

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #01, 17. November 2025

Personnel @LDC:

Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Katrin Ederer (AWI), Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Chiara Venier (CNR-ISP), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

Personnel @DC:

Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Phillippe Possenti (CNRS)

Weather at LDC 5 pm: sunny

Meteo at DC 9 pm: T = -30.6°C, Wind = 10 knot, Wind Chill T = -43°C, P = 653.6hPa, Humidity = 70%



This is the first SITREP of the season. The first part of this report summarises the initial days including the arrival of the individual team members in Mario Zucchelli Station (MZS; starting on November 6th) and the subsequent pax transfer to Concordia Station (DomeC) and Little Dome C (LDC).

6th November 2025

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA), Marion Lahuec (IPEV)

8th November 2025

- **Personnel @ DomeC:** Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA)

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Marion Lahuec (IPEV)

10th November 2025

- **Personnel @ DomeC:** Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA), Marion Lahuec (IPEV)

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader)

11th November 2025

- **Personnel @ DomeC:** Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA), Marion Lahuec (IPEV)

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

13th November 2025



- **Personnel @ DomeC:** Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA), Marion Lahuec (IPEV)

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Katrin Ederer (AWI), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Chiara Venier (CNR-ISP), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

14th November 2025

- **Personnel @ DomeC:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA), Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Katrin Ederer (AWI), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Chiara Venier (CNR-ISP)



Group-Picture in MZS before saying good-bye to Lemmi, Philippe, Sergio and Gianluca flying to Concordia Station. From left to right: Mohammad, Gianluca, Sergio, Barbara, Chiara, Matthias, Gunther, Katrin; front: Lemmi, Philippe.

Credit: B. Seth ©PNRA/IPEV



15th November

- **Personnel @ DomeC:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Katrin Ederer (AWI), Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA), Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Chiara Venier (CNR-ISP), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller)

Gianluca, Marion, Vincenzo and Concordian technicians left Concordia with our PB and 2 caterpillar-tractors pulling the Itase-module, our two generators, the shower-module, the big orange sledge with cargo and the +4-container. On the way they had problems with the sledge – Some returned to Concordia with the sledge, the +4-container, the shower-module and the two generators. The others continued to LDC with the Itase-module. In LDC our caterpillar-tractor (Challenger) broke down – it needs to be returned to Concordia for severe repair. The Itase-module was taken into operation and left alone in LDC overnight, our team and the Concordian technicians returned late to Concordia with the hope that the module keeps running.



Itase-Module in LDC, Credit: G. Bianchi Fasani @PNRA/IPEV

16th November



- **Personnel @ LDC:** Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

- **Personnel @ DomeC:** Katrin Ederer (AWI), Vincenzo Genovese (ENEA), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Chiara Venier (CNR-ISP)

- **Personnel @ MZS:** Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller)

Gianluca, Sergio, Lemmi, Marion and Concordian technicians started out to LDC at 9 in the morning in our PB and with a caterpillar tractor pulling the +4-container and the two generators. Little later another caterpillar started towards LDC pulling the shower-module.

Since the camp had been cleared from snow between the structures already within the last week by hard-working Concordians (much appreciated!) the camp opening is now progressing quickly.

Today the generators and the shower module are set into operation to make LDC warm and cosy as this camp will again be our home for the next two months, and of course to make the drill tent, workshop and science trench fully operational for another hopefully successful season! Big bravo and thank you to the Concordian technicians and our four team members at LDC!

Alessandro Zambotti (Concordia telecom) set up the BEOI starlink for us and now we can communicate between the small team already in LDC and the grand rest of the team still in DomeC, MZS or Christchurch, Copenhagen and Bern – and of course with the outside world.



The first traverse to LDC this morning with PB, Challenger, 2 generators, +4-container., Credit: B. Seth ©PNRA/IPEV



17th November

Personnel see above

Most team members for the upcoming season arrived in Little Dome C today in the afternoon – which is the same date we arrived in camp last year! Angelo and Milena transported us, our luggage and some cargo on the orange sledge with our PB.

After settling in, we started with the preparation of the pre-cooked food DomeC supplied for us and had a nice dinner together.



Picture of almost complete LDC team at dinner table... From right to left: Mohammad, Gunther, Sergio, Gianluca, Lemmi, Marion, Chiara, Barbara (Katrin missing in the picture), Credit: B. Seth ©PNRA/IPEV

GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 17.11.2025

