

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE— VALLES CALDERA TRUST



Oracle Federal Financials 11i Implementation

"SofTec and the NBC provided the Federal Oracle implementation expertise we needed to meet our Federal and internal management requirements. Furthermore, the team's streamlined implementation process provided significant value when matched against other competitors."

*-Chris Morris
Controller,
Valles
Caldera Trust*

The Client:

The Valles Caldera Trust, a wholly owned government corporation within the Department of Agriculture, was created to manage the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The Valles Caldera National Preserve is a unique land area spanning approximately 89,000 acres in northern New Mexico. The Federal Government purchased the Preserve in July 2000 as part of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act. The Trust is headquartered in Los Alamos, NM.

The Trust's mission is targeted toward achieving a fully reimbursable, financially self-sufficient approach to the operation and maintenance of the Preserve. Achieving this goal is to be pursued in harmony with providing adequate public access and in cooperation with other Federal, State, and Local government entities. This unconventional Federal land management approach is intended to divert management and administration costs away from the general public, instead capitalizing on revenues earned from specific users of the Preserve

The Objective:

The Trust desired to implement a Federal Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) compliant, web-based ERP package in order to meet their Federal accounting and reporting requirements. Valles Caldera also wanted to capitalize on increased business analysis and reporting tools to better manage their business.

The existing, legacy processes involved multiple, un-integrated systems and required personnel to travel between Los Alamos and a Forest Service office in Santa Fe, NM to simply enter payment transactions. As part of the adoption of a new accounting system, the Trust desired to outsource the application management and hosting with the Department of Interior's National Business Center (DOI-NBC).

The Trust chose to implement Oracle Federal Financials, version 11i to meet their needs. This decision was based on a combination of factors including price, application flexibility, reporting functionality, and the capability for outsourcing the applications management.

Meeting the Objective:

SofTec, in coordination with the DOI-NBC, implemented Oracle Federal Financials 11.5.9 for the Trust. The production system was ready for Valles Caldera with the beginning of October 2003 business. The scope of the



The SofTec Solution

Goal

A Web-Accessible, JFMIP certified Federal financial package with enhanced reporting capabilities.

Oracle Applications

- Federal Administrator
- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Purchasing
- Application Desktop Integrator

Benefits

- JFMIP compliant software meeting rigid Federal Financial system requirements
- Enhanced Budget to Actual Variance reporting capabilities
- Secure, Web-based application access from the Valles Caldera Trust offices via VPN
- Standard Federal Reports automatically produced
- Automated Federal Accounting and 3rd party integration

Meeting the Objective (cont'd):

implementation encompassed the Purchasing, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Federal Administrator, and General Ledger modules.

The implementation was completed within a five-month timeframe utilizing the DOI-NBC for application hosting and support services. SofTec provided the technical and functional expertise for the requirements analysis, design, configuration, testing, implementation, training, and post-production support phases.

The SofTec team worked with DOI-NBC and Valles Caldera in defining the requirements for the implementation. SofTec's deep Federal experience accelerated this process with respect to meeting specific Federal accounting and reporting needs. This allowed the team to primarily concentrate on how the implementation could be used to best meet the Trust's needs in classifying revenues and expenses by various projects, activities, and expense types while also meeting summary level reporting requirements.

The team also worked extensively with Valles Caldera to develop a budget process that met Federal Budgetary Control requirements and could utilize the standard Oracle budget variance capabilities. The process included creating multiple types of budgets within the application using different budgetary control options. The team also implemented Oracle's Application Desktop Integrator (ADI) to facilitate uploading detail budget data. Along with using ADI for uploading data, the implementation process included creating multiple reports using the Financial Statement Generator (FSG) tool for extracting budget, actual, and variance data based on a variety of report parameters.

In addition to implementing standard out-of-the-box functionality, the team developed an automatic Transaction Code control extension. This process was designed to mechanically select the correct USSGL posting model based on specific transaction criteria. Being somewhat new to Federal Accounting practices, this helped the Trust significantly as it allowed them to enter transactions without having to manually determine the complex Federal posting scenarios associated with each specific transaction.

SofTec worked with NBC and Valles Caldera to successfully complete a rigorous testing cycle, provide user documentation, and training to the users. The team also assisted to insure the standard integration with Treasury for payment processing and reporting operated correctly.

The application was implemented using NBC's hosting and application management services. This architecture was based on multiple Linux servers to support the necessary backup and recovery processes.



At SofTec Solutions, we integrate people, processes, and tools—the key ingredients

For more information on SofTec's Business Application Services, contact us at 303.662.1010 or via email at Sales@SofTecinc.com.