

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #62, 17th January 2026

Personnel @LDC:

Gianluca Bianchi Fasani (ENEA, Camp Leader), Katrin Ederer (AWI), Matthias Hüther (AWI, Chief Driller), Iben Koldtoft (UCPH), Gunther Lawer (AWI), Johannes Lemburg (AWI), Barbara Seth (UNIBE, PI in the field), Henrique Traeger (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI), Sergio Zannini (ENEA)

Personnel @DC:

Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Philippe Possenti (CNRS)



Weather at LDC: sunny, less windy, cold

Meteo at DC 5:30 pm: T = -28.3 °C, Wind speed = 2.5 kt, Windchill T = -33 °C, Humidity = 60 %

The day started with the continuation of the Antarctic speed puzzling competition. Meanwhile Henrique and Iben had a look at the radar data from the day before: the radar recorded data for 1.7 km.

The drill tent is almost ready. We removed the ice from the recycling IBC tank, we disconnected and moved the winch and tower control cabinets to the Sfusi sledge, and we covered the horizontally lying tower with the huge tarp.

Matthias and Iben continued moving and scaling boxes and writing packing lists – it's their favourite activity ;)

We had the seismic scientists visiting today again. They covered the same area as last time, 9 days ago, with two Pistenbullys and our Skidoo to dig out the 43 seismic sensors. The lunch was prepared by our guest chef Vito and the sous-chef Gianluca ;) and we had phantastic pasta al tonno and pasta al parmigiano.

The nice weather was used for ski tours and walks in the afternoon. And afterwards, cake bakers Gunther and Barbara were urged by the pizzaiolo Gianluca to hurry up.





High concentration Antarctic speed puzzling: 2h 1m 40s, 500 pieces. Photo by I. Koldtoft





The tower is covered the huge tarp. Photos by K. Ederer and G. Lawer





Digging out the seismic sensors around Little Dome C. Photos by K. Ederer and G. Lawer

Season end statistics:

Drillers' end depth: 2071.20 m;
Loggers' end depth: 28.23 m;

CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 17.1.2026

