

875,000 to	924,999.99.....	40,000
925,000 to	974,999.99.....	45,000
975,000 to	1,000,000.....	50,000
over 1,000,000.....		5% of the amount bid.

(f) The bids shall be opened publicly at the time specified in the notice. The Administration shall award the contract for the work or for the supplies and materials required for the project to the lowest responsible bidder, unless, if permitted by law, the Administration determines that the interests of this State will be served better by awarding the contract to some other bidder.

(g) (1) After the contract is awarded to the successful bidder, the Administration shall return the checks of the unsuccessful bidders to them.

(2) After execution of the contract and bond by a successful bidder, the Administration shall return his check to him.

(h) (1) Promptly after a competitively bid contract is awarded, the successful bidder shall execute a formal contract, to be approved as to its form, terms, and conditions by the Administration, and execute and deliver to the Administration a good and sufficient bond, to be approved by the Administration, to the State of Maryland in an amount equal at least to the amount of the contract price. The Administration may not accept a bond unless the obligors bind themselves to payment of all legally enforceable debts for labor and materials incurred by the bidder in the performance of the contracted for State highway project.

(2) If any successful bidder fails to execute promptly the contract and the bond for the completion of the work as provided in the contract specifications, he forfeits the contract and, as the case may be:

(i) The check that accompanied the bid shall be forfeited, as liquidated damages and not as a penalty; and

(ii) The bid bond is in default and the surety is liable for the full amount of the damage sustained by the Administration by reason of the bidder's failure to execute promptly the bond for completion of the work.

(i) (1) This section does not apply to any county road project in a county in which the Administration maintains county roads, if:

(i) The Administration decides to construct or improve any county road with its own forces out of county funds, regardless of their source; and