the Little Dome C (LDC) camp on 10th November 2024, found everything in good condition, and started cleaning out the snow. On 13th November 2024, the advance party moved the generators and occupied the camp permanently.



First approach during the 2024/25 season to Little Dome C camp. Credit: D. Collino ©PNRA/IPEV

The main group left Europe on 08th–10th November 2024 and arrived in Christchurch (NZ) on 10th–12th November 2024, where for a part of the group, due to a canceled flight the day before, the transfer time was only 1.5 hours between the arrival of the commercial intercontinental flight and the check-in to the military flight to MZS. This was possible as the departure of the army flight had been shifted from 04:00 in the morning to 15:00. The main group reached MZS at 12:55 on 12th November 2024 together with DMC personnel being deployed for other projects. The next morning 13th November 2024 the personnel for other DMC projects, including 4 pax for the IGE LEGACI project and 2 pax for a logger test were transferred to DMC. The Beyond EPICA project was offered to transfer Matthias Hüther and Martin Leonhardt ahead of the pre-season planning on that flight. The rest of the group, consisting of Lisa Ardoin, Marie Bouchet, Ailsa Chung, Inès Gay, Manuela Krebs, Gunther Lawer, Johannes Lemburg, Barbara Seth, Lison Soussaintjean, Julien Westhoff and Frank Wilhelms, could also advance well ahead of the pre-season planned schedule on 15th November 2024. After acclimatization, the main group reached LDC at 17:15 on 17th November 2024, while one team member had to stay back at DMC to complete acclimatization.





Snow in between the structures of the Little Dome C camp. Credit: D. Collino @PNRA/IPEV

The camp opening is far advanced. The snow has been cleared in between the structures and piled up on a little hill for later distribution in the area. The electrical installation in the drill trench is up and running and a major fraction of the material is already unpacked. Resultingly, we are about 1 week ahead compared to the pre-season planned schedule.



*Little hill at Little Dome C camp. Photo: F. Wilhelms (Leica Q3, 28 mm, f/8, 1/2000);
Credit: F. Wilhelms @PNRA/IPEV*

After settling and a camp tour, we started with the preparation of the pre-cooked food DMC supplies for us to mitigate not having Saverio Panichi taking care of us and had a nice dinner together.

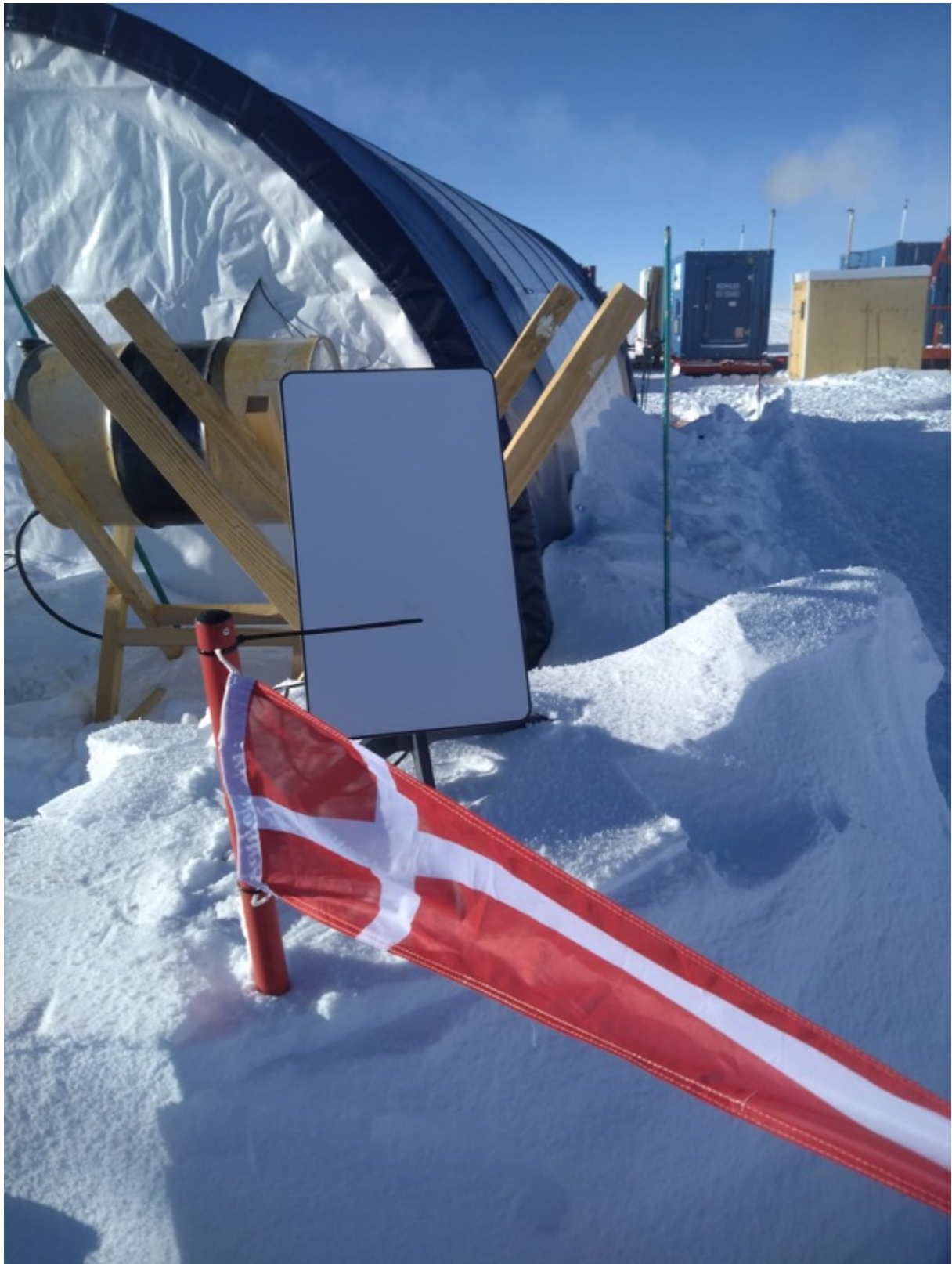




First common dinner of the nearly complete team at Little Dome C. FLTR: Federico, Frank, Matthias, Ailsa, Marie, Danilo, Gunther, Michele, Julien, Inès, Johannes, Manuela, Lisa, Martin, and in the front Lison. Credit: L. Soussaintjean @PNRA/IPEV

After dinner, we also put up the Danish STARLINK system and now enjoy a high-speed internet connection.





*The Danish STARLINK system provides high-speed internet access.
Credit: J. Westhoff ©PNRA/IPEV*

FW, JW, MH 17.11.2024

