

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #37, 23th December 2025

Personnel @LDC:

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), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Barbara Seth (UNIBE, PI in the field), Henrique Traeger (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmanvelayat (AWI), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

Personnel @DC:

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Weather at LDC: some clouds in the morning, slight wind and cold

Meteo at DC 6:15 pm: T = -18.0 °C, Wind speed = 5.6 kt, Windchill T = -25 °C, Humidity = 78%



Yesterday evening, we had the third camera run. During previous tests on the surface at -30 °C, the camera ran for over 3 hours. Unfortunately, down in the drill liquid at around -50° it stopped recording after 35 minutes. The lights ran the whole time. Back at the surface and after warming up for ca. 30 minutes, the batteries were still full, and the camera could proceed recording.

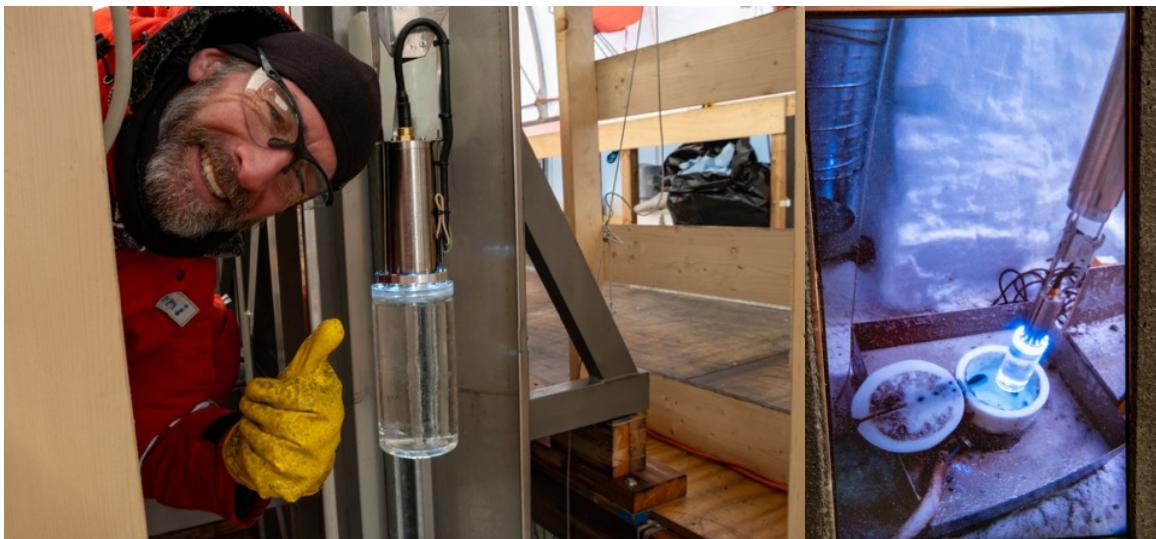
In the morning, we could see the video of the installation, the start of the run and the camera's way down the hole. The transparent cylinder improved the picture, but the liquid was still too slushy to see details from the wall of the hole. At a quarter past 10 pm and 1271 m depth the camera stopped recording, which is way above our point of interest at around 2350 m depth.

Today, we dismounted the outer shaft, the motor section and the dead weight from the antitorque and mounted the Danish mini-logger, after Matthias supplied it with fresh batteries and switched it on. The run takes over 10 hours...

Besides the routine business on the logistic side (emptying the waste water tank, grooming the camp area, refilling the fuel tanks of the tents), Sergio improved the road to Concordia for a couple of kilometres.

Meanwhile, Christmas preparations are speeding up in the kitchen and the drillers' cabin...





Yesterday evening's camera run and today's pictures from the bore hole. Photo by G. Lawer, M. Lahuec, and J. Lemburg.





Iben and the Danish mini-logger ready to go down the hole. Photo by B. Seth.





Gianluca preparing a kraken for the Christmas dinner; Iben and Barbara preparing Christmas decoration in the drillers' cabin; our chefs Gianluca and Philippe. Photos by S. Zannini, B. Seth and G. Lawer.

CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 23.12.2025

