

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #53, 8th 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 6:00 pm: T = -26.7 °C, Wind speed = 8.5 kt, Windchill T = -37 °C, Humidity = 72 %



We did several filter runs today. Now we're paying the price for not having done any filtering of the bore hole for weeks. With every filter run we brought up a lot of freshly produced coarse chips from the milling process and, additionally, very fine grained shush which accumulates in the bore hole from going up and down. However, this evening, we hope to do our last filter run and have a clean hole again!

Late morning, we had six people from Concordia as scientific guests. They activated and buried seismic sensors at 43 different sites around Little Dome C to do passive seismic measurements. The sources for these measurements are the human activity around the camp, but also various ambient signals such as naturally occurring ice quakes. The scientists built three teams, which covered the inner circle of sites using our skidoo, and two outer areas (up to about 2 km from the camp) using both their and our Pistenbullys. Four of our team members (Gianluca, Marion, Lemmi and Henrique) supported this project.

Iben opened the Antarctic speed puzzling competition.





The result of one of our filter runs: the chips chamber full of coarse chips. Photo by B. Seth





The seismic team: (l to r) Andrea, Gianluca, Milena, Dimitri, Angelo, Marion, Sarah, A, Lemmi; (front) Henrique. Photos by H. Traeger





High concentration Antarctic speed puzzling: 1h 40s, 500 pieces. Photo by B. Seth



Today we had a beautiful halo, even visible for the morning shift in the drillers' cabin. Photos by P. Possenti and B. Seth



CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 8.1.2026

