

Outline of the Little Dome C deep drilling operation

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The European consortium Beyond EPICA – Oldest Ice and its international partners from Australia, US and Japan conducted extensive pre-site surveys in the vicinities of Dome C (DC) and Dome F for the identification of a suitable drilling site in response to the IPICS oldest ice challenge. To our present knowledge we envisage a suitable drilling site in the Little Dome C (LDC) region about 50 km Southwest of DC.

Presently we plan the drilling operation at this site in response for a Horizon 2020 EU call for a 1.5 million year old ice-core from East Antarctica. We will outline our state of the planning for the implementation of the deep ice coring operation being based on the deep drilling equipment that has been used for the NorthGRIP, EPICA, NEEM and EastGRIP deep drilling operations.