CHALLENGE:
As the first country in the European Union (EU) to issue EU disability cards to its citizens, the Republic of Cyprus wanted to add static embossed braille characters to cards so they could be identified by those who are blind.

SOLUTION:
Fourth GL Prodata Ltd partnered with Entrust Datacard to demonstrate the embossing capabilities of the Datacard® CE840™ instant issuance system and tailor Datacard® ID Works® Identification Software to house all card data and photos in a centralized database.

RESULTS:
Cyprus now issues thousands of EU disability cards per year, with a life expectancy of two years, and Fourth GL Prodata Ltd has a proven issuance solution to roll out to other EU countries.

PARTNER PROFILE — FOURTH GL PRODATA LTD
Fourth GL Prodata Ltd, based in Nicosia, Cyprus, has been providing integrated IT solutions to government, banks and large organizations since its establishment in 1990. Serving Cyprus and beyond, Fourth GL Prodata LTD is a highly valued Entrust Datacard partner. It provides a broad range of hardware and software products to enhance its customers’ identity and secure card issuance, card production, smart cards issuance network and IT security programs.

“Cyprus had a special requirement for an embosser to personalize braille characters. They requested a quote from four companies in Cyprus and only Fourth GL Prodata Ltd — in partnership with Entrust Datacard — participated.”

Administration and Business Development Manager
Fourth GL Prodata Ltd
Cyprus
Equal Access for EU Disabled People

The tide is turning for people with disabilities throughout the European Union. Following the EU Directive for Persons with Disabilities, widespread voluntary efforts are being taken in EU member countries to ensure people with disabilities can fully participate in society. A key to that is providing those with disabilities — approximately 80 million people and growing — with an EU disability card to make access to travel between EU countries, culture, sporting events and other leisure activities more equal, simplified and secure.

As a member of the EU, The Republic of Cyprus eagerly embraced the effort. Its department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities that is overseen by the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, set out to find the right partner to recommend and install an instant issuance system to bring its ID vision to life.

Tipping Point — Embossed Braille Characters

The Republic of Cyprus kick-started the broader EU disability card program, which will encompass eight EU countries when completely rolled out. The overarching goal of the Cyprus program was to develop a system of mutual recognition based on an EU disability card. To that end, Cyprus stipulated that each personalized ID card should include braille characters so those who are blind could identify the card.

Fourth GL Prodata Ltd and Entrust Datacard

Fourth GL Prodata Ltd and Entrust Datacard collaborated to demonstrate the capabilities of the Datacard® CE840™ instant issuance system that includes an embosser. Cyprus planned to run pre-printed PVC cards through the CE840 system, then personalize each card with variable text and photo and emboss static braille characters that identify it as an official EU disability card.

Fourth GL Prodata Ltd also worked with Datacard® ID Works® Identification Software to incorporate all the card data including photos into a single database. This was critical to the solution as Cyprus planned to issue cards from a central location.

“We had the right solutions and also made a sample card that proved the project was feasible with Fourth GL Prodata Ltd and Entrust Datacard,” said the Administration and Business Development Manager.

Ideal Instant Issuance System

The solutions were exactly what the Cyprus department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities wanted. The CE840 instant issuance system and ID Works software were installed, with Fourth GL Prodata Ltd also providing on-site training and database setup services.

Now, Cyprus expects to issue EU disability cards to approximately 5,000 persons with disabilities each year. And with a successful solution now up and running in Cyprus, Fourth GL Prodata Ltd has a proven solution to showcase to other EU countries committed to improving the quality of life for their citizens with disabilities.