

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #46, 1st December 2026

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 Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

Personnel @DC:

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Weather at LDC: cloudy, windy, cold

Meteo at DC 11:00 am: T = -23.3 °C, Wind speed = 13.4 kt, Windchill T = -36 °C, Humidity = 75%



Happy New Year !!!

We enjoyed a very nice New Year's Eve dinner and a great party at Concordia Station. Thanks again to Concordia for the invitation and a wonderful evening!

For New Year's lunch, we were invited by our Australian friends to visit their camp at North Patch, around 10 km north of Concordia Station. They showed us around the camp and introduced us to their drilling and core handling procedures. Some of us have seen the camp by the end of last season, after they've set up the drilling tent and drilled the pilot hole in no time. Now it looks even more impressive with a huge winch and in full drilling operation. A freshly drilled ice core was lying on the logging table – sadly a rare sight for us this year in LDC. We wish our Australian friends the best of luck for the rest of the season! And thanks for all the chocolate etc.!

On the way back to LDC, we pulled 4 empty sledges from Concordia for carrying the containers from LDC to Concordia by the end of the season.

We were back in LDC around dinner time, and the milling procedure in our drilling tent continued.



Little Dome C visiting the Australians. Photo by M. O'Connell (Australian doctor)



Inside the Australian drilling tent: Philippe and Julius checking the Piston pump; Iben handing over some of our core cutters to Julius and Chris; LDC people admiring the ice core. Photos by B. Seth, P. Possenti, D. Beloin (Australian traverse and field leader)



Always the challenge: how many people fit into a drillers' cabin? Photo by J. Pedro (Australian science leader)

CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 1.1.2026

