

The Challenge:

The National Foreign Language Center (NFLC) needed a custom solution to redesign its outdated grant application system (OPIS) and public website. The existing design had performance and scalability issues, making modifications difficult. As a form-driven system, it did not provide easy access to data for analysis and reporting. With a focus on creating a data-driven, integrated systems solution, NFLC requested a scalable and efficient online program information system, web applications, and operations management tools with improved search functionality for its public website. The goal was to provide a streamlined user experience and user interface for grant applicants and NFLC staff.

The Solution:

A P Ventures (APV) redesigned the site to provide users access to information about STARTALK programs, resources, and proposals. The public front-end is presented in a responsive Drupal website supported by PHP, Apache Solr, and MySQL. Public site visitors can search funded program data pulled from the log-in-required grant application software developed with AngularJS, Node.js, LoopBack Framework, and PostgreSQL. To streamline the development process and to better manage the codebase for developers, APV used tools such as JIRA, Vagrant, Ansible, BitBucket GIT, and Virtual Box. APV used Agile methodologies to adapt and quickly respond to project complexities and changes.

Working in conjunction with NFLC'S staff, APV launched SOPHIE, the improved grant application system. SOPHIE enables organizations to apply for funding for critical language programs. APV designed a customized workflow system that offers NFLC'S STARTALK staff improved usability as they review and approve proposals and track awarded programs. SOPHIE features unique roles and permissions for different users, including applicants, program directors, proposal reviewers, team leaders, site visitors, and NFLC staff.

The Result:

NFLC launched its newly designed STARTALK website and SOPHIE grant management system in late 2015. NFLC now has the following feature:

- Attractive, responsive design that reinforces STARTALK branding
- Development of a scalable systems integration solution
- Improved usability of its public website and grant application system
- Support for the entire software development life cycle

Check out the redesigned site at [STARTALK](http://STARTALK.org).



National Foreign Language Center (NFLC) STARTALK

STARTALK, a project of the National Foreign Language Center, provides learning opportunities in critical languages (K-16) and professional development for teachers of critical languages. The redesigned website offers users access to information about STARTALK programs, resources, and proposals.

