

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #48, 3rd January 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 Vafadarmanvelayat (AWI), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

Personnel @DC:

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Weather at LDC: sunny, less windy, cold

Meteo at DC 5:30 pm: T = -24.8 °C, Wind speed = 6.2 kt, Windchill T = -33 °C, Humidity = 71 %



The newly designed core catchers drill head, or “Coretters” drill head as we baptised it, had a very aggressive bite into the bore hole wall on our first attempt yesterday evening after dinner. Unfortunately, it broke the pin almost immediately (a safety pin to protect the motor from too much torque). Hence, we decided to mount shoes behind and cutters in front of the core catchers to limit their engagement and therefore the torque.

While Gunther was busy modifying the “Coretters” drill head today, we continued milling the bore hole wall using the ‘normal’ drill head with the sharpened edges.

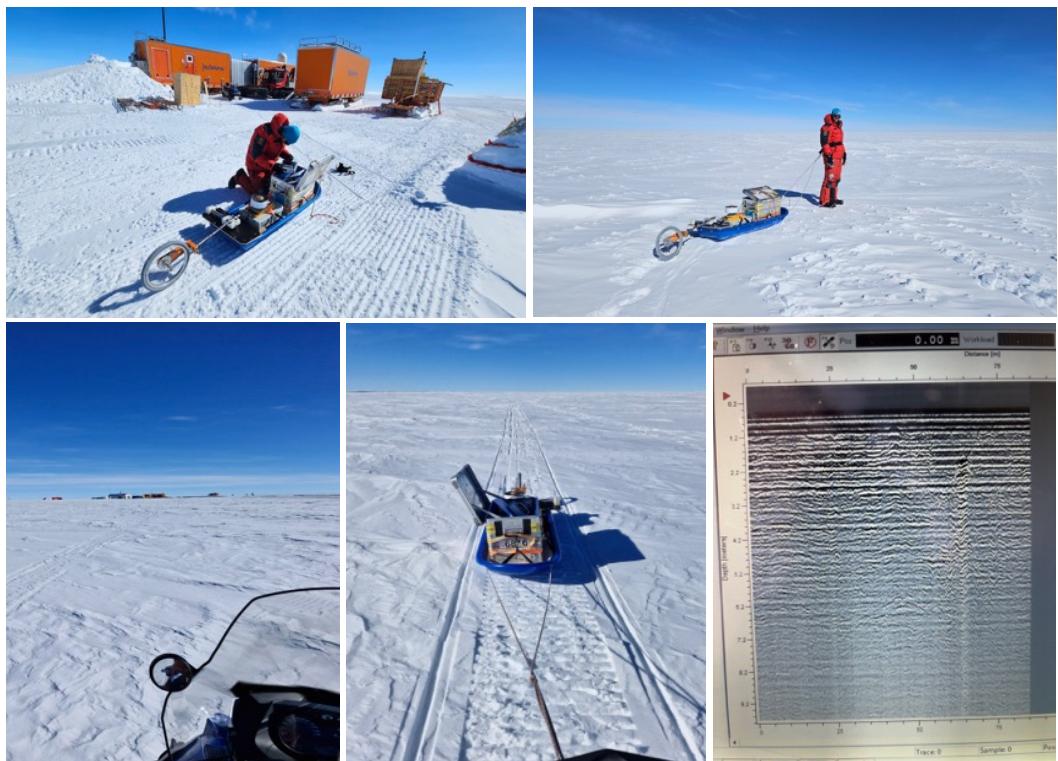
Iben and Henrique managed to get the radar running and returning data today and tested it around camp by foot and by skidoo. Iben pulled the radar sledge over the science trench, and it clearly showed the sub-surface containers. Now we are getting ready for a day with little wind to do the 35 km radar profile from Little Dome C to Concordia.

For this Saturday pizza night, we had four visitors from Concordia: it was a pleasure for us to welcome Ricardo, Vito, Lele, and Daniele, and they had the pleasure to try our special LDC pizza dough (prepared by Katrin) and pizza varieties (like Iben’s already famous potato pizza). For dessert, we enjoyed Antarctic Nutella pizza and Marion’s delicious chocolate cookies.





The 'Coretters' with front cutters and shoes. Photo by B. Seth



Iben and Henrique operating the radar around camp. Photos by M. Lahuec, H. Traeger, I. Koldtoft



CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 3.1.2026

