

## Little Dome C

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

### Situation Report #27, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### Personnel @LDC:

Carlo Barbante (UNIVE, CNR-ISP, PI in the field), Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Katrin Ederer (AWI), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Iben Koldtoft (UCPH), Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Barbara Seth (UNIBE), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Chiara Venier (CNR-ISP), Sergio Zannini (ENEA), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI)

#### Personnel @DC:

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**Weather at LDC:** sunny and cold

**Meteo at DC 8:15 am:** T = -31.9 °C, Wind speed = 4.3 kt, Windchill T = -40°C, Humidity = 66 %



This morning we could welcome a new team member at Little Dome C: Iben Koldtoft was brought from Concordia Station after she successfully completed the necessary acclimatisation process. Marco, Ivan, and Maxim from Concordia did not only bring Iben with the Arctic truck, but also fresh food, highly appreciated alcohol and other necessary items and our Pistenbully with the cabin.

Marco, Ivan and Maxim stayed for lunch, and together we enjoyed a fantastic bolognese and very delicious vegetarian polpette al sugo prepared by Gianluca and Philippe. As we sadly also had to say good-bye to Chiara and Carlo today, we opened a bottle of champagne and had a fare-well sip. After several hugs, a group picture, and more hugs, we waved good-bye to our leaving colleagues, which contributed greatly to the camp spirit and which we will miss a lot!

In the drillers' cabin life did not change much during the day... Milling up and down and up and down... However, at the end of this Saturday – which usually ends around 4 to 5 pm -- we finally could rest the drill head on a ledge with about 100 kg which is the full weight of the drill. This is a good reason to cheerly celebrate the Saturday night. Still, it takes at least another day or two to mill a deep enough ledge in order to be confident enough for continuing with the next step.

Sergio and Gianluca started preparation the clearing the camp by moving wood and electric cables from the containers top. Now these materials are located on the “sfusi” sledge ready for a trip to Concordia.

The Saturday afternoon was used for leisure activities such as doing a ski trip to last season's surface sampling trench, going for a walk or taking a shower – while Gianluca, Sergio and Philippe prepared our traditional, and again very delicious, Saturday night pizza, and Philippe treated us with a wonderful French gâteau. After dinner, a typical “Federico playlist” started a cheerful Saturday night in our common tent.





Chiara and Carlo leaving LDC in the Arctic truck. Photo by B. Seth.





Sergio on the big sledge, starting with the preparation of clearing the camp (Gianluca is not visible for safety reason 😊). Photo by B. Seth.





The last season's surface sampling trench, approximately 2 km west of the camp, is almost completely filled by snow drift. Photo by G. Lawer.

CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 13.12.2025

