

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #52, 7th 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: cloudy and sunny, very windy, cold

Meteo at DC 6:00 pm: T = -24.0 °C, Wind speed = 8.6 kt, Windchill T = -34 °C, Humidity = 75 %



In the drilling tent we were milling all morning. Back at the surface, we found the chips chamber full of fairly coarse chips, even on the top of the antitorque. We consider these kind of chips to be a result of milling with the “Coretters”. We decided to filter the bore hole which will take the rest of the day (or even tomorrow).

Meanwhile, we thought about the next steps like using the deviation tool attached to the present setup with the heavy dead weight inside the core barrel. The idea is to see, if the orientation of the spring as well as the cutting using the pressure of the spring behaves differently with the dead weight.

Late morning, Damien, Andy, Dane and Dave from the Australian NP camp and Kiki, Claire and Gregory from Concordia arrived with two Challenger tractors and a Pistenbully. Within less than an hour, they managed to lift seven of our containers on the sledges that Gianluca and Sergio set next to each container using the cranes of the Challengers. Then we all had a cheerful lunch together, enjoying delicious lasagne prepared by Philippe and Gianluca, Iben’s cookies and Barbara’s apple cake. Thanks to the Australians, we also had coffee, even if Gianluca and Lemmi had to grind it beforehand using unconventional tools...

Early afternoon, the sledges were pulled and tied together. One of the Challengers got three sledges with containers and the other one two to be pulled to Concordia, and at a quarter to 3 am we waved the convoy good-bye for their long ride back. Thanks a lot to this bunch of cool logistic people from Australian camp and Concordia for their great work and help.





Coarse chips on top of the antitorque. Photo by B. Seth



The two Challengers lifting the containers on sledges. Photo by B. Seth





Lasagne for lunch – cookies for Dane. Photos by B. Seth



Gianluca and Lemmi trying to grind coffee beans. Photos by H. Traeger and B. Seth





The Australian-Concordian convoy pulling our containers to Concordia. Photos by B. Seth

CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 7.1.2026

