

Little Dome C

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

Situation Report #63, 18th January 2026

Personnel @LDC:

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

Personnel @DC:

Iben Koldtoft (UCPH), Marion Lahuec (IPEV), Philippe Possenti (CNRS), Henrique Traeger (UNIBE), Mohammad Vafadarmianvelayat (AWI)

Weather at LDC: sunny, very windy, very cold

Meteo at DC 8:20 pm: T = -30.9 °C, Wind speed = 15.8 kt, Windchill T = -46 °C, Humidity = 70 %



Late morning, 6 technicians from Concordia plus Marion arrived in Little Dome C with a Pistenbully and a Challenger. Together with Sergio and Gianluca they emptied and shut off the shower module and made it ready for transport. At the same time, the electricians prepared the generators shut-off.

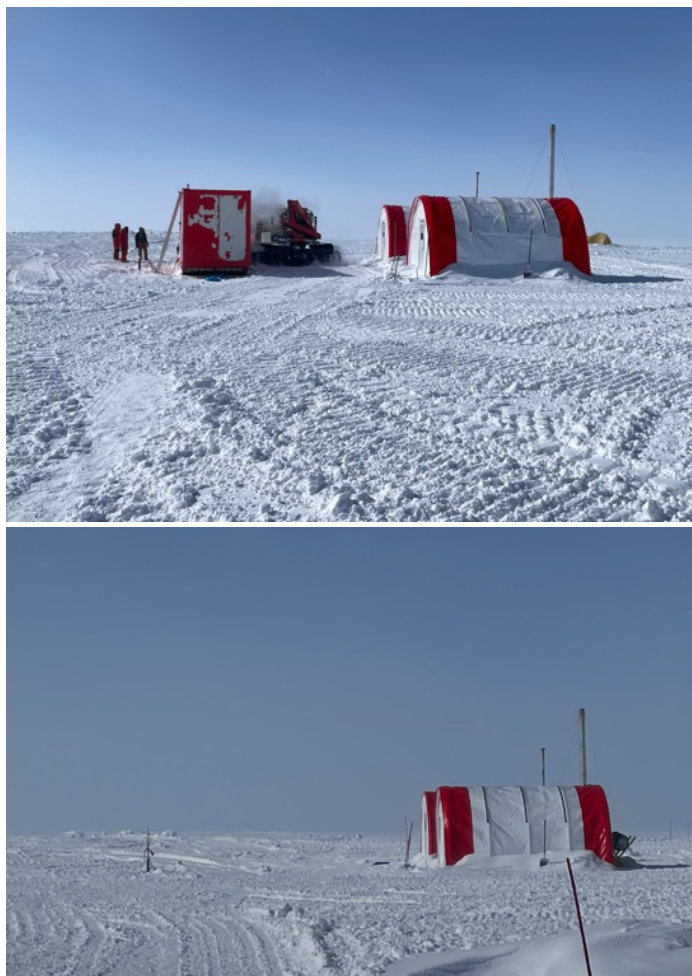
The motor section we were using all season was lying in the workshop to warm up. Today, when we had time to open it to check for possible drill fluid contamination on the inside, we could not manage to open it. We could confirm that there is no liquid inside by opening the ventilation screw. Hence, we packed it as it is to be send to Copenhagen.

Although Gianluca was very busy with the containers that were going to Concordia, he managed to cook a great lunch for all 17 people in camp today!

After lunch, the Concordian crew finished shutting off the generators and assembling the containers behind the Pistenbully and the Challenger, and they started the little traverse back to Concordia taking with them the shower module, the +4°C container, the two generators, and Iben, Mohammad and Henrique.

With now only 7 of us in camp (Gianluca is coming back from Concordia tonight) and the generators gone, it is unusually quiet. However, within the coming days there are many more tasks to do, e.g. the workshop to be packed and closed, further packing and cleaning of the camp...





Our shower module ... is gone. Photos by B. Seth





Busy camp. Photos by B. Seth





Trying to open the motor section. Photo by I. Koldtoft





The generators and +4°C container on their way to Concordia. Photos by B. Seth







Waving good-bye to Iben, Mohammad and Henrique ... and our shower module. Photos by B. Seth

Season end statistics:

Drillers' end depth: 2071.20 m;

Loggers' end depth: 28.23 m;

CB, GBF, BS & MH; LDC, 18.1.2026

