

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #44, 30th 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: slightly cloudy, no windy, cold

Meteo at DC 6:15 pm: T = -18.8 °C, Wind speed = 3.5 kt, Windchill T = -24 °C, Humidity = 67%



As noted earlier, packing for the end of the season already started and is speeding up. Matthias was sorting, packing, labelling AWI boxes and Barbara started dismounting and packing the Swiss horizontal saw equipment in the science trench. Gianluca and Sergio placed the jet A1 fuel drums on a hill, ready for the winter.

Iben and Marion started digging out the ventilation pipe (which is part of the drill hole casing) above the sub surface science trench. The ventilation system has a 20-25 m long horizontal part which was originally (in 2023, see picture) built into a 2-3 m deep shaft below the surface (using the Pistenbully) and is now covered with very compact snow. That makes it very difficult to dig it out by hand, and the idea was to use the PB again. However, we do not want to destroy the tubes, therefore, it is good to know its exact depth. Here comes the radar into play which needs to be tested anyway. However, it is still work in progress.

In the drill tent, we continued milling the wall of the bore hole between 2030 and 2040 m depth.





Barbara packing Swiss horizontal saw equipment; The jet A1 fuel drums are ready for the winter.
Photos by B. Seth and G. Bianchi Fasani



Finishing the ventilation to cool the science trench on Dec 8th 2023. Photo O. Alemany; First attempt to dig out the ventilation system this season and the subsequent use of the radar. Photos G. Lawer and M. Lahuec



CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 30.12.2025

