

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #49, 4th 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 Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

Personnel @DC:

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Weather at LDC: sunny, less windy, cold

Meteo at DC 6:30 pm: T = -25.6 °C, Wind speed = 4.3 kt, Windchill T = -33 °C, Humidity = 73 %



This morning, we finished the milling run by 11 am. During the routine generator maintenance and swap, we changed the drill head to the modified “Coretters” drill head. This time the pin survived and we kept on milling.

In the science trench, the Swiss horizontal saw has been unmounted completely today – sadly without being used this season. The whole saw (except for the long base) fits into four Zarges boxes and will be stored in Concordia for possible future projects.

We continued packing boxes, sorting equipment, and preparing material to be shipped. On the door of our common tent, we pinned a long to-do list which will be checked off step by step within the upcoming days/weeks.



The modified ‘Coretters’ mounted on the 2.5 m core barrel. Photo by B. Seth





Barbara, Lemmi and Henrique unmounting the Swiss horizontal saw. Photos by B. Seth and H. Traeger

CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 4.1.2026

